



Gunilla Kettis

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB

DELHI

MARCH 1992

My Dear Members,

Organisational Behaviour is a subject taught at the business colleges around the world. I have at times wondered whether the subject refers to the attitudes and actions of members of an organisation or to the activities of the organisation as a whole.

It is true that, through an association, we as individuals may take decisions or work to reach goals, that we would not have aspired to alone. My observation, after working within a number of voluntary associations during my life, is that, while participating in the work of an organisation, a person comes to life, bringing forth the best, more seldom the worst, in the individual. A member typically grows, learns and changes in the course of membership. When singled out to be a leader of some aspect of the association, we often find that the member "grows to the occasion". It is in the society of others that our true mettle is tested.

Is then the organisation no more than the sum of its members? Or does it have added value, synergy, aspirations, a life of its own? It has been found, in the scientific study of organisations such as sporting teams, political parties, nations and corporations, that they indeed develop, change and grow much like an individual. We speak of team "spirit", "young" nations, and "stagnation" within a corporation.

It is my belief that it is incumbent on the leaders of the organisation, to search its "soul", examine its goals and purposes, plan for its future, and be alert to its undercurrents of change. Like a parent, the directors, should assist the adolescent through growing troubles and on to a new plateau of development.

Therefore, My Dear Members, do not feel that divided opinions within our organisation on the issue of a constitutional amendment is a sign of trouble, rather it is a sign of life and spirit! It is an opportunity to give some thought to our Women's International Club and how it should deal with demands for change. Nothing in our world is truly still. Living things are in a constant cycle of change. However, change for our club should come through thoughtful and well guided actions.

With my fondest regards,

Gunilla Kettis

Gunilla Kettis
President



ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH

GENERAL MEETING



WOMEN AND RELIGION
Wednesday 11 March, 3.00 pm
Maurya Sheraton Hotel

Dr Nancy Faulk, Professor of Religion at Western Michigan University, will speak on 'Women's Experience of Religion: East and West.' Her talk will compare the religions of the world, focussing particularly on the religious perspective of women. Her view is that religion on the one hand tends to marginalise and restrict women, but in many cultures at the same time paradoxically is a source of women's empowerment. Dr Faulk is co-editor of *Unspoken Worlds - Women's Religious Experience* and is in India to research contemporary religious practice among upper class urban women.

THEATRE GROUP



BARRY JOHN
Tuesday 3 March, 3.00 pm
Home of Robina Arbuthnott
16 Kautilya Marg, Chanakyapuri
Tel. 301-1834

Barry John is the head of the Theatre Action Group (TAG) and the Theatre in Education Company. He originally came to Delhi 20 years ago as a teacher with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), and has 'stayed on' ever since to become a leading and innovative figure in English-language theatre in India, whether as actor, director or producer. He will speak on the application of theatre in education and drama therapy - (but be prepared!)- a sporting participation is also expected of his audience.

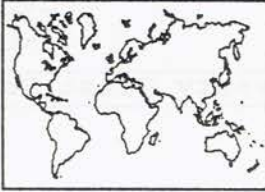
ARTS AND CRAFTS



EVERLASTING FLOWERS
Wednesday 4 March, 3.00 pm
Home of Bessie Ajit Singh
R-51 Greater Kailash I
Tel. 641-9230

Sati Singh will show us how to make two types of everlasting flowers: in organdie to mix with arrangements of dried and real flowers, and made of dry bread to decorate porcelain.

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL



SERBIAN MEDIEVAL ART
Thursday 5 March, 3.00 pm
Yugoslav Ambassador's Residence
3/50G Shanti Path
Tel. Ana Ilic 687-2098

Zoja Bojic, a lecturer at Delhi University, will give us an illustrated talk with slides on Serbian medieval art and architecture. Between the 12th and 16th centuries, before Ottoman rule, Serbia was a powerful force within the Byzantine Empire. Beautiful churches and monasteries were built in woodland or hilltop settings, decorated with paintings, frescoes and sculptures. Kings built themselves huge tombs (along the lines of the Moghuls) and were important patrons of this art.

SPECIAL PROGRAMME

HINDI VERSION OF RUSSIAN PLAY
Monday 9 March, 3.00 pm
Anton Chekhov Drama Studio
(Russian Cultural Centre)
24 Feroze Shah Road

You probably saw the *Hindustan Times* story about Mme Galina Drukov, who is also a noted actress and director, and brings this version of Ostrovski's play '*Na Vsyakogo Mudretsa Dovolno Prostoty*' to the Delhi stage in a Hindi translation as '*Chup Chatur Bhi Chukte Hain*' (rough English translation: *Even clever people collect things.*) She has very kindly arranged this special afternoon performance for the club, to which husbands are also invited.

YOGA

Friday 6 March, 11.00 am
Home of Indra Rani Jerath
5 Amrita Shergill Marg

Tel. 61-6632

This month will be devoted to general exercises such as the *surya namaskar*, and will introduce *pranayam* or yogic breathing.

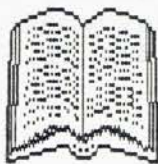
COOKING CIRCLE



TURKISH COOKING
Tuesday 10 March, 11.00 am
Home of Sumru Fenmen
50 Nyaya Marg
Tel. 60-2803

Sumru will demonstrate how to make some Turkish specialities, Mediterranean food with a difference.

BOOK CIRCLE

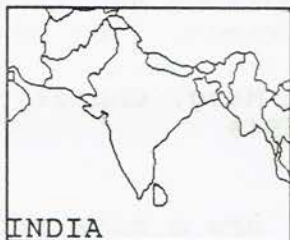


'NO FULL STOPS IN INDIA'
by Mark Tully
Thursday 12 March, 3.00 pm
Home of Pushpa Vadera
20E Prithviraj Road
Tel. 301-2021, 301-4552

'The greatest temptation journalists face is to regard the stories they write as their own. They are not: they are the stories of those who are involved in the events reported. It is not the journalist who is the hero, it's those who suffer the famines or the floods, those who fight cruelty or oppression, those who govern and those who oppose them. Never do I feel this more strongly than when I walk away from natural disasters with the material recorded for what I know will be a good story. Let me say then that this book is not mine - it belongs to all the people whose stories I have told and of course to India.'

Mark Tully, born in Calcutta and chief of the BBC Bureau in Delhi since 1972, will talk about his book and his years as a journalist in South Asia. The book is available in hard cover for Rs 250.

INDIAN CULTURAL



LUCKNOW - THE CITY OF NAWABS
Monday 16 March, 3.00 pm
Home of Rupa Sahni
20 Amrita Shergill Marg
Tel. 61-1977, 61-9553

Did you see Satyajit Ray's depiction of Lucknow court life, 'The Chess Players?' Zakia Zaheer will tell us something of the history and architecture, and show us some of the arts and crafts of this unique city. The Shi'ite Nawabs of Oudh (Awadh) rose to power in the 18th century as the Moghuls declined. They built with aplomb, employing Moghul artists and craftsmen, encouraged Hindustani music and Urdu poetry, were entertained by highly cultivated courtesan dancers, were noted for the delicacy of their cuisine, their exquisite manners, and above all their **savoir vivre**.

NOSTALGIC SINGALONG



Dolly Dadachanji
Wednesday 18 March, 3.00 pm
Holiday Inn Hotel
Tel. 67-3390

We are most grateful to Dolly for inviting us all to this afternoon of perennial favourites. Some of us remember the tunes and words from their first time around, but we can all hum these still popular tunes.

EXCURSION



NEEMRANA FORT
Saturday 21 - Sunday 22 March
Tel. Margrit Heydemann, 69-3341
DEADLINE: Tuesday 25 February

Do you know Neemrana, the fort-palace begun by the Rajput prince Dao Rajdeo in 1464, and recently restored by a group of friends anxious to preserve this and similar relics of India's rich architectural heritage? This weekend excursion for club members and their husbands will begin by bus at 9.00 am for the approximately 2 hour journey to Neemrana. After lunch we will tour the fort - both the restored and unrestored parts so you can admire the sensitivity and under-stated taste of the restoration. Neemrana village also has a 19th century *baoli* (stepwell) worth visiting. After dinner Peter Heydemann will present '4000 years of Indian History with 40 Slides'.

Rupee Cost: Bed and breakfast 1000-2500 (doubles), 700 (singles);
Transport 450 or less; Lunch 100; Dinner 'reasonable'.

Deadline to sign up, choose your room and pay: Tuesday 25 February.

OPEN FORUM



INDIAN GODDESSES AND ARCHETYPES
Monday 23 March, 3.00 pm
Home of Susan Conway
144 Malcha Marg, Chanakyapuri
Tel. 301-4549

'The Indian myths and symbols, gods and goddesses, are a more archaic type than those from the literature of the Greeks, which seek to stamp old myths with new interpretations based on individual experience. In the myths of India we have the intuitive collective wisdom of an ageless, anonymous and many sided civilization'. (MYTHS AND SYMBOLS IN INDIAN ART AND CIVILISATION by HEINRICH ZIMMER). Sarla Kumar will give an introductory talk on the world of Indian goddesses and the impact of myth in perpetuating certain archetypes peculiar to India. What is the relevance of these to society today? Are they detrimental to progress or do they generate stability and contentment? Sarla and the group leaders, Prama and Sofia, will then chair a discussion, so do give this topic some thought and come prepared with a lively contribution.

MUSIC CIRCLE



LATA KHATRI
Wednesday 25 March, 3.00 pm
Home of Taru Kanwar
3/3 Shanti Niketan
Tel. 60-0993, 687-3486

Lata Khatri, a lecturer in Vocal Music at Benares Hindu University, has given concerts in Bangkok and Copenhagen as well as India, and today will sing *Khayal* and *Bhajan* for us. *Bhajan* are hymns of devotion set to different ragas, whereas *Khayal* uses one phrase from a raga in different variations.

HUSBANDS' NIGHT



Saturday 28 March, 7.30 pm
Home of Halina Bialy
Polish Ambassador's Residence
1 Tilak Marg, Tel. 38-6816
Dress: Casual
Tickets: Rs 300 per couple

Please persuade your husbands that this is the night they have been waiting for all year, put on your dancing shoes, polish up your cha cha and your samba, and come *Rolling Down to Rio, Down Mexico Way*, or whatever, ready to have a good time. Cards will be obtainable from any committee member.

NOTICEBOARD



►The proposed auditors for the year 1991/2 are:
Giri and Bansal (Chartered Accountants)
40 DDA Commercial Complex Phase I
Jhandewalla
New Delhi 110055
Tel. 521396, 521320◄



We are happy to welcome several new members this month:
Jacqueline Blaser N20 Panchsheel Park (Tel. 643-6519) Swiss
Asha Kapurthala 121 Sector 37, Arun Vihar, NOIDA Indian
Tel.893878
(re-joining member) Li Lu Chinese Embassy (Tel 60-0872) Chinese
Rupa Sahni 20 Amrita Shergill Marg (61-1977) Indian
Yvonne Schatzschneider 4 Bhagwandass Road (38-4188) German
Usha Venkateswaran A61 AFS Apts, Mayur Vihar (225-0730) Indian



We at the same time bid a sad farewell to Anginee Roma Dass and Maya Savova, who are leaving Delhi; also to Dusty Knisely who is leaving the club. Mona Aggarwal will take Anginee's place in the International Cultural circle.



The Nominations Committee slate for the 1992/3 Executive Committee will be distributed with the newsletter at the February General Meeting. For those of you unable to be present, the list will be sent to you by post together with the newsletter.



The Chorus Group will be presenting a concert of folk songs from different countries on 1st April at the home of Pamela Evans, the Australian High Commissioner's residence. Rehearsals are in full swing and more voices are needed. Please join in - they meet every Thursday morning. Contact Patricia Stephenson (6802304), Usha Srivastava (641-6621) or Zohra Shaw (65-0198).

♀ I am asked to remind you that 8 March is International Women's Day. ♀



ADVANCE NOTICE OF APRIL EXCURSION TO DARJEELING & SIKKIM
Cost: Airfare (Rs 4812 - or \$256 for non-exempt foreigners)
Plus Rs 10,155 (twin-bed accommodation, meals,
transport, sightseeing and entry fees.)
N.B.: Foreigners need an Inner Line Permit for Sikkim.

DEADLINES: February 25 (sign up); March 5 (payment).
Further Information: Margrit Heydemann (Tel. 69-3341)

Itinerary:

- April 10: Early morning flight to Bagdogra; onward travel to Darjeeling by road (3.5 hours).
April 11: 4.00 am trip to Tiger Hill to witness spectacular sight of dawn over the Himalayas (weather permitting!) Afternoon visit to Goom Monastery, Observatory Hill, Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Botanical Gardens & Tibetan Handicraft Centre.
April 12: Darjeeling. Free.
April 13: Drive the 88km to Gangtok, Sikkim's capital (1640 metres).
April 14: Visit Rumtek, a Tantric Buddhist monastery (23km); Dzongri for its magnificent mountain views; and Tsukla-Khang, the royal monastery containing priceless Buddhist treasures.
April 15: Gangtok. Visit the Cottage Industries Institute, Deer Park, and Secretariat. Also the Institute of Tibetology, which has a fine collection of Buddhist manuscripts, books and tankhas; and the Orchid Sanctuary, where over 250 species should be in bloom in April.



Last but not least, some more changes for your telephone directories: Minakshi Gupta's phone number should read 683-9072, not 653- as given last month. (Many apologies Minakshi-ji, I thought I could read your writing!)

FESTIVALS AROUND THE WORLD IN MARCH



The main festival in India in March, as I'm sure you all know, is *Holi*, the Spring festival which signifies fertility and the triumph of good over evil. The morning traditionally begins with throwing coloured powder at each other while dressed in one's old clothes, before scrubbing it off to emerge at lunchtime in one's new clothes to celebrate a new beginning.



In Britain, Mid-Lent Sunday (March 29th this year) is celebrated as *Mothering Sunday*. For at least 300 years this has been a day of small family reunions when absent sons and daughters return to their homes, and gifts - usually of flowers - are made to their mothers by children of all ages. Originally devout Christians visited the Cathedral, or Mother Church, of the parish on this day but by the 17th century it was also a feast of human motherhood. By the early 20th century this festival was dying out, but it received a new lease of life during the war through the American servicemen stationed in England, who associated it with their own Mothers' Day. This has been celebrated in the USA since 1907 when Miss Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia started a campaign to honour all mothers on the second Sunday in May by attending a special church service and wearing a carnation (red for living mothers, white in memory of those already dead). Congress recognised this festival in 1914 and it is now celebrated on this date throughout the Americas.

GARDENING NOTES FOR MARCH



As the weather warms up, beds must be prepared for transplantation of vegetable seedlings, and new creepers, hedges and trees planted before the sun gets too hot.

Lawns: If you plan to re-turf, start preparing the soil now.

Bulbs: Plant caladiums, gloriosas and tuberoses this month. Once winter-flowering bulbs have died down completely, dust the bulbs with Bavistan and store in a cool, dry, dark and airy room.

Winter Annuals: Select the best specimens for seed collection, label carefully and store for next season.

Summer Annuals: Prepare seed beds and sow early in the month.

Happy Gardening!

Kavita Ratra

DELHI DAYS

'The spider weaves its tapestry in the palace of the Caesars.' So said Bishop Heber, writing in the 1820's, about the decay of the once magnificent Shahjahanabad. The poet Ghalib had mourned the 'death' of Delhi in the 1860s and Khwaja Altaf Husain wrote in 1874:

'O adventurer, your heart will be seared with pain and grief.

Hearken to me, do not go into the ruins of Delhi.

At every step, priceless pearls lie buried beneath the dust,

No place in the world is so rich with hidden treasure.

Even the traces of what reminded us of the city's destruction are gone, Dear heaven, can there be greater oblivion than that?'

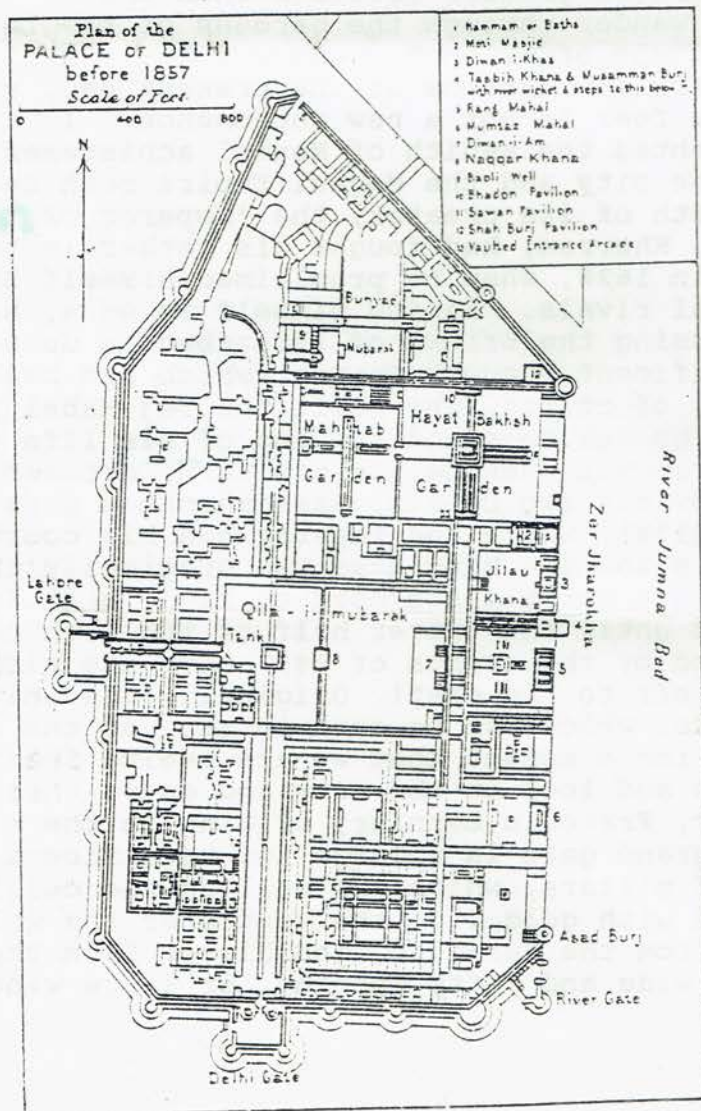
So if today, as you wander through the gardens of the Lal Qila (Red Fort), you feel a twinge of melancholy as you try and imagine its former splendour amid the forlorn gardens of the present day, you are in good company and what you feel is not a new phenomenon. In truth, Shah Jahan's city represented the zenith of Moghul achievement, both in power and artistry, and the city and the Moghul Empire both began their descent with the death of its creator, the 'Emperor of the World'.

Jahangir's son, Khurram, had fought his father in battle in order to take the throne in 1628, when he proclaimed himself Shah Jahan, killing his potential rivals. Basing himself in Agra, he began to build his city of Delhi, using the bricks of Ferozabad to do so, and in 1648 he mounted the magnificent Peacock Throne, which had been 7 years in the making. (It was he, of course, who built the Taj Mahal in memory of his beloved Mumtaz, and he was to spend the end of his life incarcerated here by his son Aurangzeb when he, in his turn, deposed his father in 1658). Like the previous two Delhis, Shahjahanabad consisted of an inner citadel (Lal Qila), where the Emperor had his court, and the outer city proper. What is now the Ring Road was originally the Yamuna, and it is said that Delhi's inhabitants used to fish in it from the window openings of the fort until the latter half of the 19th century, when the Jumna was so outraged by the events of 1857 that she picked up her skirts and flounced off to the east! Originally the only bridge across was a bridge of boats, which can be seen in many of the old engravings.

Let us imagine for a moment that we are seeing Shahjahanabad as the early travellers did and look at the city and court through the eyes of the French traveller, Francois Bernier, writing in the mid 1600s:

'Opposite the grand gate is a large and magnificent hall, decorated with several rows of pillars, which, as well as the ceiling, are all painted and overlaid with gold...In the centre of the wall that separates the hall from the *Seraglio*, and higher from the floor than a man can reach, is a wide and lofty opening, or large window, where the

Monarch every day, about noon, sits upon his throne, with some of his sons at his right and left; while eunuchs standing about the royal person flap away the flies with peacocks' tails, agitate the air with large fans..Immediately under the throne is an enclosure, surrounded by silver rails, in which are assembled the whole body of *Omrahs*, the *Rajas* and *Ambassadors*, all standing, their eyes bent downwards, and their hands crossed...During the hour and a half or two hours that this ceremony continues, a certain number of the royal horses pass before the throne, that the King may see whether they are well used and in a proper condition. The elephants come next, their filthy hides having been well washed and painted as black as ink, with two large red streaks from the top of the head down to the trunk, where they meet. The elephants are covered with embroidered cloth; a couple of silver bells are suspended to the two ends of a massive silver chain placed over their back, and white cow-tails from Great Tibet, of large value, hang from the ears like immense whiskers. Two small elephants, superbly caparisoned, walk close to these colossal creatures, like slaves appointed to their service...Other animals are next introduced;- tame antelopes, kept for the purpose of fighting with each other; *Nilgaux*, or grey oxen, that appear to me to be a species of elk; rhinoceroses; large Bengalee buffaloes with prodigious horns which enable them to contend against lions and tigers; tame leopards or panthers, employed in hunting antelopes; some of the fine sporting dogs from *Usbec*, of every kind... Whenever a word escapes the lips of the KING, if at all to the purpose, however trifling may be its import, it is immediately caught by the surrounding throng; and the chief *Omrahs*, extending their arms towards heaven, as if to receive some benediction, exclaim '*Karamat, Karamat!*' (wonderful!)



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 Pamela Evans	329-4482 60-1336
International Cultural	Sumru Fenmen (Mona Aggarwal)	60-2803 329-4482
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

MARCH AT A GLANCE



<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>WHAT</u>
Wednesday 11th 3.00 pm	Maurya Sheraton Hotel	<u>GENERAL MEETING</u> Women & Religion
✓ Tuesday 3rd 3.00 pm	Home of Robina Arbuthnott 16 Kautilya Marg	<u>Theatre Group</u> Barry John
✓ Thursday 5th 3.00 pm	Yugoslav Ambassador's Residence 3/50G Shanti Path	<u>Int. Cultural</u> Serbian Art
Friday 6th 11.00 am	Home of Indra Rani Jerath 5 Amrita Shergill Marg	<u>Yoga</u> Pranayam
○ Monday 9th 3.00 pm	Russian Cultural Centre	<u>Special Programme</u> Ostrovski play
• Tuesday 10th 11.00 am	Home of Sumru Fenmen 50 Nyaya Marg	<u>Cooking Circle</u> Turkish Cooking
○ Thursday 12th 3.00 pm	Home of Pushpa Vadera 24E Prithviraj Road 17	<u>Book Circle</u> Mark Tully
○ Monday 16th 3.00 pm	Home of Rupa Sahni 20 Amrita Shergill Marg	<u>Indian Cultural</u> Lucknow
○ Wednesday 18th 3.00 pm	Holiday Inn Hotel (Dolly <u>Dadachanji</u>)	<u>Nostalgic</u> <u>Singalong</u>
✓ Monday 23rd 3.00 pm	Home of Susan Conway 144 Malcha Marg	<u>Open Forum</u> Indian Goddesses
Tuesday <u>24th</u> 3.00 pm	Home of Taru Kanwar 3/3 Shanti Niketan	<u>Music Circle</u> Khayal & Bhajan

