

WIC NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER, 1996

Dear Member,

To begin with I would like to thank you all once again for the confidence reposed in me and other committee members. We shall certainly do our best to make things interesting, lively and enjoyable through the year. Of course, we will require and expect the whole-hearted cooperation of the membership to make our endeavours a success.

However, there are some basic issues that we also have to deal with --

- The manner of organising a system whereby it is possible to maintain a balance between mature experience and youthful exuberance in the Club membership. We need to address this long outstanding problem effectively and urgently to evolve a realistic strategy.

- There has been a perceptible and continuing erosion of foreign members in the recent past. We must make up this shortfall and I would request all members to persuade appropriate foreign friends to join the Club and participate in all the various activities.

In order to provide for strong bonhomie and an opportunity for meeting each other in a more relaxed atmosphere, we have initiated a "Recreational Activity" where members can play cards, scrabble or just chit-chat and even gossip!! We do hope this will be a popular event and enable members to come to know each other better.

Whilst the majority of the members have been vacationing, the committee and circle leaders have been busy through the summer. We kick-off in September with a programme close to the hearts of all women--a Fashion Show. And there is much more in store for you in the coming months.

So, I will sign off for now

Sarabjit Anup Singh, President



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! Annual Dues Are Due - Please make your check payable for Rs600 to Women's International Club. Your prompt payment would be appreciated.

ATTENDANCE REMINDERS: "Members unable to attend the monthly General Meeting--for whatever reason, shall give prior notice, in writing--to the Membership Chairperson. " (By Laws - Article III, Section 6). Thank You, Maggie Knight, Membership Chairperson

The Circle Leaders have worked hard not only to provide interesting and diverse activities, but also find venues for their programs. Please, be considerate and RSVP. Having done that, of course, if for some reason you can't attend, please let the Circle Leader and/or hostess know. Thank You, Zakia Zaheer, Hospitality Chairperson

WIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1996-1997

Sarabijit (Gugu) Anup Singh	President	5563788(H), 6119449(Ofc)
Anthea Marsden	1st Vice President	675074
Shirin Kehmchand	2nd Vice President	6517573, 6515123
Anita Batra	Treasurer	4602791
Angeliki (Kiki) Theophilou	Secretary	6874892
Zakia Zahir	Hospitality	3327283, 3329472
Maggie Knight	Membership	6883447
Renate (Ronnie) Coleshill	Newsletter	6872045(H) , 3316841(Ofc)

CIRCLE LEADERS 1996-1997

BOOKS	Tahmina Islam Nina Dey Gupta	6886178 6434836
EXCURSIONS	Helga Sarna Sheila Ghatate	672401, 603319 3329823, 3329346
FOCUS	Noni Singh Jyotsna Govil	6848817 6514787, 6855174
GOURMET & GARDEN	Maki Mehta Yuni Mochany	8350314, 8350311 6461458
INDIAN & INTERNATIONAL CULTURE	Jyoti Wazir Laxmi Chandra	4698143, 4631983 6885545
RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES	Christine Wisner Vinu Baig	6113033, ext 2226 6838946, 6835801
VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS	Sarla Darga Amrita Mankad Alexandra Tomasikova Agnel Berry	673467, 6886228 6888761 601015 4618870
YOGA	Indu Sahni	6841840, 6822960

Membership

We have said farewell to many of our international members recently which means we have vacancies for new foreigners who are temporarily residing in Delhi for a few years. If you know anyone whom you would like to introduce to WIC, bring her as a guest to a General Meeting and follow up with an application form if she decides to apply. Forms will be available at the General Meetings.

In May the following ladies were welcomed as new members:

Carolyn Eastham (Alan) U.S.A. (5/96)	17B Prithviraj Road New Delhi 110011 Tel: 4611702	Mary Gore-Booth (H.C. David) U.K. (5/96)	2 Rajaji Marg New Delhi 110021 Tel: 3013117, 6872161
Virginia Hawkins (Geoffrey) Zimbabwe (5/96)	c/o I.F.C. 1 Panchsheel Marg Tel: 6802363	Georgia Ioannou (Athanassios) Greece (5/96)	A-9/21 Vasant Vihar New Delhi 110057 Tel: 6872723
Reem Khairat (Ismail) Egypt (5/96)	Egyptian Embassy 1/50 Niti Marg Chankyapuri Tel: 673418		

Beth Jones was also welcomed as a member but had to resign as she is moving out of India. We also say good-bye to Marilyn Ewart after 5 years with WIC and to Gerlinde Buchsbaum and Sandy Maxwell whose stays in India are ending. We wish them all well in their new ventures.



The Membership Chairman is working very hard to update the Directory of Members. The Newsletter will feature changes, additions and deletions in a format to facilitate easy updates. Note the following changes in your directory:

Shireen Khemchand	6517573, 6515123
Jyotsna Govil	6514787, 6855174
Ramindra A. Singh	6176507
Rimla Rajan	6519200, 6863826
Frannie Billimoria	6182520, 6182444

The Executive Committee would like to bring the membership records regarding accommodation that can be offered by a member up-to-date. Information that you gave us when you joined may have changed. This is a good opportunity to compile a record of the available accommodation of all our members.

Kindly complete this form and hand it over to *Zakia Zaheer*, Hospitality Chairperson, at the General Meeting, or alternatively, you may mail it to her at 903 Ashadeep, 9, Hailey Road, New Delhi-11001.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Nationality: _____ Year of Joining Club: _____

Would you be able to offer your home as a venue for an activity?

YES _____ NO _____

If so, how many could you accommodate?

	<u>Indoors</u>	<u>Outdoors</u>
0 - 20	_____	_____
20 - 50	_____	_____
Full Membership	_____	_____

If you are unable to offer your home, could you organize another venue?

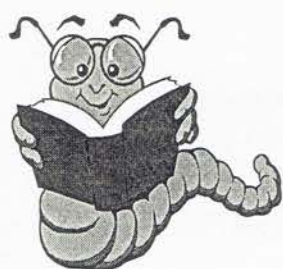
YES _____ NO _____

If you cannot offer your home, could you contribute to catering?

YES _____ NO _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____



BOOKS

Pankay Mishra, Chief Editor at Harper Collins, will discuss his wonderful book on travels in small towns in India, "*Butter Chicken in Ludhiana*."

Friday, September 27, 10:30 a.m. - Hostess: Nayana Goradia, 145 Sundar Nagar; tel: 4617895, 4615703

INDIAN & INTERNATIONAL CULTURE

Ruth Max will present a slide show and discuss Israel.

Wednesday, September 25, 3 p.m. - Hostess: Sundarshana Singh, 63 Friends Colony East; tel: 6844204



Focus 96 will be on the many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who are quietly and efficiently contributing to the betterment of Indian society. From conservation and child care, mental health and old-age concerns, the Focus Circle hopes to present the gentle warriors who are changing the face of the nation.

The Conservation Society of Delhi

The Conservation Society of Delhi has worked since 1985 to raise public interest and awareness in Delhi's historic areas. They have helped put conservation on the agenda of the city planners and through seminars and talks, workshops and walks, have built a cadre of committed citizens. Their Vice President, Madhu Bajpai, will tell us their inspiring story.

Tuesday, September 17, 3 p.m. - Hostess: Veena Dass, 27 Aurangzeb; tel: 3012713

For your October schedule: **Child Relief and You**

CRY (Child Relief and You) is dedicated to restore the rights of children. Recognizing that women can best guide the lives of their children, CRY also empowers them through various programs. Anita Kapur, President of CRY, will talk to us about their successes and their problems.

Tuesday, October 15, 3 p.m. Venue to be announced.

RECREATION



Let's get acquainted! Bring your cards, board games, friends, knitting, whatever . . . Play scrabble, hearts, dominoes.

Friday, September 20, 10 a.m. - Hostess: Gugu Singh, 16A Palam Marg, Visant Vihar; tel: 6119449

THOUGHTS FROM AUNTY ANONYMOUS

I don't know how and when I got saddled with the title "Aunty." Now well into my mature years it seems it happened decades ago and as far as I can recollect I fell happily into the role.

The funny thing is that was "Aunty" to a very wide age group ranging from nieces and nephews to children of friends to whom I was genuinely an aunty-like figure. People in my group, who at least from the age gap point of view, were hardly entitled to call me "Aunty" insisted--for whatever the reason, I became and remained the universal aunt.

My husband didn't take kindly to grown women calling me Aunty." He always clarified that they were not automatically entitled to call him "Uncle." Typical male ego, which I took happily in my stride.

While to some the title Aunty would mean an automatic elevation into the not-so-desirable upper age group and was not therefore very flattering, I always took it as a compliment when some one addressed me as "Aunty" because it showed a degree of respect and affection. Over a period of time the use became almost infectious and people who I didn't know me very well but had heard of me would beg to be allowed to call me "Aunty." I never refused. Now I remain Aunty to a wide age group--ranging from 6 to 50. I am happy to say I am quite flattered when my nephews and nieces share with me confidences which they would never share with their parents.

I am called the "Young Old Aunt" who "really understands" and at my age this is the greatest satisfaction of all.

FROM THE EDITOR

As a relatively new arrival in Delhi (just under one year now), I have piled my bookshelves high with reading and reference material on India. They include "*May You Be the Mother of a Hundred Sons*," "*The River Gutra*" and many of the predictable travel standards. One of the many charming books is "*Nature Watch*" by Khushwant Singh and Suddhasattwa Basu, who have kindly allowed me to make a monthly synopsis of some of their insights into life in Delhi..

August is described as "The very first monsoon shower brings frogs into the open. You can see them round the year in muddy ponds and stagnant pools in all our parks. But they await the rains to really find their voices. Of all animal, bird, serpent or amphibian noises that of frogs is the most difficult to reproduce in words. To describe it as croaking is admitting failure. Humidity in August can be high enough to turn Delhi into a Turkish bath. It is most enervating. The yellow elder trees are in flower, spreading their bittersweet odour. By coincidence the elders are the same tint of

yellow as the golden orioles which call ceaselessly all through the morning. Green bee-eaters have disappeared from the neem shadowing the bathing pool. Instead there are dragonflies hovering over the water. Where water stands stagnant, as in the moat along Sikandar Lodi's tomb in Lodi gardens or the rectangular pools on both sides of Rajpath, there are so many as to give the appearance of a canopy of dragonfly wings."

In **September**, "Most trees and bushes come into flower at predictable times of the year. However there are some which seem to be in flower all the time. Of these the commonest are *Ipomeia* and lantana. *Ipomeias* have trumpet-shaped mauve flowers and leaves resembling those of the peepal. They grow wild along roadside and waterways and are the commonest sight in the country. Choryzzia are in full flower by mid-September; Candelabra-shaped *Sophora griffithi* bushes which line many a road including the one leading to Palam airport, are in full flower. White bougainvillea is at its best, whereas its pink and mauve brethren are strangely flowerless."

I must, however, take exception to their reference that "people are indolent by nature," since several of our members asked if I could prevail upon Kavita Ratra to revise her gardening column. So, by popular demand, we have reprinted her advice on how you too can make your garden grow and then be inspired to wax lyrical of your garden's beauty.

August there is still time to plant fruit trees (except peach and pear trees and grapevines). Prune existing shrubs, etc., removing excessive growth and dead wood where needed. **Vegetables:** Sow beans, eggplant (aubergines), cucumber, gourds, lady fingers (okra) and tomatoes, continue sowing tomatoes and begin early sowing of cabbage, cauliflower & celery. Sow small quantities of lettuce in rows at ten-day intervals so you can harvest continuously in winter for your salad bowl. **Flowers:** Transplant rainy season flower seedlings into beds. You will need to order winter flower seeds now (e.g., aster, calendula, cineraria, phlox and salvia), and the first sowing may be done in August. Chrysanthemum cuttings which were prepared for rooting in January will by now have grown into large plants and will need to be dug up and taken apart. Transplant each rooted slip into a 8"-12" pot. Dahlia cuttings which have been treated with growth hormone may be potted in August for rooting. Gladioli bulbs may be planted now--on ridges to protect them from excess water.

September is the busiest month of the year in the garden. Beds used for summer and rainy season flowers must be dug up and aired. Well-dried farmyard manure should be forked in, and bed allowed to rest at least a fortnight before planting winter annuals. **Annuals:** Most can be sown straight into beds to avoid having to prepare seed beds and raise seedlings. Sweet peas must be planted now for Christmas flowering. **Climbers:** Need to be watered continuously. If plants look exhausted, fork in a basketful of manure. Re-stake plants and keep securely tied. Tall annuals may be planted in any gaps between growing plants. **Roses:** Withhold water for 2-4 weeks before pruning in October. New bushes may be planted when the rains end. **Bulbs:** Recommend soil mixture: 4 parts loam or good earth, 2 parts organic manure, 2 parts sand, 2 cups bonemeal, 2 cups broken charcoal.

Gladioli: plant 3: deep, 6" apart or singly in 8" pots

Freesias: plant with tops just below surface, 10-12 bulbs per 10" pot

Dahlia: plant 3" to 4" deep, 12"-18" apart

Ranunculus: plant "claws" 1-2" deep, 6" apart

Anemones: plant 1" deep, 2-3" apart

Chrysanthemums: Apply liquid manure regularly. Now is the time to increase your stock by collecting reliable suckers. "Sonar Bangla", an Indian-bred species does well in Delhi.

Vegetables: All winter vegetable seeds can be sown now. Ensure regular watering of the seed beds, both morning and evening, using a fine spray on your watering can.

Many thanks to Khushwant Singh for agreeing to share his observations with the ladies of WIC, and to Kavita Ratra for agreeing to a reprint of her gardening advice. - Ronnie Coleshill, Newsletter Editor.

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September

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 INDIAN HOLIDAY JANMASTAMI	6	7
8	9	10	11 GENERAL SOCIAL MEETING Fashion Show Presented by Adarsh Gill @ Hyatt Regency Hotel 3 p.m.	12	13	14
15	16	17 FOCUS Conservation Society of Delhi discussion by Madhu Bajpai @ Veena Dass' 27 Aurangzeb 3 p.m.	18	19	20 RECREATION Get-Acquainted Games & Chat @ Gugu Singh's 16A Palam Marg 10 a.m.	21
22	23	24	25 INDIAN & INTERNAT'L CULTURE Ruth Max Discussion & Slides of Israel @ Sundarshana Singh's 63 Friends ColonyE 3 p.m.	26	27 BOOK CIRCLE "Butter Chicken in Ludhiana" by Pankaj Mishra @ Nayana Goradia 145 Sundar Nagar 10:30 a.m.	28
29	30					

OCTOBER GENERAL SOCIAL MEETING

October 9, 3 p.m.

Hostess: Christine Wisner

Roosevelt House

U. S. Embassy

Shantipath



GENERAL SOCIAL MEETING will be held at the Hyatt on Wednesday, September 11 at 3 p.m. A fashion show featuring clothes designed and manufactured by Adarsh Gill that real women like ourselves can wear will be the main event. **Don't miss it.**

STOP PRESS

EXCITING ADDITIONAL PROGRAMME FOR SEPTEMBER!!!

Friday, 20th September 1996 at 3.00 p.m. we are privileged to have Sushma Deshpande from Bombay to perform for us. This is a rare opportunity to see an acclaimed one-woman musical/theatrical show on the theme of Women's Education and Social Reform in India. Venue and further details to be announced at the General Meeting on 11 September.