

# W I C NEWS



S e p t e m b e r

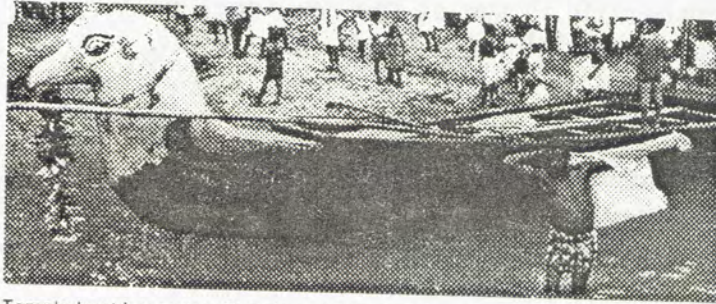
## Dear Members,

Welcome to sweet September. The Earth is lush and green once again. The rains have receded. And there is just the faintest whiff in the air of the cooler months ahead. And it is lovely to see many more of you back again in Delhi after the Summer break.

The spate of festivities continues unabated. The end of August saw the Parsis celebrating their New Year. Descendants of Persian followers of Zoroaster, the Parsis emigrated to India in the 8th century to escape religious persecution in their own land. Legend has it that when their ships first sailed into the trading port of Sanjan in Gujarat, the local ruler, alarmed at the prospect of providing accommodation for the foreigners cast upon his shore diplomatically sent them a cup of milk brimming to the top. The message was as clear as could be. We would like to welcome you but alas! our land is overcrowded and so we cannot accommodate you. The astute Parsi leader was not to be fobbed off so easily. He dissolved several lumps of sugar into the milk and sent back the cup of sweetened milk signifying that, like the sugar sweetening the milk, the Parsis vowed to stay in the land of their adoption. For 1200 years they have remained true to that pledge.

Early September Maharashtra in particular is agog with celebrations for the epicurean elephant-headed Ganesha, considered to be the remover of obstacles. As he is the first God invoked at the beginning of worship or a new enterprise, his image is often seen at the entrance of temples and houses. On Ganesh Chaturthi day the state of Maharashtra seems to sway to his chant.

In the lush, palm-fringed coastal province of Kerala Onam Festivities signal the close of the Monsoon. 130-foot long snake boats through the river way in preparation for the race. Sometimes rows of caprisoned Elephants parade the banks, a manifestation of the last white Monsoon clouds sauntering in the skies. Dancers, drummers, add to their clamour and colour. Finally when the oarsmen, 120 to a boat, raise their oars, signifying the start of a race, with the battery of elephants trumpeting in the background, excitement rises to an all-time high. It is indeed an unforgettable sight.



Temple boat honouring Garuda, vehicle of Vishnu; Onam Festival, Aranmula.

As you can see I have rambled on about some of India's festivals. Most of my information has come not from books but from stories I heard as a child on my grandmother's knee. I hope you will now write and share with us stories of your own special events so that we continue to enrich our cultural exchange. If you can send an

illustration too, so much the better. As you can see, Jane has an ingenious way of using them to enhance the narrative.

This month, in our General Meeting we take you to the Land of the Rising Sun. Await the exquisite programme that the Japanese are going to conjure up for our delight, described on the next page.

Finally on to more mundane matters. Please remember to pay your dues. The last date for payment is October 15th. Also, please do not forget to inform the hostess when you cannot make it to a programme.

*With Best Wishes,*

*Nayana Goradia*  
Nayana Goradia, President.



# The Month's Programmes

## September

### General Meeting

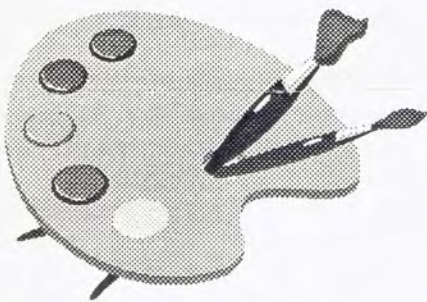


We are the guests of our Japanese members who will present a film about the seventeenth-century traditional theatre form known as Kabuki. Our all-female gathering will be interested to learn that no woman ever participates in a Kabuki performance for it is considered to be an offence against public morals for men and women to play love dramas together. The costumes, make up and music are magnificent.

**Wednesday September 14th, 3 pm, at the Japanese Embassy.**

**Monday 5th September 10.30 am at the residence of Noni Inderjeet Singh, B 41 Maharani Bagh, New Delhi. Tel: 6848817.**

Mr S.L. Sehgal, who gave regular yoga lessons on television for several years, has worked with WHO and is teaching adults at the American School, will continue his series: **YOGA IN EVERYDAY LIFE**. He will also teach us Yogic meditation. (Sakar). Numbers limited to 15.



### Visual Arts Circle

**September 9th at 10.30 am at the home of Sudarshana Gurdial Singh. 63 Friends Colony East, New Delhi, 65. Tel: 684 4204**

Peter Brook, theatre and film director, is best known in India for his television version of The Mahabaratha. This video chronicles his life and work. We meet the man and get only tantalising glimpses of his many famous productions, because the main emphasis is on the making of the Mahabaratha. The whole TV serial is available as a six hour film! - this video is only 90 minutes.



## Culture Circle

At the Residence of Mrs Heba Abdella, wife of the Egyptian Ambassador, 1/50-M Niti Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. Tel: 608904. Thursday 22nd September at 3 pm.

Mrs Reem Khairat of the Egyptian Embassy will be organising a short programme about Egyptian Culture illustrated by colour slides. Mrs Khairat is a professional archaeologist. The programme will be followed by a tea party.

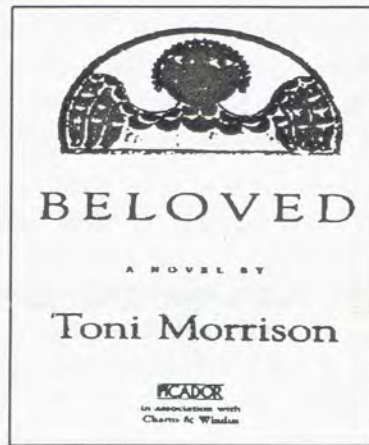
## Focus



Thursday 29th September at 3 pm. At the home of Veena Dass, 27 Aurangzeb Road, New Delhi 11 00 11. Tel: 3012713

The subject of Focus this month will be Adjustments in Cross Cultural Marriages. Certain members of the club will talk on the topic highlighting their own experiences. This will be followed by an open discussion in which your views are most welcome.

## Book Circle



*This is a huge, generous, humane and gripping novel...It is a magnificent achievement. This novel gave me nightmares and yet I sat up late, paradoxically smiling to myself with intense pleasure at the exact beauty of the singing prose...*

A.S. Byatt. *The Guardian*.

The African-American writer Toni Morrison has received the 1993 Nobel Prize for Literature. Her novel *Beloved*, also was honoured with the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1988.

Set in the mid 1800s in Kentucky, it depicts the end of an era as slavery is under attack by the abolitionists. The worlds of Halle and Paul D. are to be destroyed in a cataclysm of torment and agony. The world of Sethe, however, is to turn from one of love to one of violence and death - the death of Sethe's baby daughter *Beloved*, whose name is the single word on the tombstone, who died at her mother's hands, and who will return to claim retribution.

At the home of Janet Chawla, 120 Sunder Nagar, (upstairs) on Friday 16th September at 3 pm. Numbers restricted to 30.

## Performing Arts Circle

Friday 2nd September at 3 pm. Mrs Ayse Sungar 22 Prithviraj Road. Tel: 3013612.

LATIN AMERICAN DANCES: An afternoon to fill the air with rhythmic sounds, twirls and turns. FRANZIA ACCIARI will show the difference between the various dances of Latin America and will invite the audience to participate and learn the basic steps of these dances. So here is an opportunity to let yourself go! Francia also teaches Tai Chi and Aerobics.



## Getting Away to Gujarat....

If you are keen on Jain Temples, embroidered textiles, crazily extravagant palaces, archeological digs and charming, pleasant Mediterranean-style towns on the shores of the Arabian Sea....then our October expedition to rarely-travelled corners of Gujarat is for you. We start our journey in the former capital of the Gaekwads of Baroda, who were so rich in the last century they had a carpet woven of diamonds and pearls and had cannons cast in gold. Then on to explore the recent archaeological find of the earliest known urban settlement in India, an important Harrapan port that traded with Egypt and Mesopotamia around 2400-1500 BC, and was part of the Indus Civilisation whose capitals were further north at Moenjodaro and Harrapa. After a night at a former maharaja's palace packed with memorabilia from a bygone era, and surrounded by well-kept gardens, we will ascend a hilltop dedicated to the gods, the most sacred temple of the Jains at Palitana, which from a distance looks like a giant, glistening white wedding cake, but is actually 863 temples with stunning views. From there we go to the former

# Excursions

Portuguese colony of Diu, first landing point for the parsis when they fled from Persia. It is more like a displaced Greek island

with clean, cobbled streets and pastel houses, Catholic churches and an elegant market square. Those who love beaches can relax at Nagoa, which nestles within a quiet, protected cove fringed by palm groves, where the calm blue sea is very safe for swimming. Nearby is Somnath, an ancient pilgrimage site for Shiva devotees on the shore of the Arabian Sea. Those interested in textiles will find craftsmen working on embroidery and patchwork, and admire the rare patola weaving in Junagadh and Rajkot. An added attraction is that early October is when every town is filled with festive dancers in brilliant colours whirling in the traditional 'garbah' dance of Gujarat. We will give you dates, cost and details of accomodation next month, but meanwhile be sure to keep October free in your calendar for exploring the exciting region of Saurashtra.

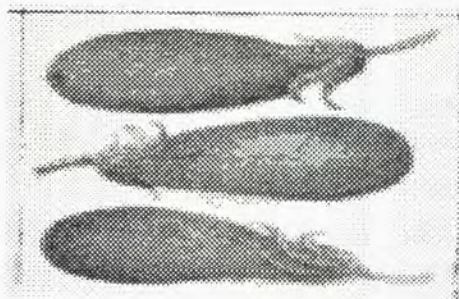
*Bon Voyage!*

## Gourmet and Garden

At the home of Lyd Haenkens, 26 Sunder Nagar, tel no 463280, at 12.30 on September 27th. Numbers restricted to 30.

### *Eggplant, Aubergine, Brinjal, Melanzane*

...call it what you will... this is a delicious vegetable that responds to so many different cooking approaches. This month, Sarah Salama from Egypt will be surprising you with its versatility in a mouthwatering



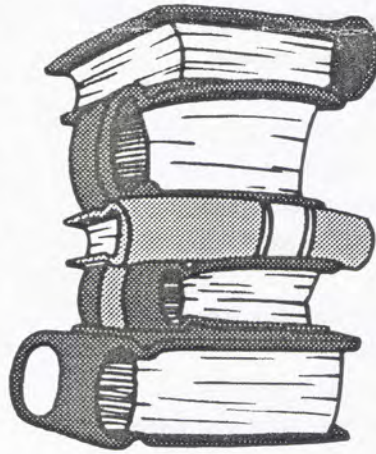
demonstration perfectly timed to coincide with your midday appetite for a bite of lunch. Why not come along and add to your repertoire some delectable middle-eastern ways with the vegetable. Delia Smith has called "the most beautiful of them all"?



# Noticeboard

## WE NEED YOUR VOTE AT THE OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING!.....

It has been proposed that, to celebrate WIC's upcoming 25th Anniversary (our 25th Anniversary Year begins on November 11th 1995) the Club should produce an international COOKBOOK. It



is to be hoped that *EVERY* WIC member would contribute a favourite recipe. As of now the book would cost in the neighbourhood of Rs 175/- each. In order to make printing worthwhile we would have to print a minimum of 500 copies. If we decide to print the book, therefore, it would be incumbent

on every member to a) contribute a recipe and b) buy at least two copies. The Cookbook would be organised and produced by a committee. It will require a good deal of work but the final product could be smashing, and one fun

way to commemorate this unique international group.

Before undertaking such a project the Executive Committee wants the membership's approval. We will take a vote - by a show of hands - at October's general meeting. If you want to make your opinion on this issue known, be there and VOTE!

## DIRECTORY ALERT! DIRECTORY ALERT!

Is your address book entry correct? We are about to produce the 1994-5 edition of the WIC address book and we fear there may be errors lurking in the present one which must not be allowed to slip through this time. Please, please, all check your details and let Ghazala Malik know of any mistakes as soon as possible. THANK YOU.



## From the pen of Chikamatsu....

### Chanter

To this world, farewell.  
To the night, too, farewell.  
He who goes to his death  
Is as frost on the path  
To the burial ground,  
With every step melting away.  
This dream of a dream is sad.  
Ahl - count the chimes -  
Seven mark the dawn  
And six have tolled:  
The one that remains -  
Last fading echo in this life,  
The bell echoing  
Joy to come beyond our death.  
Not to the bell alone,  
To grass, to trees,  
To sky, too, farewell.  
For the last time they look up -  
Clouds too, are heedless;  
On the water surface  
Plough star reflected bright,  
Wife and Husband stars  
In the River of Heaven.

### Chanter

And now they hear the song.  
'Why will you not  
Take me as your wife?  
You may think of me as  
One you can do without.'  
We may love, we may grieve,  
But Fortune and the World  
Are not as we would have them.  
Every day it is so; until today  
Never was there a day, a night,  
When my heart rested,  
Tortured by a love I should not feel.  
'Why, oh, why is it so?  
Not for an instant can I forget.  
Should you wish to reject me  
And go your way, it shall not be so.  
Lay your hand on me, kill me,

Then leave - only thus  
Shall I leave you free.'  
Thus she sobbed through her tears.

### Tokubei:

How soon our end. Before the  
dawn,  
To die in Tenjin Grove.

### Ohatsu

Sad that this year  
Is for us both ill-starred -  
Twenty five for you, for me nineteen,  
A token of our close linked fates,  
That loves and stars should be as  
one.  
Vows to spirits and the Buddha,  
Said for this life, now  
I say for a life to to come -  
That in that world  
We share a lotus.

### Chanter

Nine twelves the beads  
In her rosary, rubbed and told.  
By their side a greater score  
Of jewel tear-drops.  
Nine twelves the worldly lusts,  
Passions, sorrows never spent,  
But this world's journey over.  
From their hearts, a black shade  
In the sky. The wind is dead.  
They come to Sonezaki Grove.  
There? Here? They clear the grass,  
Damp with the dew already fallen,  
Dew - to die as soon as they.

Michiyuki, or 'Lovers' Journey'  
ending the Kabuki drama: "The Love  
Suicides at Sonezaki", said to be  
one of the most poetic moments in the  
whole of Japanese Kabuki Theatre.  
(General Meeting programme, see  
Page 2.)



## Executive Committee 1994/95

<b>President</b>	Nayana Goradia (India)	4617859/5703
<b>1st Vice President</b>	Gayle Gathercole (UK)	6872161 ext 2497
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	Usha Venkateshwaran (India)	2250730
<b>Secretary</b>	Leena Singh (Nepal)	6844204
<b>Treasurer</b>	Maya Caroli (India)	6863936/6853020
<b>Hospitality</b>	Jyotsna Govil (India)	664787
<b>Membership</b>	Ghazala Malik (Pakistan)	6876885
<b>Newsletter</b>	Jane Walker (UK)	6872161 ext 2496

## Circle Leaders for 1994/95

<b>Book Circle</b>	Janet Chawla (U.S.)	4611821
	Gopika Nath (India)	631841
<b>Performing Arts</b>	Shanno Khuranna (India)	4617236
	Yuni Mochny (Indonesia)	6461458
<b>Visual Arts</b>	Susan Fenn (UK)	6872161
	Bindu Talwar (India)	6831242
<b>Excursions</b>	Sheila Ghatate (India)	3329823
	Candy Rohde (US)	674854
<b>Cultural</b>	Galina Drukova (Russia)	6885009
	Shyama Gurbachan Singh (India)	3329611
<b>Focus</b>	Nima Malhotra (India)	6831080
	Jennifer Smith (UK)	6881880
<b>Gourmet/Garden</b>	Josefina Young (Spain)	678593
	Meenu Dugal (India)	8340010
<b>Yoga</b>	Anita Meattle (India)	3012289
	Lyd Hienkens (Netherlands)	4632801



# Month at a Glance

## September

WHEN	CIRCLE	WHAT	WHERE
Friday 2nd at 3 pm	Performing Arts	Francia Acciari - Latin American Dance	Ayse Sungar, 22 Prithviraj Rd.
Monday 5th at 10.30 am	Yoga	Mr S.L. Sehgal - Yoga in Everyday Life	Noni Indrajeet Singh B 41 Maharani Bagh
Friday 9th at 10.30 am	Visual Arts	Film about Peter Brook, British Theatre Director	Sudarshana Singh, 63 Friends Colony East
Wednesday 14th at 3 pm.	General Meeting	Kabuki Theatre Film	Japanese Embassy
Friday 16th at 3 pm.	Book Circle	'Beloved' by Toni Morrison	Janet Chawla 120 Sunder Nagar
Thursday 22nd at 3 pm.	Cultural Circle	Mrs Hebe Abdellah on Egyptian Culture	Egyptian Ambassador's Residence, 1/150M Niti Marg
Tuesday 27th at 12.00 noon	Gourmet and Garden	Eggplant	Lyd Heinkens, 26 Sunder Nagar
Thursday 29th at 3 pm	Focus	Cross Cultural Marriages	Veena Dass, 27 Aurangzeb Road