

Women's International Club Newsletter



SEPTEMBER

August 15, 1997

Dear Member,

Our thanks go once again to last year's Executive Committee and all the Circle Leaders for another outstanding year of programmes and interest groups. Wish us luck in trying to follow their example.

As I said in my acceptance speech, I am honoured, and a little apprehensive about the tasks ahead, but with your support and that of the Executive Committee, I intend to do my very best. The club is a reflection of its members and we must do all we can to keep a high level of involvement and debate.

Since opinions at the AGM concerning the membership issue were so varied and strongly held, I have decided to invite Prama Bhandari to gather together some long-standing members to study the question. I would urge you all to write to Prama or to Peggy Sood or directly to the Membership Chairperson to make your opinions known. All constructive suggestions, solutions and ideas will be gratefully received. This Working Group will put together a report and recommendations to be circulated to members and voted on at a later date.

Now, to start off the Club Year we have our first General Meeting on **September 10th, at 10:15am** at the India International Centre, Main Auditorium, 40 Max Mueller Marg.

The theme for that morning programme is "Delhi - Towards the Year 2000". Our Chief Guest for the presentation will be HE The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Mr. Tejendra Khanna. We are most grateful to him for agreeing to spare us some of his valuable time. A panel of distinguished experts (Ms. Gurmeet Rai, Ms. Brinda Grover, Mr. Pavan Varma) on modern and historic Delhi will lead the debate after the Lieutenant Governor's presentation. The programme will be moderated by distinguished publisher Mr. Tajeshwar Singh. It promises to be a fascinating morning so please be on time for the meeting so that we can start promptly.

I very much look forward to seeing you there.

Mary Gore-Booth
President

WIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1997-1998

Mary Gore-Booth	President	3013117, 3014123, 3013671(fax)
Shyama Gurbachan Singh	1st Vice President	332 9611
Lakshmi Chandra	2nd Vice President	6145545, 6149503(fax)
Darshan Inderjit	Treasurer	3730684, 4698877
Rupa Sahni	Hospitality	4611977, 4619553
Mako Lutyens	Membership	4649557, 4649556, 4624965(fax)
Anita Meattle	Secretary	3012289, 3012221(fax)
Virginia Hawkins	Newsletter	6149204, 6149205(fax)

CIRCLE LEADERS

1997-1998

BOOKS	Gopika Nath	6827190
	Nina Dey Gupta	6434836
	Titia Knoops	6147274
VISUAL & PERFORMING	Kanta Stanchina	6113643
ARTS	Meera Rao	6887200, 6873383
	Sushma Nanda	6113091, 6872921
FOCUS	Nandita Lahiri	8360539
	Mariana White	4672119
	Monica Modak	6132836
CULTURE	Gita Devi Kapurthala	6484029
	Alexandra Tomasikova	601015, 6885340
	Anna Sturgess	6851287, 6851766(fax)
GOURMET AND GARDEN	Veena Dass	3012713, 3010128
	Sophie Devred Neat	6866147
	Amrita Mankad	6888761
CREATIVE SELF	Ramindra Ajit Singh	6176507
EXPRESSION	Prama Bhandari	6862807
	Janet Chawla	4611821
EXCURSIONS	Sheila Ghatate	3329823, 3329346
	Zakia Zaheer	3327382, 3329472
	Anthea Marsden	4675074
DANCE	Usha Venketeshwaran	2256804, 2250730
	Maya Caroli	6863936, 6969743
	Josefina Young	6141683

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DUES

Please remember to pay your membership dues to Darshan Inderjit. The annual membership dues are now Rs.800 -- not bad value as there were 76 meetings last year -- even if we don't exceed that number this year it will still be good value! Please pay at the September General Meeting. We want to continue bringing you the excellent programmes you deserve.

MEMBERSHIP

On May 8th we had our final new member reception for 1996-97 and we welcomed the following new members at that time:

Smita DIVAN
(Anil)
India

C-70 Neeti Bagh
New Delhi, 110049
6862616, 6863664

Josie FOSTER
(Eric)
U.K.

9 Panchsheel Marg
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110021
3019701, Fax: 301 9785

Abidah QAZI
(H.C. Ashraf Jehangir)
Pakistan

Pakistan House
8-B Tilak Marg, New Delhi 110011
338 6023

We sadly say farewell to the following members whose terms in India have come to an end. We wish them all the very best.

Gazala Babar
Selina Conner
Carolyn Eastham
Ariadni Gourometsiou
Kaneko Kumada

Junko Price
Sylvia Smyth
Kiki Theophilou
Christine Wisner

NOTES

CHANGES IN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Maki Mehta wishes to step down from her position as Secretary due to pressing family commitments. This new committee has valued Maki's quiet, firm and knowledgeable comments and we shall miss her and hope to take her up on her offer of help when she has the time. Anita Meattle has kindly agreed to join us as the Executive Committee Secretary and we warmly welcome her.

Rekha Kripalani also wishes to step down as Treasurer to the Executive Committee in order to devote herself to her husband's convalescence. We wish him a speedy recovery and we will miss Rekha's calm head for figures. Darshan Inderjit has very kindly agreed to take over the position of Executive Committee Treasurer. A warm welcome to her too.

The members of the Club would like to express their sincere condolences to Shireen Khemchand on the passing away of her mother.

A NEW CIRCLE -- CREATIVE SELF-EXPRESSION

This activity is about having fun and getting touch with our creative inner child. In this Creative Self-Expression Group we will make space to be creative, playful and joyful. *Our goal is the process and not an artistic product.* Throughout the year we will get in touch with our own creativity through concrete methods using collage, movement, sound, clay, doll-making, paints, leaves, flowers and other media. Our first activity will be held in October. So watch out for Creative-Self Expression in the next newsletter.

HOSPITALITY

Rupa Sahni has requested that members telephone her only between 9:00 and 12:00 noon when you are sure to find her at home! Her number is 4611977

MEMBERSHIP

Please notify any change of address, phone number, etc. in writing, to Mako Lutyens as soon as possible. Please send the changes to her at:

88 Sunder Nagar
New Delhi, 110003

or send Mako a Fax: 462-4965

We will print the new directory in November and we'd like it to be correct. Please check the way your name, address and telephone number appears in the current Directory and if there are corrections **put the changes in writing.** (Please remember that regrets for the General Meetings are to be sent to Mako and regrets for the Circle meetings are to be sent to Rupa Sahni.)

CULTURE

The wife of the Slovak Ambassador, Alexandra Tomasikova, will make a presentation on aspects of Slovak culture. This will be followed by a short video and an exhibition of cut-glass and ceramics. This Circle group will meet at the Slovak Embassy, 50-17 Niti Marg, Chanakyapuri, on Wednesday, **September 24th at 3:00pm.**

DANCE

The Dance Group has been started on similar lines as the Chorus Group. Our first meeting will introduce "Dance" to you -- its advantages and fun that it provides. Heidi Striejek, our guest speaker for the first meeting, will speak to us on the origin of dance - Indian and Western. She is a student of Odissi dance and can best compare dances of the two worlds. She will demonstrate the same. Come and join us for a fun time on **September 17th, 3:00pm** - at Anita Meattle, 26 Prithviraj Road (Tel. 301-2289).

FOCUS

The first Focus meeting will be on Friday, **September 19, at 3:00pm** at the home of Jyoti Wazir, C-515 Defence Colony. (Tel. 4698143 or 4631983.) Ashis Banerji, Secretary of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), will speak to us on the importance of the conservation of our national heritage.

BOOKS

Our first Book Circle meeting will be held on Thursday, **September 25, at 3:00pm** at the home of Sheila Bindra, C-35 Defence Colony. (Tel. 462-1020).

The Walled City by Esther David. The author comes from a Bene-Israel Jewish family in Ahmedabad. A trained sculptor currently working for development of art in underprivileged Gujarat, this book is her debut novel, tracing the lives of three generations of women in a Jewish family in Ahmedabad. Written in a highly individualistic style, rich in observation and insight, it is an evocative study of forces that have the power to unite and divide generations and communities. The story unravels as the narrator struggles to reconcile her Jewishness with the alien ethos of her environment. Agonizing over life, love and God, she is trying to establish her identity and evaluate relationships as old values crumble and the city of Ahmedabad slides into tension and discord.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

The Visual and Performing Arts group would like to take an especially closer look this year at Indian Cinema, Indian Contemporary Art and the composer Schubert, this being his year. We intend to focus on these three topics so that there is enough food for thought for anybody who wants to delve deeper into these fascinating but large areas which are difficult to "do" in one session. At the same time the monthly sessions would be independent units. Of course, we will also include exceptions to the above mentioned subjects but generally we have chosen these three themes for the year.

Our first meeting will be **September 15, at 3:00pm**, at the American Center on Kasturba Gandhi Marg. (Since there is no parking available at the American Center you may park at either Kanawarani Sohinder Nabha's house -- 10-A Kasturba Gandhi Marg or Shyama Gurbachan Singh's house --12 Kasturba Gandhi Marg.) We will see the film "Massey Sahib" but before it is shown there will be a short talk on the background of the Indian film and the colonial setting in particular, given by Veena Talwar Oldenberg, a historian and lecturer at the City University of New York. "Massey Sahib" is a film written and directed by Pradip Krishen a most talented director who has unfortunately decided to stop filming. Acting in it is Arundhati Roy, author of the best selling book "A God of Small Things", showing us another of her talents - acting.

A MESSAGE FROM SYHAMA

Welcome back to all members. I hope all of you had a restful and enjoyable holiday as I did in the beautiful heights of Landour for three weeks. This year we have eight circles, each with three members to organize the programmes. Three members to a circle is something which just happened - a triangle in a circle, as it were. A rather attractive geometrical pattern; also a powerful mystic symbol. I would like to consider this as an auspicious happening. The three points of a triangle are connected. I am sure that is how the members of each circle will interact, touch each other, work together and produce enjoyable programmes for us all. We look forward to an interesting year.



The Michelin stars in India

Meet a master chef in New Delhi at the newly opened restaurant "Longchamp"

For the first time in India, we have the exceptional opportunity to meet a chef of great talent for his creativity and originality. We'll take you on a tour in the restaurant's kitchen and will assist the execution of a three-course meal directly issued from Richard Neat's own repertoire.

The event will take place on 5 different dates and will welcome 10 different members each time. The format of small groups will allow you to be closer to the chef in the realisation of the dishes and will facilitate the communication. The menu will be the same for each group.

The choices of dates are as follow:

Monday,	Sep 8
Thursday,	Sep 11
Monday,	Sep 15
Thursday,	Sep 18
Monday,	Sep 22

The demonstration will start at **10.45 a.m.** in the restaurant "Longchamp" (Floor "R") at the Taj Mahal Hotel, N°1 Mansingh Road, New Delhi.

Please phone **Amrita Mankad** at **688-8761** or **Sophie Devred Neat** at **686-6147** to give them your first, second and third choices for dates to attend this demonstration.

As soon as we receive your preferences, we will confirm the group in which you have been allocated.

WHAT IS MICHELIN?:

The Michelin guide is a French institution that awards restaurant progressively with stars (3 max.) in recognition of their excellence, for which the food is of paramount importance. There are currently in London just 3 restaurants with 2 stars and 3 with 3 stars.

The Michelin guide is regarded as the only credible restaurant guide in Europe.

Please note that the number of seats being limited, the allocation will be completed on the basis of first come, first served.

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
GOURMET <i>Meeting a master chef</i> 10.45 a.m. Restaurant "Longchamp" Taj mahal Hotel NoI Mansingh Rd		GENERAL MEETING <i>Delhi-Towards the Year 2000</i> 10.15 a.m. India International Center, Main Auditorium 40 Max Mueller Marg	GOURMET <i>Meeting a master chef</i> 10.45 a.m. Restaurant "Longchamp" Taj mahal Hotel NoI Mansingh Rd			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
GOURMET <i>As described on 8th, 10.45 a.m.</i> VISUAL ARTS <i>Indian Film, "Massey Sahib"</i> 3.00 p.m. American Center, Kasturba Ghandhi Marg		DANCE <i>Origin of Indian & Western Dance</i> 3.00 p.m. Anita Meattle's, 26 Prithviraj Rd	GOURMET <i>Meeting a master chef</i> 10.45 a.m. Restaurant "Longchamp" Taj mahal Hotel NoI Mansingh Rd	FOCUS <i>Conservation of National Heritage</i> 3.00 p.m. Jyoti Wazir, C-515 Defence Colony		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
GOURMET <i>Meeting a master chef</i> 10.45 a.m. Restaurant "Longchamp" Taj mahal Hotel NoI Mansingh Rd		CULTURE <i>Slovak Culture</i> 3.00 p.m. Slovak Embassy, 50-17 Niti Marg, Chanakyapuri	BOOKS <i>"The walled city" By Esther David</i> 3.00 p.m. Sheila Bindra, C-35 Defence Colony			
29	30					