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BANGNA-TRAD KM 7.5
BANGPLEE, SAMUT PRAKARN 10540



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2000

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GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Angela Fowles

Tel: 385 8243

2. Sharon Vail

Tel: 361 9120

ORGANISATION OF THE CLUB

SILC creates an opportunity for women of all nationalities living in the Samut Prakarn area to meet socially and participate in a variety of activities without travelling into Bangkok. We invite members to join monthly meetings, tours and interest groups. Members pay an annual fee of 500 Baht to cover costs and receive a monthly newsletter and club directory.

NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is published once a month with articles and information on club activities. Contributions are welcome and can be sent directly to the newsletter editor.

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS

Club meetings are usually held on the first Monday of each month. Venues for meetings vary and are published in the newsletter. Meetings start at 8.00 p.m. and last approx. 2 hours. Visitors are most welcome.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

These are held once a month and are open to everyone. Please inform the hostess of the meeting if you wish to attend.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another busy month has raced by and we are now approaching the build-up to Christmas. Plenty of fun events lined up for the next couple of months, so mark your diaries now!

As we are an international group with members from many different countries, it would be really interesting if we could come together to celebrate our national festivals and important dates. So, if your home country is about to mark a special occasion, let us know about it; write an article for the newsletter; host a coffee morning with your national theme or anything else you can think of. Let's get to know each other a little better!

The school half-term holidays are just around the corner and I'm sure many of you will be off travelling for the week. If you are going anywhere interesting, or even if you just have a really happy time, do write a piece for the newsletter. It's always good to get new ideas of where to go and tips on what to do when you get there from others. It doesn't have to be a full-scale essay, just a couple of paragraphs will do. It also works in reverse of-course, and if you had a really bad experience which you wouldn't wish on anyone we'd like to hear about it!

Along with the coffee morning, lunch, tour and evening meeting (all of which look good), this month sees our annual fund-raiser, the Charity Fair to be held at Patana School on 16 November in the school auditorium. This year looks like being bigger and better than ever, so do come along and buy early for Christmas. We have a lot of interesting vendors coming along, as well as old favourites so bring your straining wallets with you!!!!

You will all be receiving your new-style Directories this month, and I hope you'll agree that they are a big improvement on the previous ones. Many thanks to the sub-committee who organised them, they look very professional. As these Directories are a new thing, we would like to hear your views on them. Please let us know whether or not you like them and if you think something should have been included and wasn't. A quick phone call or email to your Reply Person would be appreciated so that your committee gets some feedback on this new venture.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the various SILC events this month.

Sue Davies

PLOENCHIT FAIR

This year the Fair is being held on 25 November in the grounds of the British Embassy. The fair is a fun day out for all the family and all funds raised go to Thai charities. It takes the form of a British Fun Fair, with stalls, rides, beer tents and live music.

DIARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER

LUNCH

DATE: Tuesday 28th November
 VENUE: Gourmet Gallery
 6/1 Promsri 1, Sukhumvit Soi 39
 Tel: 260 0603

Please note parking is limited

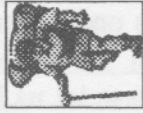
RSVP: Diane - 758 7191 or
 Sharon - 361 9120

As we won't be having a December lunch, we decided on a late November date so hope you can come along.

NOVEMBER TOUR

Visit to a blue & white pottery factory followed by lunch at the Rose Garden.

Date: Thursday 23rd November
 Depart Patana School at 8am
 Cost is 200 Baht and lunch is at own expense.



Contact:
 Antoinet Kuipers
 Tel: 7585440 Fax: 7585441
 email: jhkuipers@hotmail.com

COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: Tuesday 14th
 November

TIME: 10 am

VENUE: Gill Sheffield's
 758 Lakeside Villa 1

RSVP:
 Gill Sheffield - 316 8157

COFFEE MORNING

DATE: Thursday 9th November
 TIME: 9.30am

VENUE: Sara Cowley's
 92/57 Thana City
 Prestige Housing 1

RSVP: Your local committee representative.

The hot topic this month is Plastic Surgery and we have a guest speaker attending. Do join us!

WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: Tuesday 21st
 November
 TIME: 9.30am

VENUE: Nuri Ismail
 704 Lakeside Villa 1

RSVP: Nuri - 316 2696

EVENING MEETING

Date: Monday 6th November
 Time: 7 pm (NB. earlier time)
 Venue: Susan Joyce
 S15A Garden Towers
 RSVP: Your local committee representative.

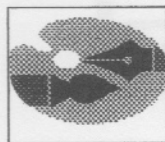
This month we have Christine Mailochon from Diethelm Travel coming to talk to us about get-aways from Bangkok.

ART AND CRAFT CLASSES

This class takes place on a Monday, newcomers always welcome

Day: Monday
Time: 9.00am
Place: Helen Frost's
734 Lakeside 1

For more information call Helen, Tel: 317 1132



AEROBICS CLASSES

Lakeside Villa 1, Clubhouse
Monday & Friday @ 8.00am
Contact Nuri: 01-692-5189
for more information

**Middle School Gym,
Bangkok Patana School**
Circuits Monday 4pm
Step Wednesday 4pm
Step Thursday 4pm

Call Isabella Henderson on
758 5281 or 01 844 3801

GOLF - 9 HOLES

Royal Navy Thai Course



Cost: 410 Baht plus
100 Baht tip for your
caddy

Never played? Never mind!
Call if you would like to join us
Contact: Isabella Henderson
Tel: 758 5281

GOLF - 18 HOLES

Green Valley
call to organise a group

Contact: Val Ashman
Tel: 740 2935

MAH-JONG

Day: Wednesday
Place: Rotating households

Contact: Julie Heather
Tel 385 8133 or 7585423
or Kathryn Lythgoe
Tel 3163264

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

Lakeside 1, Thursday

07.30-09.30 a.m.

Contact:
Helen Frost
Tel: 317 1132



DAYTIME BOOK CLUB MEETING

Date: Friday 3rd November

Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm

Venue: Julie Heather's House, 34/39 Main Soi,
Moo Baan Ladawan
Telephone: 385-8133



Book: The Diary of a Young Girl, Anne Frank
The Definitive Edition
New Translation, edited by Otto H. Frank and
Mirjam Pressier
Available at Asia Books

Details: Kate Thomas: 336-0781
Julia Galliker d'Aliberti: 385-7655

EVENING BOOK CLUB MEETING

DATE: Wednesday 29th November
VENUE: Julia d'Aliberti's house
36/46 Soi 5/3, Moobaan Ladawan
TEL: 385 7655 to RSVP!
TIME: 7.30 p.m. prompt



BOOK: "A 100 years of solitude"
by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

DONATION: 50 Baht please

If you need more information,
please contact Felicity Dent: Telephone 758 6492

seasonal items ~ stationery ~ baskets ~ artwork ~ silver ~ educational toys ~ jewelry ~ crafts ~ crystal ~ blue and white pottery ~ home decor ~ baby items ~ fabrics ~ woodcraft ~ clothing ~

Samutprakarn International Ladies Club

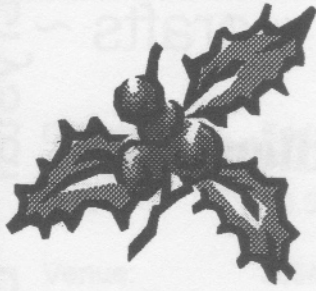
Charity Fair



**Thursday, 16th
November, 2000
10.00 am - 2.00 pm
Bangkok Patana
School
Soi La Salle
Sukhumvit Soi 105**

100 baht entry donation includes one raffle ticket!

For further information contact Isabella Henderson 758-5281 or Sue Davies 751-9876



Christmas Party!

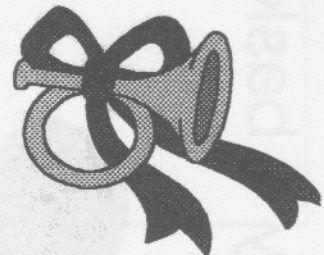
Saturday 9th December

Royal Princess Srinakarin Hotel

Its Party Time again...not for the children but for the adults this time....

The annual SILC Christmas Party will be taking place on the evening of Saturday 9th December at the Royal Princess Srinakarin Hotel. Once again there will be a fun packed night of food, fun and dancing, not to mention a few drinks! More details will follow in next months newsletter, but please book the date in your diary and think about getting your table together now. If you want to reserve your places now, please contact either Isabella Henderson on 758 5281 or Gill Symons on 758 5171 or e-mail at gsymons@loxinfo.co.th

See you all there.



NOVEMBER TOUR

Join us on the Patana School buses as we set off on a trip to two potteries making the famous blue and white ceramics which we see everywhere. First stop will be S C Ceramics, followed by Chieng Sang Pottery. At both places we will be able to purchase pottery. After a morning watching the ceramics being made and maybe snapping up some bargains, it's on to the Rose Garden for a delicious lunch. The Rose Garden restaurant is set in beautiful gardens near a peaceful river, so it should round off our morning perfectly. After lunch it will be back on to the buses for the return to Patana by 2pm. Call Antoinet on 758 5440 or Nicolene on 396 0702, or your Reply Person, to reserve your place.

MONTHLY MEETING

This month, Christine Maillochon from Diethelm Travel will be coming to talk to us about get-aways from Bangkok, be it weekends or for slightly longer. Diethelm specialise in Indochina, so cannot help people planning trips to other parts of the World, but Christine promises to come up with some ideas for short breaks, as well as for longer trips. She has stressed that they do not particularly aim their products at very young children.

Christine will be bringing her ideas and brochures to Susan Joyce's place (S15A Garden Towers) on Monday 6 November, at the earlier time than usual of 7pm. She will be starting her presentation promptly, so if you want to hear her, be early!!

Reply to your representative or to Susan direct on 751 9882.

SILC FUNCTIONS, REPLY POLICY

If you are planning on attending any of the SILC functions advertised in this newsletter, please could you make sure you let someone know you are coming as it makes it so much easier for the hostess to plan. Please call one of the names listed below, or the hostess direct.

Representatives for replies!

Lakeside Villa 1	Gill Sheffield	Tel: 316 8157
Lakeside Villa 2	Jonquil Henry	Tel: 316 4074
Ladawan	Diane Jones	Tel: 758 7191
Garden Towers	Marie Wilson	Tel: 751 9865
"Others"	Sue Davies	Tel: 751 9876

All e-mail addresses and fax numbers can be found inside the front cover of your newsletter, or in the telephone directory.

REPORT ON SEPTEMBER POT LUCK LUNCH

Monday 18 September saw the SILC Pot Luck Lunch happening. A very warm day and of course Isabella Henderson's birthday. Appropriately we helped her to celebrate at her house. We had a new baby and some adorable puppies to oggle over, it was a happy day with friendly atmosphere to kick off the first of many lunches to come after the summer break.

Sue Davies, our new President, welcomed everyone including several newcomers to our group. We then joined her in a very enjoyable lunch with the exact amount of savoury and sweet dishes, couldn't have happened better if you had planned it. There were some delightful dishes to try and everyone indulged in Isabella's pink lemonade and iced tea, fine accompaniments.

Of approximately 25 ladies who attended, I'm sure not many were able to pass by Khun Preeda's wonderful blue and white pottery and silver jewellery on the way out. For some it was irresistible!

Marie Wilson

ANYONE FOR FLOWER ARRANGING?

Would anyone be interested in joining one of our members, Ruby Noriega, in setting up a flower arranging class to be given by Donna, who gave us such an interesting lesson at our SILC coffee morning in September? Donna is willing to teach a class if there are ten ladies who would like to join. Please contact Ruby on 751 9905 if you are interested.

MAH-JONG

Just a reminder that we still play Mah-Jong once a week at rotating households. Over the summer holidays some of our regular players left and we are now looking for some new recruits! **EVERYONE IS WELCOME.** You don't have to be good at it, or even know how to play. Come and join us, have a cup of coffee, catch up on the gossip for the week and learn how to play this fun game. We don't play for cash, we only score points and the person with the most points wins. Please contact either of our Mah-Jong representatives:

Julie Heather 385 8133 or 758 5423
Kathryn Lythgoe 316 3264

Hope to see you all soon at the coffee morning next month.

Sara Cowley

REPORT ON OCTOBER FLOWER MARKET EVENING

The four-storey "The Gallery" on Charoen Krung was the venue for October's evening outing. Over 20 SILC members and guests tucked into Thai food upstairs in this attractively designed and furnished restaurant. Sandra Reed was the lucky winner of "Isabella's bingo" and is treating us all to the next night out - only joking!

Then it was a hop, skip or jump (depending on your driver's navigation) to Pak Khlong flower market where we wound our way through mountains of spectacular orchids on sale at ridiculously low prices, and watched stallholders in white gloves painstakingly handling the roses. Well worth checking out too were the Rolls Royces of jasmin rings, certainly the most intricate and colourful I've ever seen in Thailand. Soon it was time to stagger back to our transport a few hundred baht worse off, with bunches of gorgeous flowers that in most of our homelands would have left us bankrupt! Thank you to Diane for arranging an enjoyable outing.

Angela Brown

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER:

Marge Bivin
S22A Garden Towers
Bangna-Trad Km 6.5
Bangplee, Samutprakam 10540
Phone: 751 9896

Nationality: American
Partner: Bill

REPORT ON OCTOBER COFFEE MORNING COSMETIC WORKSHOP

Thanks to the gracious hospitality of Gill Sheffied more than 30 SILC members and guests took over Gill's home, on the morning of Friday 6th October.

Sara Cowley had organized a French cosmetic company, Sisley, to demonstrate their wares. Their products are made from natural plant extracts. Initially we were shown a video. Then, after a full brief, we were set loose on the entire Sisley range. This entailed exfoliating, cleansing, toning, face packs, wrinkle remedies etc and that was before coffee!

There was a bevy of beauticians to help us try their range of make-up. Which almost everyone indulged in. The more modest going for a little lippy to the more adventurous going for the full works including neck massage.

All members left looking even more gorgeous than usual and an invitation to Sisley counters in Central Ladprao, Chidlom and Bangna where they will receive a special gift.

Lynda Cooke

"Guys & Dolls"

A musical fable of Broadway!

At The Bangkok Playhouse

November 23rd, 24th, 25th, & 26th

Bangkok Community Theatre will stage the hit Broadway musical "Guys & Dolls" from November 23rd to 26th at The Bangkok Playhouse on Phetchburi Road -- Fifty years exactly from when the show first opened on Broadway!

Set in Times Square, New York in the early '50s, and involving a host of colourful 'Broadway' characters, "Guys & Dolls" has been described as the 'quintessential musical comedy' and by Time Magazine as "The greatest of all American musicals"!

Evening performances on November 23rd, 24th, and 25th will commence at 8:00 pm and a matinee performance on Sunday, November 26th will commence at 2:00 pm. Tickets at Bt.550 for adults and Bt.350 for students are available from end of October at Kinokinuya Books, 3rd Floor, The Emporium (664 8554-8), The Bangkok Playhouse, Phetchburi Road (Tel 319-7641-4) and The British Club, Silom Soi 18 (234 0247).

For more information please call Bangkok Community Theatre on 258 8495

Report on the September Tour "Exploring Khao San Road"

28th September, 2000

In the morning at 8 a.m. 23 SILC ladies had met at Patana School, ready to explore another interesting spot in Bangkok. To most of us a place we had heard of (esp. during Sonkhran the street is famous for extensive water-splashing...) but still, we were not quite sure what to expect and rather excited.

Three mini-busses brought us to the first meeting point at the Shangri-La-Hotel's boat pier. Those of us who had not experienced taking an express boat yet, had the chance to study a newly brought up chart of "which boat goes where" which was rather helpful to overlook the system of jumping on and off the water taxis for 8 baht. Our tour organizers Antoinet and Nicoline made sure that everybody was ready to jump off the boat at Banglamphur pier in time. From here, we shortly walked through the serene park of a monastery, and soon we reached the Chacrapong Road end of Khao San Road.

After being shown the meeting point for after lunch, we split up into smaller groups to explore the area. This area added new aspects of Bangkok to most of us. Here we were visiting a different kind of tourist area, not comparable to those downtown or in Sukhumvit. I suppose, first of all it had become an "Eldorado" for backpackers because of cheap hotels and guesthouses, restaurants, internet-cafes, travel- and diving agencies. Sex-tourism is not as obvious, and we found mostly very young people, low-budget tourists, some of them looked weary and adventurous, if not drugged.

For a start, we decided to sit with a cappuccino in one of the inviting little cafes, and just watched what was going on around us. Typically for Thailand, a market scene has formed along all of that road, and it was very tempting to buy since prices were comparably low: CDs, T-shirts, silver jewellery, Thai handicrafts and souvenirs, have your hair braided or dreadlocked, buy a faked driving license or student pass - shopping as your heart desires.

Antoinet was "lucky" to be picked by a group of young Thais with microphone and T.V. camera who were asking for an interview concerning her love-life and sexual behaviour...their customer was "Durex", we are still wondering when she will be spotted on T.V...

Between 11:30 and 12 hrs. we met at "Khao San Center Restaurant" for lunch, just when the rain poured down and everyone was looking for shelter. We enjoyed lunch in different small groups, it was just too busy to get one big table. When we met at 13 hrs. for the busses to pick us up again, we found many of us had not resisted the cheap bargains and enjoyed themselves an awful lot. "Thank you" to Antoinet and Nicoline for an interesting and well-organized fun tour which many of us would not have done alone.

Sabine Benke

WELFARE NEWS

- ◆ Welcome to two more newcomers helping at our local pre-schools. -Christina Alejandro [Pong Ploy] & Ruth Sallez [Concordia]. It really is heartening to have such response.....[And it shows that you are all reading your newsletters!]
- ◆ Thank-you so much to all of you who have already looked out toys/ clothes/ games/ bikes for our appeal. See separate information in this newsletter regarding our visit to the farm to present them. Donations are still required! Nothing will be wasted.
- ◆ We have written to the Headmaster of the Cha Chang Sao School re. his proposals for the money donated at Kasper's memorial service. We will keep you informed via this column.
- ◆ We are currently planning Christmas parties for our 3 pre-schools, including the presence [and presents!] of the only TRUE Father Christmas in Thailand, who is now growing his beard in anticipation. THANK-YOU Santa!
- ◆ A big thank-you to Arun Arunagiri and Mattel once again for the generous donation of "Hotwheels" toy cars to fill Santa's sack. The boys at our pre-schools will be delighted.
- ◆ The welfare committee would like the Sunday Comic section from The Bangkok Post to wrap up Christmas presents. Could members please collect the comic over the next six weeks and hand them to a SILC committee member? Thank you for your assistance.

Hoping to see some of you on our tour to the farm and school (details of which are included in this newsletter). Come along and make your donations yourself!

Felicity Dent. Welfare Chair.

LAST CALL!

Donations still needed for the HDF farm

Deadline: Wednesday 1st November

Where: Maureen Bligh's 506 Lakeside Villa 1 Tel 316 8547
or Felicity Dent's 35/269 Ladawan Soi 5/7 Tel 758 6492

Please phone first before dropping off your donation

WANTED: Clothes, Toys, Thai Books, Picture books, Games, Kitchen equipment, Toiletries, Stationery, Towels, Bedding, Bikes etc.

**Tour to the Human Development Foundation Farm
and local school at Cha Chang Sao**

*(Presentation of donated items to the farm.
Donation ceremony in memory of
Kasper Kirchhecker at the school.)*

DATE: Monday 6th November

TIME: 8.30 am prompt ----- Return at approximately 1.30 pm.

COST: (depends on numbers) approximately 300 baht to cover the cost of the transport & a snack for the farm boys. To be pre-paid by Wednesday 1st November please!

PAY: to Felicity Dent, Tel 758 6492 or Maureen Bligh 316-8547 by 1.11.00.

We visit the HDF farm - home for street kids-60 minute's drive east of Bangkok & present the items you have generously donated since our first visit there in June this year. [This was the chosen charity of our May 2000 Swimathon.]

We will also hold a presentation ceremony at the local school, nearby, which will benefit from donations made in memory of Kasper Kirchhecker - a total of 14,725 baht. We have written to the headmaster requesting he sends his proposals for the spending of this money & on the day we will make a presentation of our 'pledged donation.' (This is because SILC prefers to buy items or equipment rather than donate actual cash, wherever possible.) The children at the school will also hear the story of Kasper & that the new equipment/facilities donated are in his memory.

Wear cool, comfortable clothes & shoes & bring a snack & a drink.

If you have any donations to bring, for example stationery, toiletries, clothes, Thai books, and games - these would be very welcome.

Thank you. I hope you can join us!

Felicity Dent.

Kalaë



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Kalaë!

It has been 1 year already since we celebrated our grand opening... So we would like to celebrate again and say thank you, for making "the way of life" of Kalaë possible...

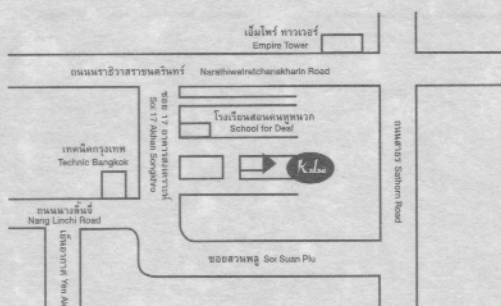
... Thank you for making Kalaë not only a good buying spot, but also a meeting point for friends and future friends.

... Thank you for being such enjoyable customers...

So, let's say "thank you" together and have fun on the 17th and 18th November 2000 (starting at 6 pm!)

A lucky draw will be organised on each evening during our party.

For our "Small" customers : Saturday 18th from 4-6 pm, we have organised a chinese acrobatic group with music and lion dance!



1040 Soi Suan Plu
(Soi 17 Arkarnsonghro) Sathorn Thai Road
Thung Mahamek 10120 Bangkok
Tel 286 51 29 Fax 676 39 81

Open
Monday - Friday
9.00 - 18.00 hours

Saturday - Sunday
10.00 - 18.00 hours

PLAYDOUGH MAYHEM AT PONG PLOY

Well, what a difference a day, or in this case a week, makes. When I first arrived in Bangkok I had visited Pong Ploy with Felicity and her band of helpers, but due to teaching commitments I had not been back for almost a year. Finding myself a lady of leisure, it was time to return to the Wat based pre-school and join in the regular Wednesday morning sessions with these young children.

I dutifully arrived to find that the morning's activities were to include playdough modeling and as I rather fancy myself as a bit of an expert in this area, (all those years of teaching Reception and Year 1 must account for something), I volunteered to work in the playdough classroom. Carrier bags were cut into mat size and each child was given a small ball of dough and a few shape cutters. Twenty-five or so youngsters set to work - poking, prodding, licking, tasting, throwing, smelling, giggling - it was plain to see that this was a new discovery and no-one was really quite sure what to do with this gooey blob in front of them. I say gooey because as the morning progressed the playdough seem to take on a life of it's own, sticking to everything and everyone, and even the copious amounts of flour we added didn't really help too much, although the children thought it was great fun to rub it all over themselves. As we frantically tried to show the children how to use the dough and cutters, a fleeting picture of air-conditioned classrooms equipped with all mod-cons flashed before my eyes, but I quickly pushed it aside and battled on. Three classes rotated through the playdough room and with each one it was the same. Even some of the novice monks came to watch the spectacle. Playdough mayhem reigned at Pong Ploy.

The next Wednesday dawned and in our wisdom we had decided to organize another playdough session. Never one to go down without a fight, I donned my oldest clothes, again opted for the playdough room (which by this stage had taken on quite a sinister meaning) and braced myself for the onslaught. The children raced in, sat down and within minutes were totally engrossed in making various animals, patterns and objects. This time they knew exactly what to do, and the look of rapture and excitement was truly wonderful to see. At times there was almost silence as the children concentrated on their efforts, proudly showing them when they had finished. An assortment of Donald Ducks, cats, cows, dogs and bowls were produced by artists with shining eyes and wide smiles. Once again three classes rotated through the playdough room and with each one it was the same. Pure enjoyment!!

As a teacher it is always gratifying to see children learn, and my experience at Pong Ploy reminded me just how receptive and bright children can be, whether it be in a modern school like Patana or in an underprivileged pre-school such as Pong Ploy. Children are children, no matter where they are!

Roz Hayles

If you are interested in coming along to Pong Ploy on Wednesday mornings please contact Felicity Dent 7586492.

DENTAL CARE PROGRAM AT PAKKRED HOMES

The International Support Group is working with Chulalongkorn University to set up a dental clinic and a dental care program at Pakkred Children's Homes. In cooperation with the dental school ISG is helping to organise a tooth-brushing program and research study.

What is needed is a group of volunteers who are willing to undergo a brief training session and then work on a regular basis brushing the teeth of handicapped children. No special skills are required and speaking Thai is not essential. Days and times are flexible to meet individual schedules.

If interested, please contact Cindy at 652-2397 or email leverenz@loxinfo.co.th

The project should begin in January 2001.

Contemporary Arts and Crafts in Thailand

Exhibition/Sale - Thursday, November 16th -
Tuesday, November 21st, 2000
10.00 - 18.00
Promenade Decor
Hilton International Hotel in Nai Lert Park
(Opening Party - Thursday, November 16th
from 18.00)

An exhibition and sale of high quality arts and crafts from Thailand featuring *Ban Reng Khai by Lea, Sop Moei Arts, Khong Kao, Marigold, Chabatik, Pottery by Rita Hadorn, Ceramics by Heidrun Schmid, Art Deco, Benjerong, and Silkbox*. Items for sale include baskets, ceramics and pottery, jewelry, fabrics and clothing, furniture, scarves and shawls, interior decor items as well as unique and one-of-a-kind gifts. Profits from the exhibition are donated by artists to various craft producing projects in Thailand.

For further details please contact: Jahn Buhrman 679-444 ext. 8807 or Masako Isomaru 712-8039

Please note that proceeds from the November exhibition will be donated to the Mahapajapati Theri Buddhist College for Women in Nakorn Rachasima province.

ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Date: Monday, November 6, 2000
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Polo Club
Lecture: The "Real and the Imaginary":
Claiming Social Position in Thai Murals
Speaker: Dr. Sandra Cate, Professor of Anthropology
San Jose State University, California

Dr. Cate will present a slide/lecture on the contemporary religious murals at a Thai temple in Wimbledon, England.

Date: Friday, November 24, 2000
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: National Museum Bangkok
Lecture: Development of Prehistoric Archaeology in Thailand
Speaker: Dr. Rasmi Shoocongdej, Professor of Archaeology
Silpakorn University, Bangkok

Dr. Rasmi's lecture will provide an overview of prehistoric archaeology development in Thailand.

Admission to lectures is free. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Coffee will be served from 9.30 am. For more information, contact Mary Eliades at 587-1880.

SILC Recipe Book

By popular request, we have reprinted this book of favourite recipes from SILC members. In Thai and in English, this is perfect as a gift or for your maid. Copies are available now from the school shop (or from Felicity) priced at 300 baht per copy. They will also be on sale at our Christmas Fair. All profits go to SILC welfare projects.

INDIAN COOKING CLASSES POSTPONED

Unfortunately Sunita has had to postpone her Indian Cooking classes, originally planned for November, due to a delay in her house move. The classes will now be held in February 2001 and further details will be provided in the SILC Newsletter when dates have been confirmed.

ITEMS FOR SALE

Beech wood, chrome and marble topped BAR with 3 stools Measures approx. 161 x 67 x 107 cm's

Beech wood and chrome TV/VIDEO/DISPLAY CABINET Measures approx. 210 x 51 x 86 cm's

2 Years old, purchased from 'Natura' Cost 42,000BHT New, Offers around 30,000BHT

NOT SOLD SEPARATELY

Also for sale Weslo Cadence XT TREADMILL. 2 Years old. Offers around 10,000BHT

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(Ed..... I asked my father-in-law to write a short piece for the newsletter on his impressions of Bangkok during his recent visit to the city. It is always interesting to hear impressions from a different perspective. I hope you agree)

Pig Farmer in Bangkok - a Doodle!

A Yorkshire pig farmer visiting Thailand for the first time - - Yes I know, whatever next? My wife and I are fortunate in having our son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter living in Thailand. Their familiarity with Thai culture has paved the way for us to move more quickly into gear and find our feet.

First impressions - the extremes

- Poverty and subsistence in the klongs and slums alongside affluence, wealth and L.T.
- Olfactory senses are severely challenged at times – even for a pig farmer.
- The monsoon season is over?
- The natural friendliness of Thai people has been of great help in our ignorance of the language.

When on holiday I am blessed with the ability to temporarily close the door on my U.K. life. I therefore come to Thailand with a relatively open mind – my experiences are more sensual than cerebral. Thai culture and my Welsh background make interesting bedfellows – both heavily influenced by religion, mythical beings and music.

The usual tourist sites have been visited – Chatuchak market, Ancient City, klongs, Chinatown – thieves market etc. etc. plus of course The Royal Palace and Wat Po! Although I had been told of the temples, nothing prepared me for the visual assault on my senses. The spectacular splendour of these is difficult to capture on film. The ancient architects had a field day.

Talking of assaults – a “friend” recommended I partake of a pleasurable experience (relaxing the parts other beers can’t reach) and try out a foot massage at Wat Po. The memory of it can be summed up in five phases:-

1. *Warm up – a con. job.* Palms of hands only - - nice.
2. *Getting down to it.* Kneeding the dough – knuckles only - - - - Ahemmmm!
3. *Really getting down to it.* Blunt wooden boring tool used to stimulate pressure points - - Oooh!!!
4. *Placation and soft soaping.* Qualified relief after phases 2 & 3.
5. *All wrapped up.* Literally. Wonderful.

P.S. Phase 3 requires CD-walkman - with Pavarotti at full volume!

Most of you will be familiar with the foot massage at Wat Po and if not I can thoroughly recommend it. I certainly hope to return to repeat the experience.

John Williams

For your information a foot and leg message at Wat Po costs 200 Baht for 45 minutes.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

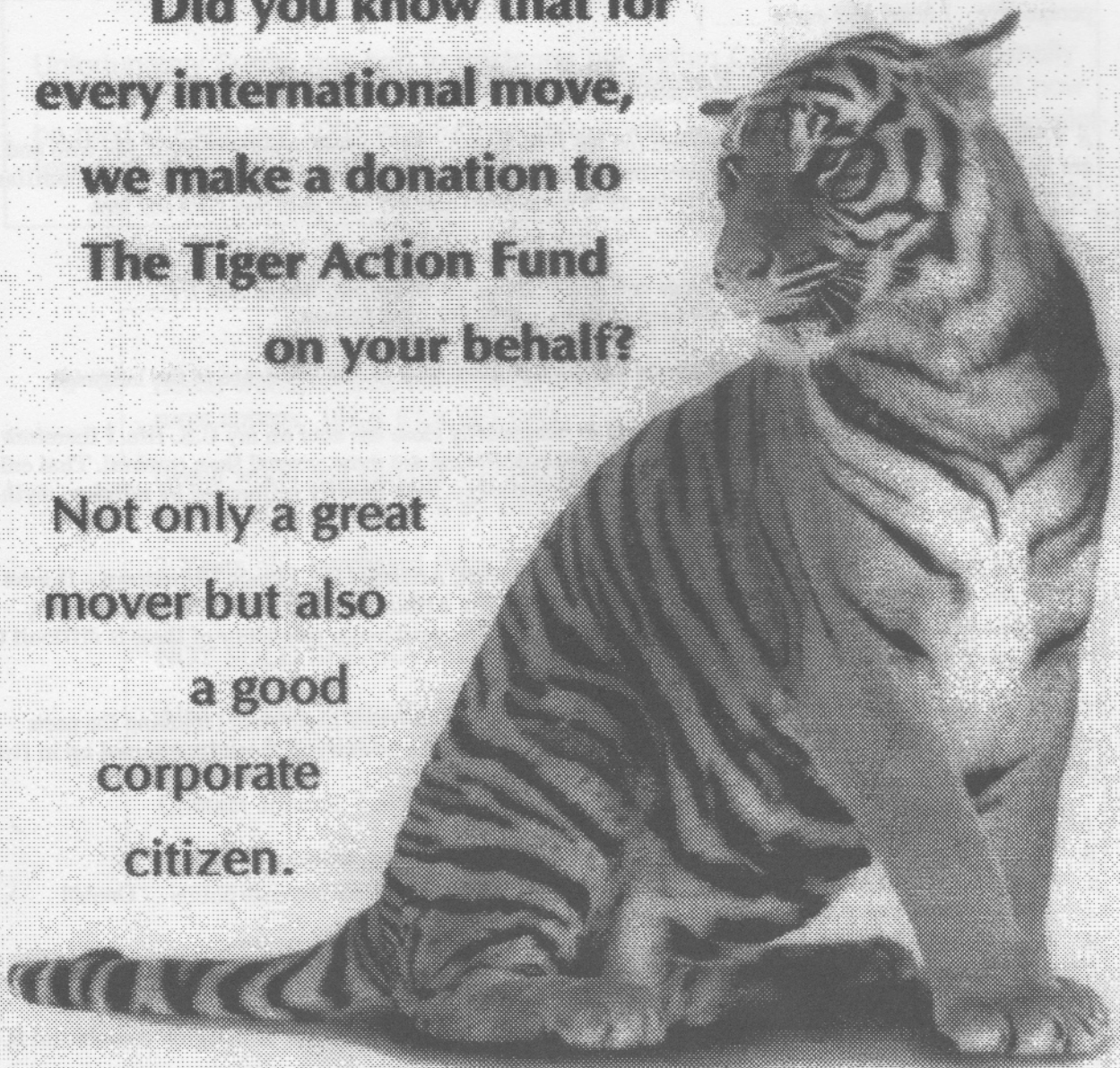
Please note the next newsletter will be a combined issue for December/January and the deadline is Friday 24th November. Please send your contributions to Andrea Williams:

email: andrea_bkk@hotmail.com

Telephone/Fax 316-5065

Did you know that for every international move, we make a donation to The Tiger Action Fund on your behalf?

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