

Women's International Club Newsletter



MARCH 1998

Dear Member,

March is the month when we celebrate Holi and with it comes laughter, colour and FUN. So we are going to have a month-long celebration of music and dance. The General Meeting and some Circle Meetings will feature different dance forms which celebrate the advent of Spring and all the promise that this time of the year brings.

We do have a serious event though, and that is the **Extraordinary General Meeting which will be held on Tuesday, March 3rd at 2:30pm at the Triveni Chamber Theatre of the Triveni Kala Sangam (Tansen Marg)**. At this meeting we shall be concentrating on the results of the discussions that the Membership Working Group have had with the majority of the membership. It will be a business meeting, where the members will have an opportunity to discuss, and vote, on the issues that affect our Club. Some issues may be resolved at that Meeting while others will be discussed so that they can be resolved in the future. Please come to this meeting. It is important that as many as possible of you are there so that you can participate in important decisions. You will find an outline of the issues that the Membership Group has identified included with this month's newsletter.

On **March 18** we have been graciously granted a very special opportunity for members to visit the Rashtrapati Bhavan by kind courtesy of the First Lady, Shrimati Usha Narayanan. We will also see the Moghul Gardens which are most beautiful at this time of year so please see further details in this newsletter.

Our General Meeting will be in the lovely garden of Anita Meattle, 26 Prithviraj Road, on **Wednesday, March 11, at 3:00pm**. The programme will feature classical dancer Sharon Lowen who will explain and dance a dramatic dance form from Orissa.

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 Knoop	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

SPECIAL PROGRAMME

VISIT TO RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN -- Wednesday, March 18, 10:30 am.

Members will have a special opportunity to visit Rashtrapati Bhavan. A guided tour of the Public Rooms, including the Durbar Hall, Ashok Hall and the Moghul Gardens will be followed by a meeting with the First Lady, Smt. Usha Narayanan, who has graciously invited the Members for coffee. Please note that the time for this visit is 10:30am. No guests will be permitted. No cameras, cell phones, pagers, etc. will be allowed. Non-Indian Nationals must provide their Passport number in advance to Rupa Sahni on their reply card or telephone it separately. Please send in your reply cards as soon as possible in order to ensure that the list provided to Security is complete and submitted in good time. Directions: proceed along South Sunken Road and come to the Reception at South Court by 10:15am.

Visual and Performing Arts

Swapnasundari is one of India's most talented classical dancers, trained in Bharat Natyam, Kuchipudi and Vilaasini Natyam. As a choreographer, teacher, performer and researcher Swapnasundari has made significant contributions. A particularly unusual field where Swapnasundari is considered an expert and revivalist is in the lost art of temple dancing and the devdasi system. She has been kind enough to give us a lecture demonstration at the home of Shyama Gurbachan Singh, 12 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, (332-9611) on **Monday, March 9, at 3:00 pm**.

A SPECIAL PARSİ LUNCHEON -- Navroze Celebrations

Our Parsi friends have all got together to present the Members with a special Parsi lunch and afternoon. Come and see a short film of their history and culture and enjoy a typical Parsi lunch served by Aloo Hathikhanavala, Bapsi Nariman, Dhun Mehta, Dolly Dadachanji, Frenny Billimoria and Maki Mehta, dressed in their antique saris. Our hostess is Alexandra Tomasikova at the Slovak Embassy, 50 Niti Marg, (601015 or 6885228), on **Wednesday, March 25, at 11:45 am**. [When you mark your reply card please indicate "veg" or "non-veg".]

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.

Gourmet and Garden

We will meet at the newly opened Japanese Restaurant "Tamura". The Japanese Chef has kindly invited us for a demonstration of tempuras and sushi rolls and we can also have a practice session so bring your apron and be ready for the action! "Tamura" is off Vinay Marg in Nehru Park by the Swimming Pool (near Yashwant Place). [Mobile: 9811029961] **Wednesday, March 4, at 10:30 am**. (40 people)

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

The March meeting will feature the well known classical dancer Sharon Lowen. Sharon will explain and dance Seraikella and Mayurbhanj Chau, a dramatic dance from Orissa in the beautiful setting of Anita Meattle's garden, 26 Prithviraj Road, on **Wednesday, March 11, at 3pm.**

Books

Aliki Brandenburg is an American writer of children's books. She is one of the three authors who will come from the USA to spend a week working with all the students from the American Embassy School. Aliki will work with the elementary school students (up to 11 years old). She will talk to us about herself and her books. We will meet at the home of Lakshmi Chandra, D 3/8 Vasant Vihar, (tel: 614-5545), on **Thursday, March 26, at 4:00 pm.**

Creative Self-Expression

Collages. This month we will make a collage by taking old magazines and cutting pictures of our favourite things or those that resonate with our joys, our deepest satisfactions, our memories, associations and life experiences. The collage will be our very own treasure map that reflects our appreciation of what we have or symbolizes what we would like to have more of -- like peace, love, serenity, accomplishments we dream of, or even material possessions. We will be creating a visual tool to focus our creative energy in manifesting our desires. As author and film director, Julia Cameron, writes, "collage work is a tool of transformation."

Please bring chart paper, old magazines, scissors and glue sticks. If you like you can also bring marker pens, glitter, stickum stars or even a photo of yourself to put in the centre of your collage. (Optional: come dressed as an artist or how you think an artist would dress!) We will meet at the home of Sohinder Nabha, 10-A Kasturba Gandhi Marg, (Tel. 3714824, 3324725), on **Monday, March 16, at 3:00 pm.**

Culture

Famous artist, sculptor and architect, Satish Gujral is a legend in his lifetime. A symbol of irrepressible courage, he, along with his lovely wife Kiran, is hugely popular not only on account of his creations, but because of the warmth of their personalities. They have endeared themselves to all who know them. We will visit their home and revel in its beauty. Those who have Satish Gujral's autobiography "A Brush with Fame" (Viking) should bring it along. We are sure the author will oblige with his autograph. Our hostess is Mrs. Kiran Gujral and we will meet at their home, 16 Feroz Gandhi Marg, Lajpat Nagar III, [same street as the furnishing store 'Seasons'] (tel. 6831374, 6832154) on **Thursday, March 5, at 3:30 pm.**

Limited to 35 people only.

Dance

Holi invokes a sense of excitement and romance as it is associated with the advent of spring and the blossoming of colourful flowers. In Assam young men and women dance the "Bihu" dance which depicts the bees and the butterflies hovering around the flowers! Come and share the mood and enjoy the "Bihu" dance done by our very own members. We will meet at the home of Nandini Pattani, 5 Mansingh Road, (379-4079) on **Wednesday, March 4, at 3:00 pm.**

Excursion -- Khajuraho, Panna and Orchha -- March 19-21.

We are planning to take you on an enchanting trip to see the beautifully carved unique temples of Khajuraho and the medieval majestic palaces and temples at Orchha. We leave by Shatabdi on March 19th at 6:10am and arrive back in Delhi on March 21st at 22:25 by Shatabdi. We will spend the first night at the Orchha Resort in the majestic surroundings of a bygone Bundela Rajput era. The following day we will proceed to Khajuraho and stay at the Clarkes. From there we will take a short trip to see the wild life at Panna National Park, or the Panna diamond mines, and, time permitting, a visit to the famous tree top restaurant to see the panoramic view. On the third day more sightseeing of the splendid temples and back to Jhansi to catch the Shatabdi at 17:55 hours. If the group is interested and will let us know in advance, we can arrange to have an extra day in Khajuraho as there is a lot of sightseeing in that area. The cost per person for 3 days and 2 nights on a twin sharing basis is only Rs. 7,600 which includes hotels, all meals, train tickets, all travel by A/C coach, English speaking guides and entrance fees. Please contact one of the following as soon as possible if you would like to join this trip:

Zakia Zaheer -- 332-7382 or 332-9472

Sheila Ghatate -- 332-9823 or 332-9346

Ina von Welck -- 687-3658

Last date for payment is February 26th, 1998.

Khajuraho:

The legendary temples of Khajuraho are India's unique gift to the world. They represent a paean to life, love and joy and life in every form and mood has been captured in stone. Of the 85 original temples only 22 have survived. Architecturally they are unique and there is a very interesting legend about them. The creators claimed descent from the moon and believed that gratification of earthly desire is a step towards attaining the infinite liberation of nirvana. Hence the erotic nature of the carvings. This year the 1000th anniversary of these temples is being celebrated and special events are planned.

Orchha:

Orchha was the capitol of the Bundela Rajputs between 1531 and 1783. The fort palaces and temples built by them retain much of their pristine perfection. Some of these palaces are decorated with painted murals with the finest specimens of the Bundela school of painting. We are fortunate that the erstwhile Maharaja of Orchha will speak to us about "Orchha and Bundelkhand" on February 12, at Mako Lutyens. (See last month's newsletter for details.)

Focus

Amba Sanyal will talk to us about "Saris of India". Amber is a graduate of Fine Arts from the College of Art, Delhi and also studied at Shantiniketan. She held a French Govt. scholarship in Fine Arts at Ecole Des Beaux Art in Paris. She worked in Japan as a member of the Indian Pavilion at Expo '70 and studied the textile and pottery traditions of Japan. She is presently coordinating the project "Saris of India" under the aegis of the Handloom Commission, Ministry of Textiles. She wrote "Saris of Madhya Pradesh", is editing the "Saris of Tamil Nadu", and now writing about the saris of Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Goa. We will meet at the British High Commission Hall, (use Moghul Gate on Shanti Path) and Ayce Riley will give us a Turkish tea afterwards. (Tel. 687-2161) **Friday, March 6, at 3 pm.**

Summer Excursion

In May we are trying to organize a trip to the mysterious, exotic and inscrutable China. The cost will depend on the number of participants but roughly will be about \$120 per day plus the ticket (Rs.35,000). Please contact one of the Excursion leaders: Sheila, Zakia or Ina if you are interested.

Changes of Telephone Numbers

Annie Howard -- 4611750 is now changed to: **4692100**

Please note that telephone numbers in Gurgaon and Faridabad have changed. The first digit "8" is now replaced by "91" and the rest of the numbers stay the same. WIC Members affected by this are:

Deep and Meenu Dugal -- Tel: 91340010

Asha Kapurthala -- Tel: 91573878

Nandita Lahiri -- Tel: 91360539

Maki Mehta -- Tel: 91350314, 91350311

Jayanthi Pai -- Tel: 91353246

Gugu Singh -- Tel: 91340365

Gardening Notes for March

Flowers: Put the seeds of the summer flowering annuals in the nursery during the first fortnight. Seed collection of winter annuals may be done. Label the seeds accordingly. Blooms of unwanted colours should be removed.

Roses: Keep removing dead flowers, dead wood and suckers. Watering should be done every 5-6 days in beds and daily in pots. Hoeing should be done every fortnight. In the second week, repeat spraying of fungicide and insecticide. There will be a flush of roses in the last week.

Vegetables: Bitter gourd, cucumber, french beans, ladies fingers, pumpkins and radishes may be sown.

Lawns: To have a green and healthy lawn, sprinkle water in the mornings. Never let the dew dry on the grass, even in the winter.

General: Planting of new trees, climbers, shrubs and hedges should be completed in the first fortnight. Indoor plants should be manured and put in a shady place.

FAREWELL

We say goodbye to Jo Williams and Nasimah Pasaribu.

REMEMBER -- send regrets for the General Meetings in writing to Mako Lutyens, 88 Sunder Nagar, New Delhi, 110003.

Postal rate for **printed postcards** is **Rs1.50** -- please add stamp before mailing to Rupa and please mark your postcards clearly when you select programs!

1998

MARCH

1998

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Sat

Sun

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2	3	✓ 4	✗ 5	✓ 6	7	8
	Extraordinary General Meeting 2.30 p.m. Triveni Chamber Theatre of the Triveni Kala Sangam (Tansen Mrg)	Gourmet & Garden <i>"Tamura Restaurant"</i> 10.30 a.m. Nehru Park, Swimming Pool, Vinay Marg <hr/> Dance <i>"Bihu Dance"</i> 3.00 p.m. Nandini Pattani, 5 Mansingh Road	Culture <i>Meet Satish Gajral</i> 3.30 p.m. Mrs Kiran Gujral, 16 Feroz Gandhi Marg, Lajpat Nagar III	Focus <i>"Saris of India"</i> 3.00 p.m. British High Commission Hall, Moghul Gate on Shanti Path		
9	10	✓ 11	12	13	14	15
Performing & Visual arts <i>"Swarnasundari"</i> 3.00 p.m. Shyama Gurbachan Singh, 12 Kasturba Gandhi Marg		General Meeting <i>Seraikella and Mayurbhanj Chari Dance</i> 3.00 p.m. Anita Meattle, 26 Prithviraj Rd	"Holi"			
16	17	✓ 18	19	20	21	22
Creative self expression <i>"Collages"</i> 3.00 p.m. Sohinder Nabha, 10-A Kasturba Gandhi Marg		Special Meeting <i>"Visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan"</i> 10.15 a.m. Along South Sunken Rd - Reception at South Court	Excursion <i>Khajuraho, Panna and Orchha</i> March 19-21 Payment before 26 Feb 98			
23	24	✓ 25	26	27	28	29
		Special Meeting <i>"A Parsi Luncheon"</i> 11.45 a.m. Slovak Embassy, 50 Niti Marg, Chanakyaपुरी	Books <i>Meet Alika Brandenburg</i> 4.00 p.m. Lakshmi Chandra, D3/8 Vasant Vihar			
30	31					