



# WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB

DELHI

NOVEMBER 1992

Dear Members,

We are in the midst of the festive season with everyone in a festive mood as we look forward to one of the most beautiful of all festivals -- Deepavali -- the Festival of Lights. The Diwali lights would already have been lit at the Women's International Club's Diwali programme, and we would be waiting to light the "diyas" in our own homes. Diwali symbolizes the coming of the Goddess Lakshmi to shower her blessings on everyone and to bring prosperity and happiness to all.

Diwali is the time to spread good will, to forgive and to forget, and also to make new friends. So, as soon as the festivities are over, we are planning to have our "getting to know each other" afternoon when we shall meet, exchange news, or perhaps just "talk" for, as Oscar Wilde said, "There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about!"

"Diwali Mubarek" and with all good wishes.

Sincerely,

*Veena Dass*

Veena Dass

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1992 -1993

President	Veena Dass	301 2713	(INDIA)
		301 0128	
1st Vice-President	Rebecca Mc Cullough	67 2336	(U.S.A.)
2nd Vice-President	Sarabjit Anup Singh	556 3788	(INDIA)
		833 2365	
Secretary	Joan Lee	643 6288	(U.K.)
Treasurer	Indra Rani Jerath	61 6632	(INDIA)
Membership	Claudia Deiss	60 3965	(AUSTRIA)
Hospitality	Raj Nanda	688 4833	(INDIA)
Newsletter Editor	Constance Gupta	61 8459	(U.S.A.)

GROUP LEADERS FOR 1992 - 1993

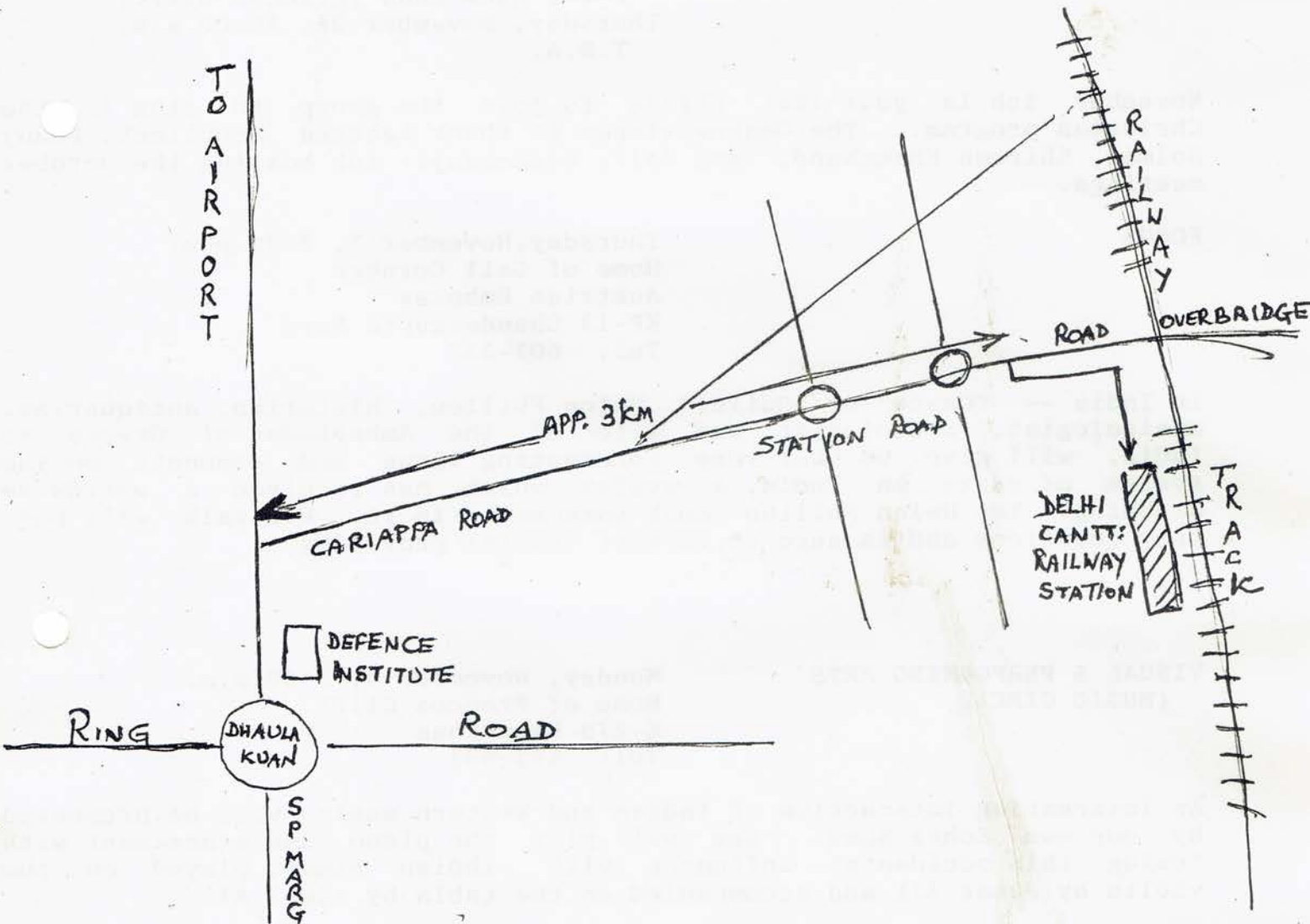
Book Circle	Mary Brill	60 0651	Ext. 2435
	Zakia Zaheer	332 7382,	332 9472
Chorus	Usha Srivastava	641 6621	
	Frances Clift	65 5981	
Cultural	Usha Venkateshwaran	225 0730	
	Jane Parker	60 1371	Ext. 496
Gourmet and Garden	Francoise Karim	63 1798	
	Bindu Talwar	683 1242,	63 1161
Excursions	Sarla Kumar	66 0445,	66 2879
	Margrit Heydemann	69 3341	
Focus	Gita Devi of Kapurthala	641 2029	
	Deep Dugal	556 3525,	833 2010
	Rebecca Mc Cullough	67 2336	
Visual and Performing Arts	Galina Drukov	688 5009,	605 0875
	Shanno Khurana	61 7236	
	Shakuntala Mahesh Chandra	644 0780	
	Sigrun Srivastava	646 8908	
Yoga	Indu Sahni	23 1832	

A C T I V I T I E S F O R N O V E M B E R

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, November 11, 3:00 p.m.  
Delhi Cantonment Railway Station  
(map enclosed)

The Palace on Wheels! This prestigious luxury train of the Indian Railways transports you to the sites and sights of Rajasthan in regal Old World splendor. Have you traveled on it? Perhaps only a few of us have. So let us at least have a look at the fineries that make it the talk of the tourist world. We will also meet some of the folks of the Rajasthan Tourist Development Corporation that operate it.



GET TOGETHER

Wednesday, November 4, 3:00 p.m.  
Home of Halina Bialy  
1 Tilak Marg  
Tel: 386-816

Let's get together for an afternoon of relaxation and fine conversation in this lovely garden. We can enjoy old friends and make a few new friends. There is no program -- just an opportunity to share a cup of tea, a laugh, a carefree hour, or even a sympathetic ear. Please write Get Together on your reply card if you intend to attend.



CHORUS

Thursday, November 5, 10:00 a.m.  
Finland Embassy Compound (E. Joutson)  
Thursday, November 12, 10:00 a.m.  
B-41 Maharani Bagh (Noni Singh)  
Thursday, November 19, 10:00 a.m.  
K-27B Hauz Khas (Frances Clift)  
Thursday, November 26, 10:00 a.m.  
T.B.A.

November 5th is your last chance to join the group to sing in the Christmas program. The Chorus wishes to thank Rebecca McCulloch, Penny Holmes, Shireen Khemchand, and Dolly Dadachanji for hosting the October meetings.

FOCUS

Thursday, November 5, 3:00 p.m.  
Home of Gail Cornero  
Austrian Embassy  
EP-13 Chandergupta Marg  
Tel: 601-555

In India -- "Caste" or "Guild." Helen Phillon, historian, antiquarian, musicologist, sociologist, and wife of the Ambassador of Greece to India, will give us her very interesting views and comments on the system of caste in India, a system which has received a worldwide drubbing. Yet Helen Phillon sees some sense in it. Her talk will pose many questions and is sure to be most thought provoking.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS  
(MUSIC CIRCLE)

Monday, November 9, 3:00 p.m.  
Home of Frances Clift  
K-27B Hauz Khas  
Tel: 655-981

An interesting interaction of Indian and Western music will be presented by our own Zohra Shaw. She will play the piano and experiment with fusing this occidental influence with Indian Ragas, played on the violin by Johar Ali and accompanied on the tabla by Ajmal Ali.

BOOK CIRCLE

Thursday, November 12, 3:00 p.m.  
Home of Sheila Thadani Chauhan  
A 17 Mayfair Gardens  
Hauz Khas Enclave  
Tel: 651-997, 668-137

Seasons by Jacquelin Singh. This sensitively written first novel is a story of love between two people of different cultures and backgrounds and their adjustments. It is also a magnificent and arresting portrait of India.

Jacquelin Singh was born in Pasadena, California, and received her M.A. in German literature and linguistics from the University of California, Berkeley, before coming to live with her husband in a village in the Punjab. Now she lives in Delhi and teaches at the American Embassy School. She has also written several short stories for adults and children. At this meeting she will lead a discussion of her book.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS  
(FILM CIRCLE)

Friday, November 13, 10:30 a.m.  
Japanese Cultural Center  
32 Feroz Shah Road

The Hours of Wedlock. This 1986 Japanese film deals with the problems of a contemporary family. Both parents have careers but the father is forced to live in a distant city because of his job. When he admits that he has another woman, the entire family must face difficult problems and make important decisions. Although the film deals with weighty subjects, it is done with humor and vitality.

EXCURSION

Saturday/Sunday, November 14/15  
Meet at the Indian International Center  
parking lot, 8:30 a.m.

The WIC travelers are all set for their Mandawa (Rajasthan) trip on November 14/15. We have collected the requisite fares and will depart at 8:30 a.m. from the parking lot of the Indian International Center. The drive will take 5 1/2 hours. Please bring your sandwiches and drinks for lunch which we will have on the way. The 265 km. drive will be over the Aravalli ranges with their slate quarries. We will enter Shekhawati through Singhania and Jhunjunu. In the late afternoon we will visit the old Shekhawati havelies at Mandava. The following morning we will drive to Dundlod Castle and Nawalgarh. We will leave for Delhi at 2:30 p.m. after lunch at the Mandawa Castle, reaching the India International Center parking lot at 8:00 p.m. Please arrange to be picked up at that time. We are all looking forward to lots of fun.

SPECIAL PROGRAM I

Wednesday, November 18, 3:00 p.m.  
Home of Connie Gupta  
63 Sunder Nagar  
Tel: 618-459

The havelies of Delhi. Well known author Pawan Varma will show slides and talk to us about the culture of the havelies of Shah Jahanabad. Havelies are the old mansions of noblemen and courtiers who tried to duplicate the opulence of the palace. Some had gorgeous frescos.



INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL

Friday, November 20, 3:00 p.m.  
Home of Tuli Mirchandani  
B-114 Sarvodaya Enclave  
Tel: 654-261

Axis Mundi -- the temple complex of Angkor Wat. These spectacular monuments in Cambodia are part of our global legacy. However, what was once the capital of the Khmer Empire a thousand years ago was swallowed up by the jungle. The first restoration efforts by the French came to a halt in the 1970s and have now been resumed by the Government of India in a bilateral agreement with the Government of Cambodia.

Mr. Ramesh Chander Mishra, Deputy Superintending Engineer and head of a team of experts from the Archaeological Survey of India to Cambodia, will show a video and speak on the restoration techniques used and the difficulties of capturing the spirit of Angkor Wat and insuring that the monuments will survive for posterity.

Mr. Varma wrote Mansions at Dusk and an autobiography of Ghalib.

To get to Tuli Mirchandani's home, turn left just past the Mother's International School on Aurobindo Marg. Then take the first turn to the right and Tuli's house is on the corner near the shops.

SPECIAL PROGRAM II

Wednesday, November 25, 11:00 a.m.  
Home of Dr. Vimla Rajan  
L-21 Green Park  
Tel: 665-813,663-826

Chrysanthemums on the rocks. Vimla Rajan has graciously invited us to her home to see her vast collection of plants. She will demonstrate her fascinating horticultural talent of growing chrysanthemums on rocks with very little soil. Then she will answer questions about this and other plant problems.

GOURMET & GARDEN

Friday, November 27, 3:00 p.m.  
Home of Zaleha Amir  
Malaysian High Commission  
50-M Satya Marg  
Tel: 604-413

Sate! Sate! Sate! Malaysian cuisine is considered one of the finest in the world. And one of the gifts of this cuisine to us is sate. These marinated, boneless chicken pieces are cooked in a special peanut sauce. Often sate is served with rice cubes. We will be treated to a demonstration of this exotic cooking, thanks to Zaleha Amir and her kitchen staff. We may even be permitted a taste or two.

B U L L E T I N B O A R D

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A big thank you to the following members for their refreshment donations at the last general meeting: Savitria Bhatia, Shiela Bindra, Ajinder Dugal, Mohini Gidwani, Nina S. Gupta, Prem Gupta, Indira Hathiramani, Maki Mehta, and Jaya Pai. Thank you one and all.

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Several members have asked for a clarification of where to send notes if one has signed up for a function and is unable to attend. Excuses for a General Meeting should be sent to the Membership Chairperson, Claudia Deiss, and to the Hospitality Chairperson, Raj Nanda, for other activities. All excuses should be written and sent as early as possible. It is not necessary to notify the President. Resignation letters should also be sent to the Membership Chair and/or the President.

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Please make the following corrections in your new telephone directories.

New telephone numbers:

Zohra Islam -- 462-7962  
Tahmina Islam -- 688-6178  
Milena Lisuch -- 688-5563  
Inge Paynter -- 687-6500  
Marie-Jeanne Presthus -- 688-6063  
Christine Sahani -- 618-563

Nina Gupta has changed her name to Nina Dey Gupta. Please eliminate the 618-423 telephone number and the name Ranjan.

Nimmi Khanna's correct pin code is 110003.

Janet Meyer's correct address is 1/9 Shanti Niketan.

Correct the spelling of Man Mohini Singh's name.

Jyotsna Govil's new address is: G-29 Saket, New Delhi 110017  
Tel: 664-787

If you find any other errors in the Directory, please notify Claudia Deiss and we will put them in the newsletter. Those pesky printing gremlins!

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THE EXCURSION HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR. On January 16,17,18, and 19 we plan to explore the lagoons of Kerala, visit Kovalam beach at Travandrum and Kanyakumari, the southernmost tip of India where the Indian Ocean meets the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. In Cochin we shall stay at the ITDC hotel. The air ticket is approximately Rs. 6000. Members who wish to travel by train should reach Malabar Hotel by 12 noon on the 16th. The cruise down the backwaters will be in the afternoon. There will be sightseeing tours of Cochin and Travandrum. It may be possible to arrange a visit to the Perriyar Game Sanctuary (considered one of the finest in India). The cost of this leg of the journey will be extra. This is just to give you timely notice. Details will appear in the December Newsletter.

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We are still hoping to receive some more stories for our "Women Who Made a Difference" page. Our goal is to have a different country represented each month. Check your magazines and newspapers from home for a likely story.

#### WOMEN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

Given fresh impetus by the recent election of Mary Robinson, the country's first woman president, Ireland's feminist movement is enjoying a renaissance after several years of stagnation and setback.

Surprisingly, a small, but very vocal integral part of this movement is made up of a number of the 1200 Catholic nuns who live in this Roman Catholic stronghold of a country. They are daring to take controversial stands on emotional issues such as abortion, contraception, divorce, the ordination of women and even the Scriptures themselves.

Among these nuns is 62-year-old Sister Claire Murphy who says she is no longer able to keep silent about what she sees as hypocrisies within the Catholic Church. Another is 31-year-old Sister Sheila Curran who, as a member of Sisters for Justice, marches in demonstrations, lobbies for social change and serves as an advocate for the poor. These women are well-educated and able to see women's real problems. They are right there in the community and are often the driving force behind feminist groups. Sister Curran says feminist nuns "show people there are other people within the Church who care and are trying to work for change. I suppose you can be like a beacon, and the light can attract."

The feminist nuns tend to view the ordination of women as a moot point, arguing that the structure of the church must change, not just the gender of the priests. Sister Murphy says she has no desire to become a priest, but is angry at the day-to-day discrimination nuns face in the Church. For example, nuns receive no pay for their work in the secular world, although priests may collect a stipend. One religious radio show told her that only priests, not nuns, are offered honorariums or interviews. Although they may feel torn between religion and feminism on issues like abortion, they are particularly outspoken about contraception and divorce. Why must women ask their priests for permission to use contraceptives asks Sister Murphy. A women should simply follow her conscience.

These women are following their consciences and thereby making a difference to the lives of their countrymen and countrywomen.



N O V E M B E R A T A G L A N C E

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>WHAT</u>
Wednesday, 11th 3:00 p.m.	Delhi Cantt. Railway Sta. see map inside	<u>GENERAL MEETING</u> Palace on Wheels
Wednesday, 4th 3:00 p.m.	Home of Halina Bialy 1 Tilak Marg Tel: 386-816	<u>GET TOGETHER</u>
Thursday, 5th, 10:00	Finnish Embassy Compound	<u>CHORUS</u>
Thursday, 12th, "	B-41 Maharani Bagh	
Thursday, 19th "	K-27B Hauz Khas	
Thursday, 26th "	T.B.A.	
Thursday, 5th 3:00 p.m.	Home of Gail Cornero Austrian Embassy EP-13 Chandergupta Marg	<u>FOCUS</u>
Monday, 9th 3:00 p.m.	Home of Frances Clift K 27B Hauz Khas Tel: 655-981	<u>VISUAL/PERFORMING ARTS</u> <u>MUSIC CIRCLE</u>
Thursday, 12th 3:00 p.m.	Home of Sheila Thadani Chauan A-17 Mayfair Gardens Hauz Khas Enclave Tel: 651-997, 668-137	<u>BOOK CIRCLE</u> <u>Seasons Jacquelin Singh</u>
Friday, 13th 10:30 a.m.	Japanese Cultural Center 32 Feroz Shah Road	<u>VISUAL/PERFORMING ARTS</u> <u>FILM CIRCLE</u> <u>The Hours of Wedlock</u>
Saturday/Sunday, 14/15 8:30 a.m.	Meet at Indian Intnatl. Center parking lot	<u>EXCURSION</u> Mandawa
Wednesday, 18th 3:00 p.m.	Home of Connie Gupta 63 Sunder Nagar Tel: 618-459	<u>SPECIAL PROGRAM I</u> <u>Havelies of Delhi</u>
Friday, 20th 3:00 p.m.	Home of Tuli Mirchandani B-114 Sarvodaya Enclave Tel: 654-261	<u>INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL</u> Angkor Wat
Wednesday, 25th 3:00 p.m.	Home of Dr. Vimla Rajan L-21 Green Park Tel: 665-813, 663-826	<u>SPECIAL PROGRAM II</u> <u>Mums on the Rocks</u>
Friday, 27th 3:00 p.m.	Home of Zaleha Amir Malaysian High Commission 50-M Satya Marg Tel: 604-413	<u>GOURMET &amp; GARDEN</u> <u>Sate! Sate! Sate!</u>