

Women's International Club Newsletter

MAY 1998



Dear Member,

Looking back, it seems incredible that a year has flown by so quickly that our feet have hardly touched the ground. At this time last year, we had no idea what was before us. Now that it is almost behind us, I wish to tell you what a serious, hard-working but hugely enjoyable Committee I have had the privilege of working with. Without them, you would have missed so many special moments in Delhi life. I shall tell you more when I hand over at the AGM in May, but I just wanted you to know how indebted I am to them and how much I shall miss seeing them regularly.

A special mention for a special event. My heartfelt thanks to Shyama for organising the visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan. She worked so carefully to get it right and all those who were there must agree that we had an unforgettable morning.

So many events in March to thank people for be they speakers, performers or hostesses. If I do so, I will run out of space, but I especially want to thank Anita Meattle for having the March General Meeting in her beautiful garden and providing the delicious tea afterwards for all of us. It is certainly most heartwarming to know that there is always someone amongst the members who has the bright ideas, who knows someone who can or gives a helping hand.

Circle leaders have used their creative talent, their bargaining skills and come up with truly original ideas. Talking of bargaining skills, have you seen what a wonderful tour of China has been worked out at a very competitive price. A truly magical tour. Make sure you book it if you possibly can.

If you have not received a revised slate for the next Executive Committee, please see inside. There have been changes to the list put forward in the last newsletter. Thank you to Bapsi and her team for the efforts on our behalf.

May is the month for the AGM when I and other Committee members will hand over the baton to the next team. We wish them all the best of luck under the skillful and stylish leadership of Gita Devi. The AGM will be held on **Wednesday, May 13, 3:00pm**, at the Maurya Sheraton Hotel. Please be on time so that we can get through the Agenda and still have time for a cup of tea together. See you there.

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 |

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 13, 3 pm** at the Maurya Sheraton Hotel. Please be early so we can start promptly and get through all the reports and business of the Club. [Remember that you cannot bring guests to this Annual General Meeting.]

Any proposals that members want raised at the AGM this year should be sent to the Committee in advance so that we can photocopy them before the Meeting.

PROPOSED CHANGES to the By-Laws of the Constitution

To be voted on at the Annual General Meeting in May:

Article V, Section 5, (g) (Duties of the Membership Chairperson) 1) "to appoint, in consultation with the President and the immediate past President, a Subcommittee on Membership, consisting of four members from among the Club's former Presidents and Honoured Members...." Proposed change: instead of "former Presidents" [underlined above] substitute "former Executive Committee Members".

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

The revised slate for the Executive Committee 1998-1999 is as follows:

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|--------------------|--|
| President | Gita Devi of Kapurthala (India) |
| 1st Vice President | Etelka Dallos (Hungary) |
| 2nd Vice President | Jyotsna Govil (India) |
| Treasurer | Sohinder Nabha (India) |
| Secretary | Jacqueline Dalbousiere (France) |
| Hospitality | Nandita Lahiri (India) |
| Membership | Sharon Graefe (Australia) |
| Newsletter | Priscila Conflado (Philippines) |

We will be voting on this slate at the May AGM. We need proposers and seconders.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee this year, Bapsi Nariman, has made the following suggestions for next year:

1. Those selected for the Nominating Committee should be as sure as possible that they are going to be in Delhi during January to March in order to attend meetings and deal with nominations.
2. The cut-off date for Nominations should be mid-February rather than end February (as in the Constitution). Bapsi found that nominations were coming in until the last day, February 28, which leaves little time to contact all concerned and draw up a slate.
3. Members who nominate other members have to be sure that the nominee is willing to take the job, will be in Delhi for the next year, and has the requisite membership requirements to serve on the Executive Committee.

On a positive note, the Nominating Committee received a huge number of names. On the negative side, most of the people nominated were either away from Delhi at the time, or about to leave the country or otherwise engaged.

Culture

Shovana Narayan Traxl is the wife of the Ambassador of Austria, Dr. Herbert Traxl. An Indian civil service officer and a professional exponent of "Kathak", Shovana has, with amazing grace, successfully combined career and marriage. We are invited to her home, the Austrian Embassy Residence, to hear her talk on "Dancers and Dance of the Indo-Gangetic Belt in the Mauryan and Gupta Era". This era is deeply steeped in the Buddhist tradition and was one of the richest in medieval history of this land. We will meet at the Austrian Embassy, (Tel. 688-6834) Chandragupta Marg, on **Tuesday, May 5, at 3 pm.**

Excursion

Plans for this wonderful trip have been finalized now. We shall be visiting Beijing, where we will visit among other things the Ming Tombs, the Forbidden City and the Great Wall. Next we go to Xian, which has been the capital for eleven dynasties and is filled with archeological wonders. We then go to Shanghai, the commercial capital of China, and also visit Suzhou, known as the 'Venice of the East' and famous for its magnificent gardens. We then proceed to Hangzhou and Gullin -- known for its unique beauty. Our trip ends in Hong Kong, where we board the return flight to Delhi.

Join us for this fun filled 12-day tour and enjoy a cultural/historical extravaganza! The likely dates are end of May to beginning of June. All of the above for only Rs.82,000 (to be paid partly in rupees and partly in dollars). This includes airfare, transport, hotels, sightseeing and food.

There are only a limited number of seats so book early to avoid disappointment. Last date for booking is April 20. Pay Rs.5,000 to an Excursion leader by April 20th:

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Sheila Ghatate | Tel. 332 9823, 332 9346 | Fax. 335 2872 |
| Zakia Zaheer | Tel. 332 7382 | Fax. 332 9472 |
| Sigrun Srivastava | Tel. 6468908, 644 2756 | |
| Ina Von Welck | Tel. 687 3658 | |

Focus

Amba Sanyal will talk to us about "Saris of India". Amba is a graduate of Fine Arts from the College of Art, Delhi and also studied at Shantiniketan. She held a French Government 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 "Saris of Tamil Nadu", and now writing about the saris of Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Goa. We will meet at Sudarshana Singh's home, 63 Friends Colony East, (6844204), on **Tuesday, May 12, 3pm.**

Visual and Performing Arts

The Capital City Minstrels directed by Zohra Shaw will present a programme of choral music including opera choruses, songs from the classical and romantic period, folk songs and spirituals. A mixed fare of works by Purcell, Verdi, Puccini, Schubert, Dvorak, Franck, Faure and Elton John. The performance will be by their Chamber Choir and the Junior Choir. We will meet at Mary Gore-Booth's residence, 2 Rajaji Marg, (301-3117) on **Wednesday, May 6, 3 pm.** Limited to 50 people.

HOSPITALITY -- MANY THANKS.....

We would like to thank **Anita Meattle** for having the March General Meeting in her lovely garden and **Sharon Lowen** for the wonderful dance program.

All the members who attended the marvelous Parsi lunch on March 25th had a great treat so we extend heartfelt thanks our Parsi members in their beautiful antique saris: **Bapsi Nariman, Frenny Billimoria, Maki Mehta, Dhun Mehta, Aloo Hathikhanavala and Dolly Dadachanji** for their huge generosity in supplying and cooking all the delicious food in their homes. They also brought the video, apple juice and beer so there was no cost to the club and, we are grateful, as ever, to our gracious hostess **Alexandra** for providing the great venue!

Finally, thank you to all the ladies who have brought goodies for today's tea (April General Meeting).

FAREWELL

We say goodbye to Fumiko Tomota and Francoise Benedetti.

Message from Membership: If you are leaving Delhi within the next few months and therefore resigning from the Club, please let Mako know.

Change of Telephone Numbers

Mona Aggarwal's telephone numbers have been changed. The first two digits are now 56 instead of 32....the new numbers are: 569-3824 and 569-4552.

Change of Address

Amrita Mankad has moved to: 1 Lodhi Estate, Tel: 464-2082.

Gardening Notes for May

Flowers: Cannas can be planted in new beds. Seeds of the rainy season flowers should be sown in seed beds. Bulbs of tube roses should also be planted.

Roses: Same as done in April. Start preparing new rose beds in May for planting of rose plants in July. The ground intended for roses must be dug preferably to a depth of two to three feet and good drainage ensured so that there is no water-logging. Fill the beds up about a week before the onset of the monsoon.

Vegetables: Seeds of brinjal, cauliflower and chilies may be sown.

Lawns: In May dig up the lawn to a depth of a foot. Turn the earth inside out. Do this twice or thrice so that the roots of the weeds and ant holes are exposed to the hot sun and destroyed by the heat. Keep the earth exposed for about 2-3 weeks. Then sprinkle some sand and slaked lime on the top soil and flood it with water at once. (A handful of slaked lime for every two square feet.) Water is necessary for taking heat out of the lime. Let the earth dry out and then level the ground for the planting of grass.

Before planting new grass, remove any weeds that may be present. After planting, water generously. Within ten days new blades of grass will emerge. Sprinkle water over the grass but do not flood. Keep a sharp eye for any stray weeds and remove them. Throughout the summer every third day leave the hosepipe on all night and sprinkle water every morning.

In the second year shave the grass to ground level, leaving the roots untouched. Use a rake to let air circulate among the roots. Sprinkle ammonium sulfate on the grass once a month and water immediately. For a good lawn, new grass should be planted after three years.

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following eight new members into the Club:

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| Marylam Awwad F-3/15 Vasant Vihar New Delhi, 110057 | (Dr. Waiel) Iran Tel. 614-7542/7182 Fax. 614-6706 |
| Hulya Buluc 22 Prithviraj Road New Delhi, 110011 | (Amb. Yusuf) Turkey Tel. 301-3612 Fax. 301-1937 |
| Susan Carter British High Commission Shantipath, New Delhi 110021 | (David) U.K. Tel. 687-2161 Fax. 687-2882 |
| Jacqueline Lundquist Roosevelt House 1 Shantipath, New Delhi 110021 | (Amb. Richard Celeste) USA Tel. 688-9033 Fax. 419-0054 |
| Sasha Moss DCM Remy Limited 204, 205 Ashoka Estate Building New Delhi, 110001 | (Alan) U.K. Tel. 680-1514 98110 59593 Fax. 373-9316 |
| Malkanthi Nanayakkara B9/18 Vasant Vihar New Delhi, 110057 | (Wilfred S.) Srilanka Tel. 614-5770 |
| Fabienne Napoli 67 Jorbagh New Delhi, 110003 [Until mid-April c/o Oberoi Hotel] | (Silvio) France/Germany Tel. (Mobile) 98101 84057 |
| Conchita Wagner-Moral 61A Friends Colony East New Delhi, 110065 | (Wilfried) Spain Tel. 683-2703 Fax. 683-5105 |

CALENDAR FOR MAY

Tuesday, May 5, 3:00 pm. Culture: Meet Shovana Narayan Traxl at the Austrian Embassy.

Wednesday, May 6, 3:00 pm. Visual and Performing Arts: Capital City Minstrels, British High Commission Residence, 2 Rajaji Marg.

Thursday, May 7, Moharram

Monday, May 11, Budh Poornima

Tuesday, May 12, 3:00 pm. Focus: "Saris of India", 63 Friends Colony East.

Wednesday, May 13, 3:00 pm. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Maurya Sheraton Hotel.