



MARCH 2007

WIC NEWS

GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 14th MARCH at 3pm

at the residence of Kusum Ansal
26 Feroze Shah Road

International Covenant and Equality for Women *Ms. Indira Jaising*

The International covenant on equality in Civil and Political Rights is based on recognition of inherent dignity of the human person, and also ideal of free human being enjoying civil and political rights through appropriate conditions created by the society.

Ms. Indira Jaising, a feminist, crusader for human rights and a senior advocate practicing in the Supreme Court of India has faced many a battle, in the courtroom and outside the courtroom, to uphold the rights and dignity of Indian Women.

Today she is going to address the issue with special emphasis on the international scene.



WIC COMMITTEE 2006 2007

Vinu Baig, President
Phone: 95124-4071346/2461187
Mobile: 9810077278
Email: vinubaig@yahoo.com

Vaneeta Podewils, 1st Vice President
Phone: 24651638
Mobile: 9891666765
Email: podewilsv@yahoo.de

Smita Divan, 2nd Vice President
Phone: 2686262616/26863664
Mobile: 9811770405
Email: smitadivan2002@yahoo.co.uk

Sunaina Aggarwal, Secretary
Phone: 25693824/25694552
Mobile: 9810400482
Email: niharika@ndf.vsnl.net.in

Meera Juneja, Treasurer
Phone: 95120-2513250/6053
Mobile: 9810347333
Email: sac158@vsnl.com

Nandini Pattani, Hospitality
Phone: 26254780/51640620
Mobile: 9350818773

Lynne Beauregard, Membership
Phone: 26143599
Mobile: 9899801956
Email: queenbeau@hotmail.com

Mona Reinboth, Newsletter
Phone: 51001272
Mobile: 9871565522
Email: mona.reinboth@googlemail.com

CIRCLE LEADERS

Art and Film

Frenny Billimoria 51652520
9811286353
Nayana Goradia 24357859/9873441744

Book Club

Urmila Sahay 24355050/9818653474
Rita Gharekhan 24339740
Susanne Pryde 9811795244

Cuisine

Bubbles Suneja 23011411
9810003354
Mi-ran Lee 26878298
9818111980

Excursions and Tours

Mona Aggarwal 25693824/9810238810
Parbeen Kaur 517551088/9810625869
Christine Claeve 9811898866

International Circle

Gugu Anup Singh 95124-5014772
9811007710
Norma Acevedo de Heine
24116423
Giovannella Armellini 26883302

Philosophy and Culture

Prama Bhandari 26862807/9810645467
Yumiko Goto 23358113
9810021594
Radikha Birla 23012713
9811222402

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Ladies,

As I write this on Republic Day, the news has just come in that the President has honored Bapsi's husband, Fall Nariman with a Padma Vibhushan which he richly deserves. We are all delighted and wish sincere congratulations to Bapsi.

A lot of us got back from our Christmas and New Year holidays to start the New Year before us... I spent three weeks in England which was cold and windy: however the warmth and hospitality of old friends made up for this. Some of the friends I met were past WIC members. Greetings from Mona Madi, Mair McGeever, Nathalie Trouveroy, Mako Lutyens and Robina Artbutthnot, Sally Wade-Gery and Valerie Broomfield. They all send their best wishes to friends at WIC. Besides the writing and dining, we saw some amazing exhibitions together: Velasquez, 17th Century Spanish Artist and Holbein and his collection of portraits, Rodin's sculptures. We spent Christmas in Hampshire and New Year with the McGeevers in North Wales. We traipsed around to Chelmsford, visited my husband's college at Oxford. Met all his friend - it was altogether an amazing trip.

I literally got back in time to attend a very interesting meeting on the 8th of January at our Second Vice-President Smita Divan's home where Our Guest Speaker The Honourable Justice Michael Kirby, a gay from Australia took us through his experiences in both his personal and working life.

The Chief Guest for the January General Meeting was our fellow member Padmashree, Sunita Kohli. As we all know Padmashree is an honour bestowed by the President for outstanding services in the recipients chosen field. Sunita brought many interesting facts to our notice; including the fact that for nearly 2,000 years India was the only country where diamonds were mined; that the Kohinoor diamond lost 40 carats from its original weight when it was fitted into the Maltese Cross on the Queen of England's Crown and that in earlier days women wore rings on all their toes. Sunita was a picture of poise as she spoke, and supported her talk with a slide show that provided glimpses of the rich lifestyles of the kings, nizams and rajahs of an India that was once wealthy and where rulers were looked upon as gods.

Book Circle with author, Justine Hardy was fascinating as she took us back to her childhood and explained why she had chosen to write a novel based in Kashmir. We had past WIC member Catherine Young attending the talk graciously hosted by Komal Dhindsa. Sir Rob who came in to collect Catherine was able to catch up with a lot of our members as well as Justine.

Cuisine at the Frontier Restaurant had Chef giving us a lot of interesting recipes with scintillating recipes and some useful tips. Did you know; if you soak fish in water for half an hour with a tablespoon of ground ginger/garlic you never get a fishy smell! I tried this immediately and it works!

Sooga Jung and Reiko Kitano had an interesting discussion on Korea and Japan which I sadly missed being down with the dreadful 'flu'.

Members who attended 'Sanskriti' could not stop raving about Anandgram and O.P Jain - as usual he showed us his hospitality and generosity. Art collections are like people. They bear the stamp of the collector. Like the invisible process of osmosis, many of the passions and angularities of the collector rub onto the work and vice versa.

O.P Jain's instincts have not proved him wrong. Nothing shows this better than Jain's 'Anandgram' or Village of Bliss his garden retreat on the outskirts of Delhi. It is centered around a series of buildings and courtyards that include a museum. This museum houses his large collection of traditional terracotta, paintings and artifacts. OP collects on instinct. There are over 2000 objects of daily use in his Museum of Everyday Art. The Museum of Terracotta houses his fabulous terracotta collection.

"My everyday art collection was influenced by the Kelkar Museum of Everyday Objects in Pune. All these everyday accessories were objects of tremendous beauty. It saddens me that the quality of our environment has deteriorated so greatly," he says.

We look forward to seeing as many of you at our Gala Dinner which will take place on Wednesday, 7th of March. Invitation cards are with members of the Executive Committee. It would be marvelous if all our new members as well as our International members could block this date. It will be a Moroccan night so get out your kaftans and sign up with Shivani Wazir Pasrich and Radhika Birla for some fun belly dancing. If there is a member/friend who can teach the group please do step forward. Let's have fun as our year is coming to an end!

With Best Wishes

Vinu Baig
President 06-07



GALA NIGHT 7TH MARCH 2007



Kindly block your calendars for a Moroccan Night which will take place on Wednesday, 7th March at 8.00pm at 2 Aurangzeb Lane, by kind permission of Shirin Paul. H.E. The Ambassador of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco, Mr. Larbi Moukhariq, has kindly consented to be our Chief Guest. Do plan to wear a Moroccan dress/Kaftan and the men can either wear kaftans or white churidar kurtas. We would like to have lots of music and dancing so wear comfortable shoes! Limited guests are welcome.

Tickets will be available at the General Meeting in February, or from members of the Executive Committee.

The sumptuous menu featuring both Moroccan and Lebanese delicacies will include the following:

Circulating hot appetizers:

Falafel with tahina dip
Mushroom tartlets
Shawarma spiced chicken
Kibbeh with sour cream sauce

Cold mezze & salads

Hummus
Tabbouleh
Bamiyaa
Tzaziki
Labneh
Dolmas
Fattoush

Main course:

Moroccan seven vegetable stew
Broccoli with garlic
spetzofal vegetables
cinnamon spiced chicken
mechoui of lamb
Tunisian cous cous
lemon garlic pilaf

Dessert

balkawa
muhallabia
apple tart
chocolate & kahlua mousse

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The President and Executive Committee are happy to announce the Chair Person of the Nominations Committee for 2005-2006 will be Emma Horne. The other members sitting on the committee are:

Diane Banz-Derez, Christine Claeys, Mira Bischoff, Frenny Billimoria, Shree Devi Singh, Shivani Wazir Pasrich

If you have any suggestions for possible candidates for the Executive Committee these should be sent to the Chair of the Nominations Committee in writing before the 28th February. Verbal applications are not acceptable

WIC NOTICE BOARD

Change of Address, please update your directories accordingly:

Annie Howard

Flat 3 C, White House, Bhagwan Dass Road, New Delhi 110 001
Email: honiwala@vsnl.com, Mobile: 981 8039382

CONDOLENCES

We are sad to hear about the passing of Aruna Mehta's father and would like to offer our most sincere condolences.

ART AND FILM



'The Many Faces of India Cinema'

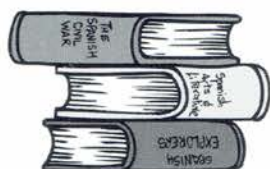
a talk by Amita Malik

Nayana and Frenny invite you to a talk by renowned veteran journalist, Amita Malik entitled 'The Many Faces of Indian Cinema'.

Friday, 16th March at 11am

at the residence of Annie Howard
3C-10 Bhagwan Das Road

Limit - 30



BOOK CLUB

Uma Vasudev

Uma Vasudev will be talking to us about the books she has written. She is the biographer of Indira Gandhi. "Indira Gandhi; Revolution in Restraint" and "Two Faces of Indira Gandhi" cover the tumultuous years of Indira's rise to power, and the later controversial period of the 1970's and the emergency. Her third book, "Indira Gandhi Courage under Fire" covers her life till her assassination in 1984. Her First novel "Song of Anasuya" came out in 1978, an analytical portrayal of Delhi's high society. Her second novel "Shreya of Sonagarh" ranges over the nuances of a crumbling feudal order.

Her particular interest has been Indian classical music in which she herself took vocal training at Delhi's Gandharva Mahavidyalaya. She has co-ordinated a series on Indian classical musicians for BBC entitled "Eastern Sounds". Her most recent biography is about "Hari Prasad Chaurasia; romance of the Bamboo Reed".

Thursday, 22nd March at 3pm

at the residence of Kanwarani Sohinder Nabha
**10 A Kasturba Gandhi Marg
New Delhi 110 001**

Limit - 35



CUISINE

Thai Food Fare

A very enjoyable forenoon has been planned by our Cuisine Circle to introduce us to the delights and variations of Thai Cuisine.

Thursday, 1st March at 12 noon

at the residence of Anushree Mahajan
**47 Friends Colony (East)
New Delhi**

Limit - 35



PHILOSOPHY & CULTURE

The Spiritual Being of an Individual By Dr. Alok Chopra

Dr. Alok Chopra, Director, Aashlok Hospital, is a well known cardiologist. He will be speaking to us on the 'Spiritual Being of Individuals'. Dr. Chopra also does Alternative Healing and will be sharing with us some of his experiences in 'Integral Healing'.

This should be a fascinating afternoon.

Thursday, 29th March at 3pm

at the residence of Radhika Birla
**27 Aurangzeb Road
New Delhi**

Limit 35



INTERNATIONAL CIRCLE

Sarees!

This afternoon we will learn about the many variety of sarees and the different ways they are worn in the various regions of India.

Thursday, 15th March at 3pm

at the residence of Lynn Bayman
**4 Panchsheel Marg
Chanakyapuri**

Limit - 40

MEMBER'S REFLECTIONS ON CIRCLE MEETINGS

We would love to share the views of the meetings members have enjoyed. So please do send them in to be published in the Newsletters. If they could be received by the Newsletter Editor by the 20th of each month this would be lovely. Thank you.

Gurudwara Damadama Sahib

On Wednesday, January 31st the Excursions and Tours group organized a trip to the Gurudwara behind Humayuns Tomb. It was a lovely quiet spot, tucked back in the woods. Anup Singh gave a talk and then a "tour" of the Gurudwara and joined us for tea on the lawn afterwards. For those of us who did not know a lot about Sikkism it was very enlightening. His talk centered on the following ideas:

- The Sikh "religion" is a discipline of discipleship, the fusion of good living, a way of life. There is a primal entity, no deity, one truth, a divine will who is the doer and is with you. If you have no ego and learn you can have communion with the divine will. Universal brotherhood, acceptance of all people, equality are the foundation.

- History starts in 1469 in the Punjab near Lahore where Guru Nanak was born. He was an inquisitive person from the start. In 1499 went for a walk and disappeared. Came back a new person. He then travelled for 12 years, showed God was everywhere. Anup talked of the history of the Sikhs and the Mughal emperors. The 5th and 9th were killed by them. Afterwards, the Sikhs trained to defend their faith. Then Gobind Singh tried to work to have peace. He was the last Guru.

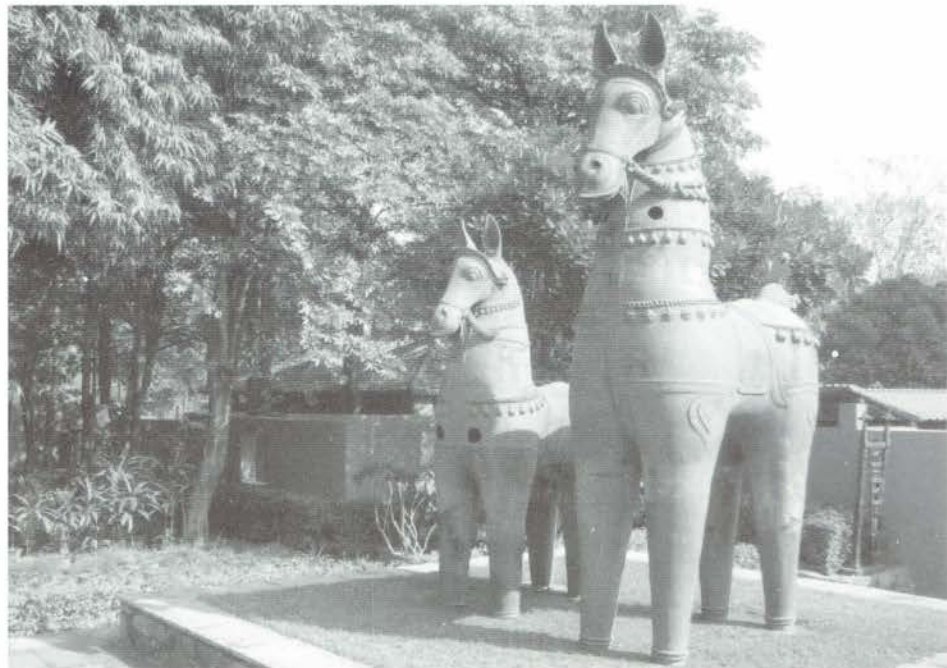
We had a really peaceful morning! Thanks to our Excursions Team and the Singh's!
Holly Shrikhande

Sanskriti Museum

Some of our members enjoyed a tranquil, fascinating visit to the Sanskriti museum, and felt it was well worth travelling a little bit further out of the centre of Delhi, to be enveloped in the quiet calm of the gardens that form a central part of the museum. Dotted around were wonderful terracotta statues, and explanatory mini-displays, covering the history and religious significance of works from all over India. In a display of everyday items, members were delighted to find combs, mirrors and boxes similar to ones remembered from their mother's and grandmother's collections!

The founder and patron of the museum, Mr. Jain was there to greet members, and generously provided arrival snacks and later a delightful brunch, following an explanatory tour of the works and gardens. A special treat was a 'sneak preview' of the soon to be opened new gallery of textiles. He personally invited other WIC members to visit whenever they were free. Highly recommended.

Janet Needham Jackson





EXCURSIONS AND TOURS

MOROCCO- here we come!

The tour to Morocco has been finalized:

Departure will be on **25th March 2007** and the return on the 6th/7th April.

The cost is Rs.1,00,000.

Members who are interested in joining this trip should get in touch with the Excursions and Tours circle leaders before the cut off date of **16th February**, with a 50% deposit.

Please note that this trip is for WIC members and their spouses only.



FRENCH COFFEE MORNING

Diane Banz-Derez will be hosting an informal coffee for all our French speaking members on:

Monday, 12th March at 10.00am

4/24 Shanti Niketan
New Delhi 110 021
Tel: 516 63903

If you wish to attend the coffee morning please contact Diane at least 48 hours prior to the date.



GERMAN COFFEE MORNING

Harash Kapur will be hosting an informal coffee for all our German speaking members:

Friday, 9th March at 11.00am

at 3-B Mathura Road
Jangpura Ext. B
New Delhi 110 014
Tel: 24375048/24371012

Please RSVP by phone at least 2 days prior to the coffee. For further information and details of the next coffee please contact:

Maya Caroli: 2955153, 989 949 0088

MARCH 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Cuisine 12.00 noon 	2	3
4	5	6	7 Gale Night 8.00 pm 	8	9 German Coffee Morning 11.00 am 	10
11	12 French Coffee Morning 10.00 am 	13	14 General Meeting 3.00 pm 	15 International Circle 3.00 pm 	16 Art & Film 11.00 am 	17
18	19	20	21	22 Book Club 3.00 pm 	23	24
25 Excursions and Tours to Morocco 	26	27	28	29 Philosophy & Culture 3.00 pm 	30	31