



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB

DELHI

SEPTEMBER 1992

Dear Members,

We hope that all those of you who were lucky enough to escape the long hot summer and blistering 'loo' (wind) of Delhi are back, refreshed and full of enthusiasm to participate in the activities of the Women's International Club, Delhi.

A Club is, of course, as good as its members. It will flourish only when all its members take a keen interest in what it offers. We do hope that all our members will be taking part in the various programmes, if not presenting one themselves! A reasonably large audience is most welcome at a programme - an appreciative one is even better. It certainly helps and encourages the speakers!! So do try and participate.

Also, we find that a lot of the members of the WIC do not know each other - one is always in a hurry to reach a meeting as also to get away after the programme. Sometimes one has other commitments too and may hardly have enough time to say a quick 'hello' to old friends. To help the members to get to know each other, the Executive Committee is planning a couple of 'Get Togethers' this year, the first one, perhaps, in late October or November. We would appreciate your comments and suggestions about this, before and after the event!

Looking forward to seeing everybody.

Very sincerely yours

Veena Dass

Veena Dass
President

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	69 3886
	Shakuntala Mahesh Chandra	644 0780	
	Sigrun Srivastava	646 8908	
Yoga	Indu Sahni	23 1832	



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB



NEWSLETTER

September 1992

Twenty Second Year

ACTIVITIES FOR SEPTEMBER

GENERAL MEETING



Wednesday, 16th September, 3.00 p.m.
Czech and Slovak Embassy
50 Niti Marg
Chanakyapuri
New Delhi 110021
Tel: 688 5563, 608382

Madame Milena Lisuch, wife of the Ambassador of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic has very kindly agreed to 'transport' us to her country and show us the wonderful arts and crafts of the region. In addition to the graphic art, blown and cut glass products, ceramics and wood carvings on show, we shall have the opportunity of seeing glimpses of the magnificent landscape and castles on the video programme arranged for us.

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL

Wednesday, 2nd September, 3.00 p.m.
Home of Minakshi Gupta
35A Friends Colony East
New Delhi 110065
Tel: 63 0380, 63 5646

Jackie Herald, lecturer in the History of Textiles at Hampton Court, London, will talk to us and show slides on 'Fashion History during the Raj'. She is in Delhi collaborating with Susan Conway on a new book on Indian Textiles in the same series as Susan's 'Thai Textiles'. Should this talk have to be rescheduled due to travel dates, those people writing their names down for the programme will be contacted by telephone.

FOCUS

Friday 11th September, 3.00 p.m.
Home of Margrit Heydemann
14B Amrita Shergill Marg
New Delhi 110003
Tel: 69 3341

John Lall 'Memories of Sikkim'. John Lall was invited to this then troubled state to help sort out the problems. His expected sojourn of a year drew out into a magical spell of 5 years! Sikkim holds a fascination for us all. It will be interesting to know what it was like then. He will show a few slides and photographs and then the floor will be open to discuss the 'pros and cons of development in any small mountain area - tourism and industrial development versus the environment.'

**VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS
(MUSIC CIRCLE)**

Friday 18th September, 3.00 p.m.
Home of Teresita Araque
Philippine Residence
50 Nyaya Marg
Chanakyapuri
Tel: 679407

Smt Bageshwari Devi will give us a recital on the Shehnai. The programme will begin with a history of this beautiful instrument. The custodians of the Shehnai have always been males. Bageshwari Devi is the first and only woman in the country who has mastered it. She is the disciple of Shri Jagdish Prasad Qamar and Ustad Bismillah Khan, and is steadily carving a niche for herself under their guidance. She was first introduced as a soloist by Shanno Khurana in the All Womens Musicians' Music Festival in 1983, and ever since, has been giving many recitals throughout the country, as well as taking part in the 1988 Festival of India in the then U.S.S.R. This is a rare opportunity for our club members to listen to a Shehnai recital. If you have any questions you may wish to ask about the Shehnai do write to Shanno Khurana in advance so she can inform the artists of them.

GOURMET AND GARDEN

Wednesday 23rd September, 10.15 p.m.
Home of Madame Petit
French Residence
2/50E Shanti Path
Chanakyapuri
Tel: 604004

French 'specialités de la maison' including Pâté and Meat Loaves, all made from local ingredients, will be demonstrated by Madame Petit's French Chef. It is a wonderful chance to share some of his many secrets. There will be a limit of 30 people. Please confirm with Francoise Karim (Tel: 63 1798) or Bindu Talwar (Tel: 683 1242)

**VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS
(FILM CIRCLE)**

Friday 25th September, 3.00 p.m.
Russian Cultural Centre
24 Ferozeshah Road
New Delhi 110001

The delight of this afternoon is its mystery! We have been unable to contact the Russian Cultural Centre as they are in the middle of a local strike but we do know that the film will show excerpts from performances of the Bolshoi Ballet Company, and everyone knows how good they are. Which ballets will be performed you will have to find out by coming on the 25th!

**VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS
(ART/CRAFT CIRCLE)**

Monday 28th September, 3.00 p.m.
Home of Zaleha Amir
Malaysian Residence
50M Satya Marg
Chanakyapuri
Tel: 604413

Sunil Mehra, a freelance journalist, will give an illustrated talk on 'Chikan Embroidery, Tradition and New Trends', which will be followed by a fashion show of the latest collection of designs presented by Alam Shah Habeeb, noted designer of Chikan garments. Chikan embroidered garments in cotton and silk have delighted fashion conscious women right from the time of Nur Jahan. Mr Mehra will talk on the technique, skills and trends in chikan embroidery and then introduce us to Habeeb's collection, a blend of traditional skills with contemporary designs.

BOOK CIRCLE

Wednesday 30th September, 3.00 p.m.
Home of Robina Arbuthnott
16 Kautilya Marg
Chanakyapuri
Tel: 3011834

Calcutta, City of Palaces Laura Sykes, author of 'Calcutta through British Eyes, 1690 - 1990', will give a historical perspective to the grand old palaces of Calcutta through the slides she has collected during her postings in India.

CHORUS GROUP

The Chorus Group meets every Thursday in a different member's home. They are always on the look-out for new members. Do join in.

ATTENTION! - All members sharing a love for hand woven textiles. Some time in the course of the Club year, we want to take you on a journey through the evolution of the legendary craft of weaving and its creators. We plan an interactive saree/dress display along with a lecture and slide presentation. The keynote speaker for this presentation will be Shri Rajeev Sethi, the internationally renowned designer and convenor of SARTHI - an organisation of artists determined to keep alive this important creative art form. We would like to show our support for SARTHI and our concern for the weavers by wearing a hand woven saree/dress for the occasion. So Ladies, be prepared .. there will be more information in the next newsletter.

NOTICEBOARD

A last reminder that all Membership Fees (Rs. 300) must be paid by October 15th, 1992.

It would help Raj Nanda with her Hospitality responsibilities if you could kindly send your Reply cards to her by the 1st September.

If it is difficult for your home to be used as a programme location, please don't forget to volunteer your services to any of the Executive Committee for extra food or helping to hostess an event somewhere else. They are looking forward to hearing from you.

Please remember to think about the problems of our Membership and let us have your views in writing for the new Membership Committee to follow up. Prama Bhandari will be taking Shakuntala Mahesh Chandra's place on this new committee.

We are always very sad to say Farewell to members, and this is the time when many overseas friends leave to go home or to new postings. We would be grateful if you could let us know that you are leaving, so that we can say 'Goodbye' to you in the newsletter and also so we can plan future places.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Nandita Lahiri's new number is 8323539
Shanno Khurana has a second telephone number, 693 886.

WOMEN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

We do hope you are thinking about who YOU could write about in this series. We are expecting lots of stories, because each country can boast of many women who made a difference. This month's contribution is from Gail Cornaro - thank you Gail for starting the ball rolling. I wonder how many of us realised who was behind the Nobel Peace Prize.

BERTHA VON SUTTNER

Here is a compelling story, containing elements of romance, high drama, and exemplary idealism. The Nobel Peace Prize is now a household concept: Bertha von Suttner is the woman who inspired Alfred Nobel to found this institution. Born in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1843, daughter of Fieldmarshall Count Franz von Kinsky, one of the most illustrious families in European aristocratic circles, she was obliged to make her own living, as her Mother had gambled away the family fortune. Although training to become a singer, she was unable to make her music her career, becoming instead governess to the family of Baron von Suttner. Here her liason with the Baron's son, who was seven years her junior, caused a minor scandal, and Bertha left to take up a position in Paris as secretary to Alfred Nobel, a contact which was to have great significance. First, however, the element of true romance: she returned to Austria and secretly married Arthur von Suttner; the couple worked a life-time closely together, her husband being one of Bertha's staunchest supporters. And a happy follow up to the true romance; there eventually followed a family reconciliation.

How did Bertha von Suttner become so influential in the cause of peace, and the first woman to receive the Peace Prize (1905)? She and her husband, after their clandestine marriage, fled to Tiflis in the

Caucasus, where they were first witnesses and then participants in events surrounding the Russo-Turkish war. Absolutely mesmerized by the plight of the soldiers, the Suttners converted their home into a hospital for the wounded, and upon returning to Austria in 1889, Bertha wrote an autobiographical novel, depicting the fate of people in war: "Surrender Arms". This book became an instant best seller all over Europe, and brought not only the authoress world fame, but galvanized heartfelt support for the concept of Pacifism in Europe and America, leading to the first Hague Peace Conference (1899), and inspiring the inventor of dynamite, Alfred Nobel, to establish an annual prize for Peace. The following 20 years of her life, Bertha spent tirelessly writing and speaking in the cause of Pacifism (also writing several novels of social criticism); her collected works encompass 12 volumes.

There is also the inescapable element of tragedy in our lives, and the life of Bertha von Suttner includes this element as well: already the Boer War revealed how far men were from attaining the goal of peace for all time, and in the fateful summer of 1914, Bertha was at work on preparations for a World Peace Conference to be held in Vienna that very August. Her own death occurred just weeks before the terrible assassination in Sarajevo that was to usher in World War I. Nevertheless, men and women will always strive to eliminate war for all time; once a year, one of them will be honoured in the highly respected Peace award. Next year, when the award is announced, remember this valiant and nobly motivated woman who was behind it.

the solid gold medal



Bertha von Suttner um 1900



Alfred Nobel

AUGUST AT A GLANCE

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>WHAT</u>
Wednesday 16th 3.00 p.m.	Czech and Slovak Embassy 50 Niti Marg Chanakyapuri Tel: 688 5563, 60 8382	<u>GENERAL MEETING</u> An afternoon with Madame Milena Lisuch
Wednesday 2nd 3.00 p.m.	Home of Minakshi Gupta 35A Friends Colony East New Delhi 110065 Tel: 63 0380, 63 5646	<u>INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL</u> 'Fashion History during the Raj'
Friday 11th 3.00 p.m.	Home of Margrit Heydemann 14B Amrita Shergill Marg	<u>FOCUS</u> Memories of Sikkim
Friday 18th 3.00 p.m.	Home of Teresita Araque Philippine Residence 50 Nyaya Marg Chanakyapuri Tel: 679407	<u>VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS</u> <u>(MUSIC CIRCLE)</u> Shehnai Recital
Wednesday 23rd 10.15 a.m.	Home of Madame Petit French Residence 2/50E Shanti Path Chanakyapuri Tel: 604004	<u>GOURMET AND GARDEN</u> Pâté and Meat Loaves
Friday 25th 3.00 p.m.	Russian Cultural Centre 24 Ferozeshah Road New Delhi 110001	<u>VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS</u> <u>(FILM CIRCLE)</u> Excerpts from the Bolshoi
Monday 28th 3.00 p.m.	Home of Zaleha Amir Malaysian Residence 50M Satya Marg Chanakyapuri Tel: 60 4413	<u>VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS</u> <u>(ART/CRAFT CIRCLE)</u> Chikan Embroidery
Wednesday 30th 3.00 p.m.	Home of Robina Arbuthnott 16 Kautilya Marg Chanakyapuri Tel: 3011834	<u>BOOK CIRCLE</u> Calcutta, City of Palaces