



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB

DELHI

November, 1991

My Dear Members,

Happy Diwali! The actual date of this year's Diwali Holiday is November 5. Before Diwali, traditionally the home is made ready by painting and cleaning, silver is polished and finery laid out. On Diwali Night, lamps and candles are kept burning to light the way for the Goddess Lakshmi to enter and bring good fortune to the house. Also, this night thieves are feared to strike, so families wait up passing the time in cardgames and lighthearted gambling. Tradition has it that a woman should handle money that night. If she wins, that is fine, and if she loses, the Goddess Lakshmi will make it up to her during the year. Good Luck!

From our November programs, take your pick, but don't miss Laura Sykes', our Editor, presentation: "The English Country House" for International/Cultural, and do come to the Embassy of Malaysia for Indian Culture. Our Yoga, Dancing and Singing circles are in full swing. But, please remember that our hostesses prepare for circle meetings with careful attention to detail. Don't hurt them or WIC's good name by not calling in your attendance, or non-attendance, to Circle leader, hostess or social secretary (if at an embassy)! Do take the time to call!

The General Meeting Program for November will be devoted to a panel presentation on Alternative Medicine with our own Janet Chawla as moderator. Moti Lal Nehru Way is the venue. It is bound to be an interesting discussion!

Lastly, if you have not yet paid your annual dues, please do so by calling Treasurer Ramindra Ajit Singh at 676 507 to make arrangements for cash payment, or send her a crossed check made out to Women's International Club. She will send you a receipt by return mail. Dues: Irs. 300. Our constitutional deadline for dues payment is October 16!

With warmest regards,

Gunilla L F Kettis
President



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB



NEWSLETTER

November 1991

Twenty First Year

ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER

GENERAL MEETING



ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE
Wednesday 13 November, 3.00 pm
Home of Jyotsna Govil
5, Motilal Nehru Marg
Tel. 301-8574

The allopathic or 'modern' medical model is increasingly under criticism for over-prescription of powerful drugs, invasive diagnostic and surgical procedures, prohibitive expense and insensitivity to the psychological, social and environmental dimensions of illness. Our programme will focus on alternative medical systems. The panellists will include practitioners of homeopathy, ayurvedic medicine, naturopathy and Tibetan medicine. We will identify each system's origins and conceptions of health and disease, and explore the healing techniques used. If you have any topics you would like addressed or specific questions, please give them in writing to any committee member before the meeting.

THEATRE GROUP



THEATRE FOR THE SPEECH-IMPAIRED
Monday 11 November, 3.00 pm
Home of Françoise Karim
D-10 Maharani Bagh

This month's programme is a tête-à-tête with Satish Sehgal, who has been actively associated with theatre for the deaf and dumb for the last twenty-five years. Guests will each be invited to engage in a dialogue with Satish, in which you will of course have to rely on mime: we hope you will enjoy the challenge! Satish will later enact themes or situations, with a small group of performers who will draw you into their world without sound.

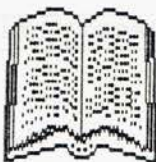
YOGA



MORE TONING ASANAS
Tuesday 12 November, 3.00 pm
Home of Pamela Man Mohan Singh
5 Friends Colony West
Tel. 63-0373

This month will continue with October's general toning asanas, focusing particularly on the Surya Namaskar, or greeting to the sun, with which it is customary for devotees of yoga to start each day.

BOOK CIRCLE



EMPIRE AND THE BRITISH CHARACTER
Thursday 14 November, 3.00 pm
Home of speaker, Kathryn Tidrick
Kum Kum Cottage, Lal Kot Lane
7 Copernicus Marg
Tel. 38-1136

Author and psychologist Kathryn Tidrick will talk about her latest historical work. In the setting of her walled garden and small, beautifully restored Lutyens bungalow, she will analyse some of the well-known figures of British imperial history, showing how the almost evangelical driving forces of duty and honour grew into ambiguous social and political forces of government. Believing that the ambivalent nature of empire brought out both the best and the worst in people, she will discuss the tug-of-war between ideals and the realities of confrontation and government and some of the moral questions that faced these men in the process. Kathryn will be happy to show members around her unique bungalow, which was featured in 'Inside Outside'.

Note: Members may like to prepare for a future meeting by reading 'Such a Long Journey', by Rohin Mistry. Bombay-born, Mistry moved to Toronto in 1975 and his novel has been short-listed for the Booker Prize.

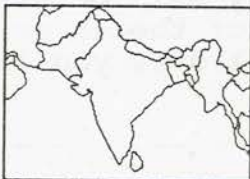
OPEN FORUM



GREEK GODDESSES - WOMEN'S ROLES
Monday 18 November, 3.00 pm
Home of Sunita Ratanlal
B-82 Greater Kailash I
Tel. 641-0150, 641-0295

November's Open Forum will continue discussing the extent to which women are still bound by the ancient mythological archetypes. Small groups will look at individual topics and then report back for further discussion by the group as a whole.

INDIAN CULTURAL



ALOKE ROY'S JHAGRAN
Tuesday 19 November, 3.00 pm
Malaysian High Commission
50-M Satya Marg, Chanakyapuri
(Courtesy Zaleha Amir,
Tel. 60-4413)

Jhagran was established in 1968 to use theatre as a means of increasing public awareness of social problems. This company uses 'animators' as catalysts to discuss with the people living in deprived areas what they themselves see as their problems, whether it be the water supply or black-marketing of essential commodities, dowry or wife-beating, drugs or AIDS. Liberated from the traditional proscenium stage, these situations are then dramatised in a simple, direct way, involving the people so that their own reality is mirrored back to them. Alope will speak about the Jhagran experience, and then present two short playlets.

MUSIC CIRCLE



VIOLIN AND TABLA RECITAL
Wednesday 20 November, 3.00 pm
Home of Audrey Fowler
British High Commission
(Bungalow 3), Shantipath
Tel. 60-1371, ext 494

Johar Ali will play the violin, with his brother, Ajmal Ali, accompanying him on the tabla. They belong to the Patiala gharana (school of music attached to a court). Both have been playing since the age of eight and have performed at the Sahitya Kala Parishad, Sangeet Natak Akademi, and Karnataka Ganakala, as well as abroad. They have won many awards and scholarships, most recently at the Delhi 1990 Youth Festival, when they were awarded prizes for the best violin and tabla.

ARTS AND CRAFTS



CRAFTS MUSEUM
Monday 25 November, 3.00 pm
Pragati Maidan
(Entrance from Bhairon Marg)
Tel. Group leaders: Savi Prakash
331-1683, Claudia Deiss 60-3965

The National Handicrafts and Handlooms Museum has over 20,000 items, from textiles to terracotta, from wall paintings to grass baskets, and from toys to images of the gods. We will have an opportunity to see craftsmen from all over India at work and Mrs Jutta Jain will give us a tour of the museum's new galleries.

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL



THE ENGLISH COUNTRY HOUSE
Tuesday 26 November, 3.00 pm
Home of Laura Sykes
82 Paschimi Marg, Vasant Vihar
Tel. 67-6994

Throughout the 1980s, interior decorators around the world copied what they called The English Country House Look. Based on a romanticised version of the English ideal of a large manor house, with works of art acquired by eighteenth century relations, plenty of chintz curtains and covers, books, dogs and a suggestion of comfortable shabbiness, this 'look' acquired a new elegance when it crossed the Atlantic, chiefly in the hands of Mark Hampton and Mario Buatta. Laura will give a talk illustrated with slides on its historical development. (Maximum 40-45 members).

CHORUS GROUP



Rehearsals have begun in earnest for the December programme, which as usual will be an important part of the Club's Christmas festivities. All singers would be very welcome; the group meets in members' houses, so please call group leaders Patricia or Usha to find out the venue.

DANCE CIRCLE



THE TANGO

Wednesday 27 November, 3.00 pm
Home of Sudarshana Singh
63 Friends Colony East
Tel. 684-4204

It takes two to tango - or does it? Come and let your hair down with this famous dance which originated with the gauchos of Argentina.

FESTIVALS AROUND THE WORLD IN NOVEMBER



Apart from Diwali, India also celebrates the birthday this month of Guru Nanak, the founder of the Sikh religion, on 21 November 1469. One week later in the USA, and always celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November, is Thanksgiving, when the early settlers gave thanks to God for the first harvest in their new land.

The symbol of this harvest festival is the cornucopia, or horn of plenty. In her book Magic Symbols, Pearl Binder writes: 'One of the earliest and most persistent of rain symbols is the spiral. It represents the whirlwind, which brings rain, and is a symbol of prosperity and fertility. Wherever the spiral form was found in nature it was worshipped as life-giving and beneficent. The whorled shell was held sacred as far back as Palaeolithic times. A devout Hindu mother gives birth with a sacred conch beside her and a scarlet spiral painted on her door to encourage her. Underlying all this is the fact that the spiral form is curved and undulating, and therefore peculiarly feminine.'

NOTICEBOARD


♪ Meera Burman is now back and has resumed as Music Circle group leader ♪


► Museum Study Group: Will those wishing to participate now please give the fees (Rs 250) to Bapsi Nariman. ◀

Change of address/telephone number

Please note new numbers for Bina Deogun (683-2736) and Kamla Sondhi (684-0246/684-0492).

Some gremlins seem to have got into the membership directory, for which many apologies! Please make two further corrections: Vinu Baig's second number should be 683-5801, not 8501, and Savitri Bhatia's number should read 462-2101, not 46-2219.

 Resignations: Sadly, we said good-bye to several more members in October: Lady Goodall, Silvestra Petric and Vijay Deshmukh. They will be much missed and we send warm good wishes for the future.

 Archives In honour of the Club's 21st anniversary, we are trying to reconstruct details of past programmes, newsletters etc. Do you have any newsletters from previous years you could lend us to photocopy, perhaps from your own year as newsletter editor? We promise to let you have them back in good condition.

I have only April 1990 & all 1990/1 except August, September & January.

GARDENING NOTES FOR NOVEMBER



Lawns: One of the pleasures of Delhi's winters is to sit out on your lawn and soak up the warm sunshine. Sadly, this is also the time that the lawns begin to feel the effects of the long cold nights and soon turn brown. Apply this fertilizer:

- 2 parts ammonium sulphate
- 3 parts super phosphate
- 1 part sulphate of potash

Spread this mixture, at about 50 gms per square metre.

Annuals: Weed, hoe and water at regular intervals; replace casualties with new plants.

Roses: These will now have begun to sprout. Watch for the first signs of disease and spray before further damage can be done. Apply a fertilizer like 'Rose Mix' at the end of November (90 gms per plant).

Chrysanthemums: The Korean variety will be in bloom by the middle of the month; spray with foliar fertilizer and feed with liquid manure at regular intervals.

Dahlias: The end of November is the best time for planting suckers or rooted cuttings.

Caladium: When, by early November, the leaves begin to dry out, withhold water. Remove suckers when the leaves have died down, dust with 'Bavistan' and store in a cardboard box filled with fine sand.

Cannas: When flowering is completed, cut stems down to ground level.

Vegetables: Transplant matured seedlings. Peas, Potatoes and Broad Beans can be sown up till the middle of November, Tomato, Onion and Garlic up to the end of the month. Give a top dressing of Nitrogen, followed by immediate watering, to Beets, Carrots and Turnips. Spray 'Malathion' if attacked by pests.

Happy Gardening!

Kavita Ratra

DELHI DAYS

At last we've got to Tughlaqabad, my favourite historic site in Delhi. Although there is much less to see than at, say, Shahjahanabad (the Red Fort), this is a place where you can wander virtually alone in the almost lunar landscape and allow your imagination free rein. Let the walls themselves tell you their story in the welcome stillness: no one will try to sell you postcards here.

Last month's map shows the site; this month's is a reconstruction of what this third city of Delhi may have looked like. You now enter it from a small gate on the southeast, but the original approach was by a gentle gradient from the northwest. It is named after Ghiyasuddin Tughlak who, according to Ibn Batuta, once suggested to Qutbuddin: 'O master of the world, it were fitting that a city should be built here.' Qutbuddin's deceptively simple reply was 'When you are Sultan, build it.' Ghiyasuddin did come to power as the first of the Turkish Tughlaq dynasty (1320-1415), and within two years had built mosques, palaces and houses behind a walled perimeter 7 miles long and of a massive thickness. There are deep water storage tanks, and subterranean passages said to lead to the village outside. Marvelling at the construction, a nineteenth century tourist asked a passing cowherd how on earth it was built. To the cowherd there was no mystery and he gave the sensible - and unanswerable - reply: 'Paisa, paisa, paisa!'

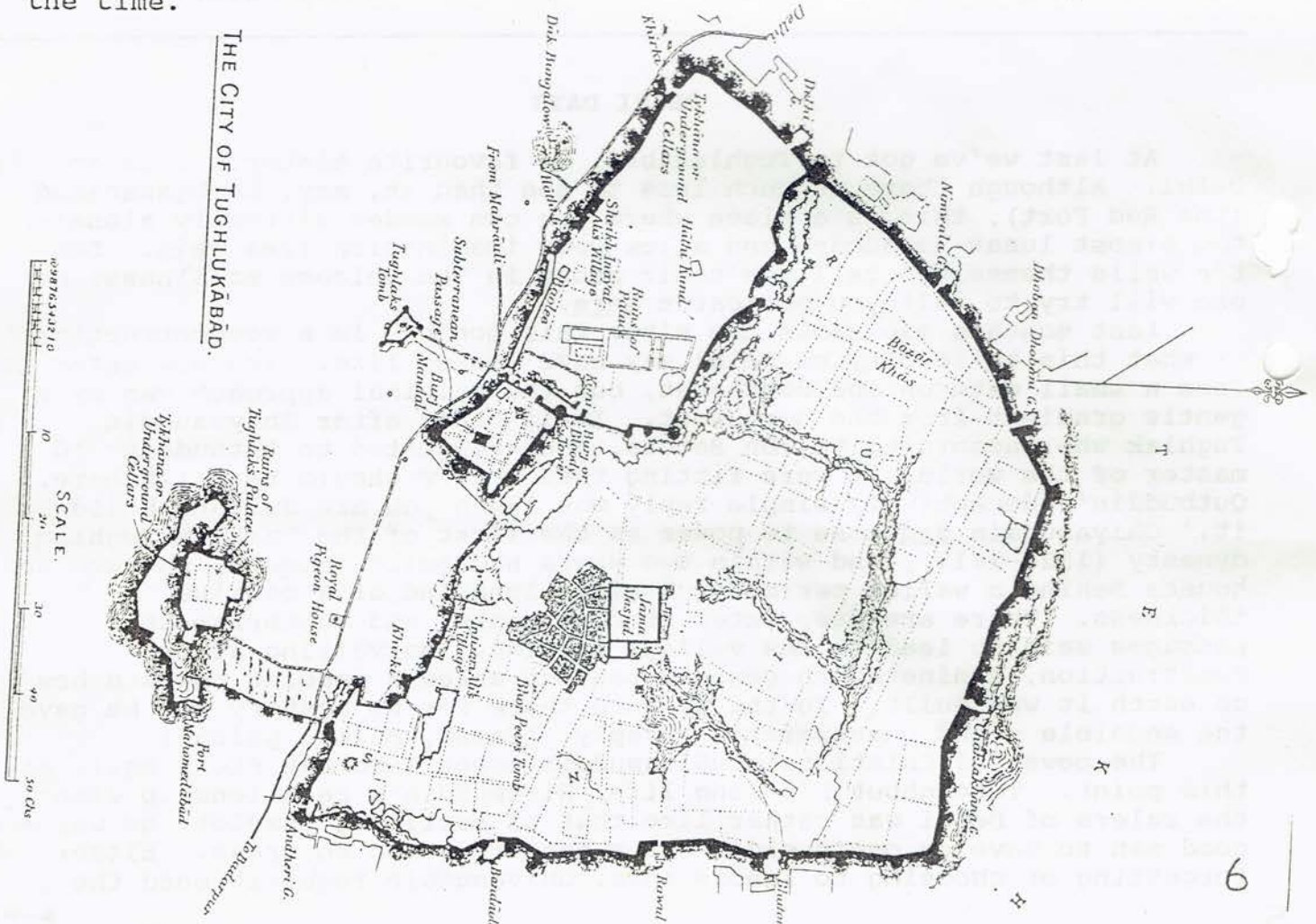
The powerful Chisti saint Nizamuddin comes into the story again at this point. Throughout his long life, Nizamuddin's relationship with the rulers of Delhi was rather like that of Merlin at Camelot: he was a good man to have on one's side, but a dangerous man to cross. Either forgetting or choosing to ignore this, Ghiyasuddin requisitioned the



workmen constructing the tank at Nizamuddin's dargah to build Tughlaqabad. When Nizamuddin arranged for the builders to work for him at night, Ghiyasuddin forbade the sale of oil (for lamps) to him. Nizamuddin miraculously turned the water of the tank to oil, but cursed Tughlaqabad: 'Ya base Gujar, Ya rahe ujar' (May it be inhabited by gypsies or remain desolate). In 1325, only 5 years after its construction, the city was indeed abandoned, possibly for lack of water, on the death of Ghiyasuddin.

Across a causeway which once bridged an artificial lake (in effect a moat), is the tomb Ghiyasuddin built for himself, which later also housed his wife and son. This is a perfectly preserved example of the familiar mixture of red sandstone and marble, but could not be more different in feel from, say, Safdar Jung's delicate tomb, built four hundred years later. In European terms it is Norman or Romanesque, though actually contemporary with Gothic architecture. With sloping walls like an Egyptian pyramid, which it also resembles in solidity if not in size, Ghiyasuddin's rugged tomb even now exudes the imperial grandeur of this warrior-king. Apparently impervious to the awe-inspiring atmosphere, myriads of apple-green parakeets provide a welcome touch of levity, nesting cheekily in its perforated walls. The tomb also acted as a look-out fort, as can be seen from the arrow slits which are very sensibly bifocal, ie long-distance vantage points alternate with close-up views of the ground immediately below the fortress walls.

Ghiyasuddin was to lie in the tomb sooner than he can have expected. His imminent return from war in Bengal frightened Nizamuddin's followers, who daily warned him of Ghiyasuddin's approach. Nizamuddin, who had prophesied that Ghiyasuddin would never return to Delhi after these wars, remained unperturbed: 'Dilli hanoz dur ast', he drawled: 'Delhi is yet far off'. Sure enough, a pavilion built at Tughlaqabad by his son and successor, Muhammad bin Tughlaq, to welcome his father home after his victory in battle collapsed and killed Ghiyasuddin. Muhammed bin Tughlaq was not in the welcoming pavilion at the time.



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	60-3965
	Savi Prakash	331-1683
Book Circle	Nayana Goradia	61-7859, 61-5703
	Jean Gurney	687-5810
Chorus Group	Patricia Stephenson	680-2304
	Usha Srivastava	641-6621
Cooking	Raj Nanda	688-4833, 688-2395
	Micheline St-Cyr	683-0722
Dance	Kavita Ratra	61-7252, 61-5662
	Blanca Schmenger	67-5840
Excursions	Margrit Heydemann	69-3341
	Sarabjit ('Gugu') Singh	329-1788
Indian Cultural	Vinu Baig	683-8946, 683-5801
	Pamela Evans	60-4212
International Cultural	Sumru Fenmen	60-2803
	Anginee Roma Dass	67-1739, 67-6152
Museum Study Group	Bapsi Nariman	686-2980
Music	Audrey Fowler	60-1371 ext 494
	Meera Burman	329-3873
Nostalgic Singalong	Dolores ('Dolly')	67-3390
	Dadachanji	
Open Forum	Prama Bhandari	686-2807, 662-525
	Sofia de Ortiz	687-6423
Theatre	Gita Devi of Kapurthala	641-2029
	Surinder Dugal Jain	69-9448
Yoga	Indu Sahni	23-1832

NOVEMBER AT A GLANCE



<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>WHAT</u>
Wednesday 13th 3.00 pm	Home of Jyotsna Govil 5 Motilal Nehru Marg	<u>GENERAL MEETING</u> <u>Alternative</u> <u>Medicine</u>
Monday 11th 3.00 pm	Home of Francoise Karim D-10 Maharani Bagh	<u>Theatre Group</u> Mime
Tuesday 12th 3.00 pm	Home of Pamela Man Mohan Singh 5 Friends Colony West	<u>Yoga</u> Toning Asanas
Thursday 14th 3.00 pm	Home of Kathryn Tidrick Kum Kum Cottage, Lal Kot Lane	<u>Book Circle</u> Empire
Monday 18th 3.00 pm	Home of Sunita Ratanlal B-82 Greater Kailash I	<u>Open Forum</u> Greek Goddesses
Tuesday 19th 3.00 pm	Malaysian High Commission 50-M Satya Marg	<u>Indian Cultural</u> 'Jhagran'
Wednesday 20th 3.00 pm	Home of Audrey High Fowler UK High Commission, Shanti Path	<u>Music Circle</u> Violin & Tabla
Monday 25th 3.00 pm	Crafts Museum, Pragati Maidan	<u>Arts & Crafts</u> Crafts Museum
Tuesday 26th 3.00 pm	Home of Laura Sykes 82 Paschimi Marg, Vasant Vihar	<u>Int. Cultural</u> Country Houses
Wednesday 27th 3.00 pm	Home of Sudarshana Singh 63 Friends Colony East	<u>Dance</u> The Tango

