



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB

DELHI

September 1991

Dear Members,

This will be our second general meeting of the Club year, and the Committee really looks forward to seeing a full house on September 11th for Urmila Dongre.

Since Gunilla Kettis our President is still enjoying the cooler climate, it is my pleasant duty to welcome you all back.

It was wonderful seeing so many of you in August, and we hope you enjoyed the limited but varied programmes put up by our enterprising activities leaders.

September is a month full of exciting and diverse activities - something for everybody. However, if the members need or want any particular programme, please contact your group leaders or any of the committee members.

Once again, may I on behalf of the committee and myself welcome the old and new members back and wish you a Happy Club Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mona Aggarwal

Mona Aggarwal

(First Vice-President, Women's International Club)



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB NEWSLETTER



September 1991

Twenty First Year

ACTIVITIES FOR SEPTEMBER

GENERAL MEETING



URMILA DONGRE'S PHOTOGRAPHS
Wednesday 11 September, 3.00pm
Maurya Sheraton Hotel
Chanakyapuri

Urmila Dongre was, until six years ago, a librarian at UNICEF. She gave this up to allow herself more time for photography and travel. Although she still describes herself as an amateur, her photographs have featured in 'Swagat', 'India Magazine', 'Discover India', Department of Tourism brochures and posters, and numerous other publications. Urmila helps welfare organisations with slide presentations and does voluntary work in the photo section of the National Museum's restoration laboratory. Today's exhibition focuses on Rajasthan, Kashmir, Ladakh and Orissa, and Urmila will talk about her work.

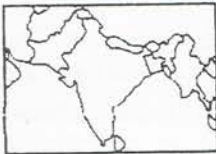
CHORUS GROUP



CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME REHEARSAL
Thursday 5 September 10.15 am
Home of Yasko Matsui
L-7 Haus Khas Enclave
Tel. 65-3248

This will be the first rehearsal for the Christmas programme.

INDIAN CULTURAL



AKHIL CHANDRA
Thursday 5 September, 3.00 pm
Home of Pamela Evans
Australian High Commissioner's
Residence, Shantipath
Tel. 60-1336

Akhil Chandra is an enthusiastic advocate of the need to preserve India's cultural heritage. He will talk about the relevance of some of the stories from the Mahabharata and Ramayana to present day India, such as when Sita urges Rama to hunt down for her the enchanting deer in the forest, which is in fact a henchman of the demon king Ravan sent to lure Rama away so that Ravan can abduct Sita.

FILM



'A FISH CALLED WANDA'
Monday 9 September, 3.00 pm
British Council Division Library
AIFACS Building, Rafi Marg
New Delhi 110001

The comic duo of anarchic British humour (Monty Python etc), Michael Palin and John Cleese (who also wrote the screenplay), together with Jamie Lee Curtis (Tony Curtis's daughter) and Kevin Kline, star in a film which was a great box-office hit in the UK and USA. Much of the humour is slapstick, but skillfully done, and there is a memorable scene - well suited to an international audience - showing that Anglo-Saxons can at least appreciate the sounds of other more romantic languages. The plot revolves around the planning of a multi-million pound diamond robbery, with plot and counter-plot unfolding as each participant schemes to make off with the loot alone. But as to whether the police catch up with them, or who ends up with the diamonds, or indeed who ends up with Jamie Lee, I mustn't spoil it for you...you'll just have to come along and see it with me (in my case for the third time!)

COOKING CIRCLE



Tuesday 10 September, 12.00 noon
Home of Teresita Araque
50 Nyaya Marg
Chanakyapuri
Tel. 67-9407

The club's cooking year gets off to a tasty start as Teresita gives us a demonstration of special dishes from the Philippines, in the first of a round-the-world series.

BOOK CIRCLE



RABINDRANATH TAGORE (William Radice)
Thursday 12 September, 3.00 pm
Home of Laura Sykes
82 Paschimi Marg, Vasant Vihar
Tel. 67-6994

This year, 50 years after his death, India honours the memory of their famous Nobel Laureate, poet, novelist, dramatist, painter and musician - Rabindranath Tagore. William Radice, lecturer in Bengali at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and noted translator and authority on Tagore, will be visiting India under the auspices of the British Council Division and will be our guest speaker.

Most of the works of Tagore, including selected short stories in English translation, with an introduction by William Radice himself, are available in bookshops in Delhi.

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL



ARABIAN CULTURAL PROGRAMME
Wednesday 18 September, 3.00 pm
Saudi Arabian Ambassador's Residence
16 Tilak Marg

This is the programme originally planned for last year, but which had to be postponed. The Saudi Arabian Ambassadress and her colleagues will offer us some glimpses of Saudi Arabia, the desert kingdom.

ARTS AND CRAFTS



CREATION AND APPRECIATION
Thursday 19 September, 3.00 pm
Home of Claudia Deiss
5/5 Shanti Niketan
Tel. 60-3965

This month's meeting will be a forum for the exchange of ideas. Those of you who practise any form of art or craft should bring one or two examples of your work so that both practitioners and connoisseurs can explore various aspects both of creation and appreciation.

MUSIC GROUP



'THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO'
Friday 20 September, 3.00 pm
Home of Rebecca McCullough
F9/3 Vasant Vihar
Tel. 67-2336

Live from the Metropolitan Opera, New York, comes this video of excerpts from their production of Mozart's perennially popular opera. The screening will be followed by a critical discussion of the work. As numbers must be limited to twenty, please be sure to come if you say you will, so that no place is wasted.

DANCE CIRCLE



Wednesday 25 September, 3.00 pm
Home of a member

Please check with one of the group leaders for the venue.

THEATRE GROUP



VIDEO ON PETER BROOK
Friday 27 September, 3.00 pm
Home of Sofia de Ortiz
6/32 Shanti Niketan
Tel. 687-6423

This programme in the British television series 'The South Bank Show' chronicles the life and work of the theatre and film director, Peter Brook. The final part of the programme shows Brook at work filming the television version of 'The Mahabharata'.



NOTICEBOARD



NEW MEMBERS

We welcome three new members (listed in the new directory):
Mrs Jyotsna Govil (INDIA), 5 Motilal Nehru Marg. Tel. 301-8574
Mrs Maria Munoz de Schachinger (MEXICO), 189 Jor Bagh. Tel 60-1112
Mrs Sumiko Ishii (JAPAN), E8/14 Vasant Vihar.



CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Please note new telephone numbers for Raj Nanda (688-4833, 688-2395) and Annie Howard (462-9272).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Museum Study Course : The National Museum is running a 5-6 month course on Indian art and culture, comprising 20 illustrated lectures (each of 2 hours duration) every Thursday morning from 10.30 to 12.30 am, beginning in either November or December. It covers architecture, sculpture, painting, decorative arts etc, as well as art appreciation and criticism. No particular academic qualifications are necessary other than a general interest in art. A certificate is awarded to those attending at least 16 lectures who achieve the pass mark (50 out of 100) in the 'open book' examination (one is allowed to work on the question paper at home over a reasonable period). The fees are Rs 250 (non-refundable). If you would like to join other club members on the course, please tick this month's reply card.

Diwali Celebrations: Please keep the evening of 16 October free, as we will be having a Diwali celebration (to which husbands are of course invited). Justin McCarthy will dance a Bharat Natyam programme specially composed for the occasion. Details will be in next month's newsletter.

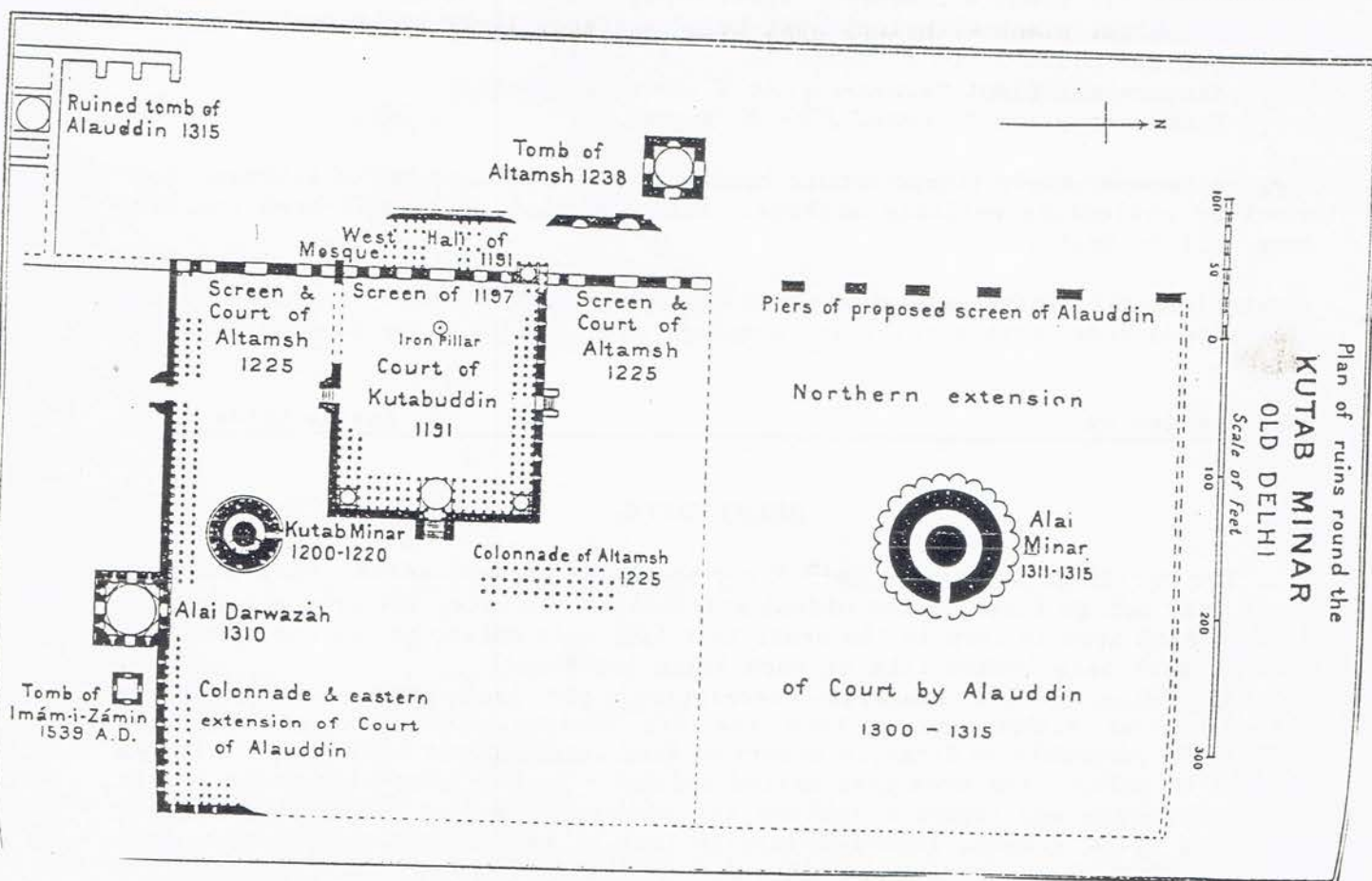


Excursions: The club plans two excursions this year: the first, to the temples of Karnataka, is from October 19-25, with a possible extension to October 29 for Mysore, Belur and Halebid. The second is a week or ten days from 10 April to Darjeeling and Sikkim. Our trip to Karnataka begins and ends in *Bangalore*, where there are some fine old buildings dating from the eighteenth century onwards. Then *Hampi*, the royal city of Vijayanagar which flourished from the 14th to 16th centuries; *Badami*, site of some of the earliest temples in India, carved out of sandstone hills about 1500 years ago by the Chalukyas; *Aihole*, the capital between the 4th and 7th centuries; and *Pattadakal*, the 7th-8th century coronation site of the Badami Chalukyas. The optional extension includes *Mysore*, principal residence of the Maharajahs and still a model of a princely city; *Belur*, the 12th century city of the Hoysala dynasty whose only remnant is the Chennakesava temple, but what a remnant! Not only did the Moslem conquerors not destroy it, but one of them said he dared not attempt to describe it lest he be accused of exaggeration. And lastly *Halebid*, 10 miles away: the Hoysaleswara temple is a treasure house of the best in the exuberant Indian sculpture of the period. Approximate costs would be Rs 10,000-12,000 for the 7 day trip and 13,800-18,000 for the 11 day trip, depending on accommodation. Equivalent rates for non-exempt foreigners would be US\$720-850 and US\$873-1005. For further details contact the Excursions group leaders.

into the earth until firmly anchored in one of the thousand heads of Shesh Nag, the king of the serpents who forms Vishnu's couch when he sleeps between incarnations. Not knowing when to leave well alone, and despite the terrible warnings of doom given by the priests, Anang Pal then insisted on pulling the pillar up again to make sure that it had been well and truly embedded in the first place. The pillar was indeed smeared with the blood of the serpent king, but Anang Pal's failure to take this on trust was to lead to the fall of his dynasty. Every tourist knows the other fable associated with the pillar - that if, with your back against it, you can join your hands behind you, your wish will come true. As one of the many who have totally failed to do this, I conclude that the legend does much to explain the popularity of yoga in this country!

Lal Kot was captured by the Rajput Chauhans in the twelfth century, and Prithviraj III (Rai Pithora) extended and fortified what became known as Qila Rai Pithora until its capture by the Afghan Muhammed of Ghur in 1192. Muhammed's general (and former slave) Qutb-ud-din Aibak was left as viceroy and built both the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque and the Qutb Minar, using material salvaged from 27 Hindu and Jain temples on the site. The resulting architecture is a happy synthesis of Islamic theory modified by Hindu craftsmen. The original plaster of the mosque has peeled off, leaving Muslim arches clearly constructed with Hindu carvings: a powerful metaphor for the equal validity of all paths to God, don't you think?

Qutb-ud-din built only the first storey of the famous minar; each successive ruler built another storey or carried out modifying repairs. It is no longer permissible to climb this 'index finger pointing skywards, bejewelled with rings at each joint', but Emily Metcalfe, writing in the 1880's, describes going up to the top with her father's ADC. She claims this was for the sole purpose of eating mangoes (forbidden on the grounds of inelegance by her father), but the ADC looks very handsome...



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, 683-8501
	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	67-6530
Nostalgic Singalong	Dolores ('Dolly') Dadachanji	67-3390
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 Sahani	23-1832



SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>WHAT</u>
Wednesday 11th 3.00 pm	Maurya Sheraton Hotel Chanakyapuri	<u>General Meeting</u> Urmila Dongre's photographs
Thursday 5th 10.15 am	Home of Yasko Matsui L-7 Hauz Khas Enclave	<u>Chorus Group</u> Christmas programme
Thursday 5th 3.00 pm	Home of Pamela Evans Australian High Commissioner's Residence, Shantipath	<u>Indian Cultural</u> Akhil Chandra
Monday 9th 3.00 pm	British Council Division Library AIFACS Building, Rafi Marg	<u>Film</u> 'A Fish called Wanda'
Tuesday 10th 12.00 noon	Home of Teresita Araque 50 Nyaya Marg, Chanakyapuri	<u>Cooking Circle</u> Philippine Specialities
Thursday 12th 3.00 pm	Home of Laura Sykes 82 Paschimi Marg, Vasant Vihar	<u>Book Circle</u> Radice on Tagore
Wednesday 18th 3.00 pm	Saudi Arabian Ambassador's Residence, 16 Tilak Marg	<u>International Cultural</u> Saudi Arabian programme
Tuesday 19th 3.00 pm	Home of Claudia Deiss 5/5 Shanti Niketan	<u>Arts and Crafts</u> Creation & Appreciation
Friday 20th 3.00 pm	Home of Rebecca McCullough F9/3 Vasant Vihar	<u>Music Group</u> The Marriage of Figaro
Wednesday 25th 3.00 pm	Home of a member (Please call group leader)	<u>Dance Circle</u>
Friday 27th 3.00 pm	Home of Sofia de Ortiz 6/32 Shanti Niketan	<u>Theatre Group</u> Peter Brook video