

SENDER: S.I.L.C. EDITOR  
35/246, SOI 5/9, MOOBAAN LADAWAN  
SRINAKARIN ROAD  
BANGPLEE, SAMUTPRAKARN 10540



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1997

# SAMUTPRAKARN INTERNATIONAL LADIES CLUB

Committee Members and Activity Leaders  
Call these ladies for more information on club activities.

## **PRESIDENT**

Felicity Dent 758 6492  
Fax: 758 6493

## **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Jeannette Adamson 336 0944  
Fax: 336 0944

## **NEWCOMERS**

Krystyna Pawlowicz 751 9863

## **SECRETARY**

Lorraine Longden 316 4051  
Fax: 316 4051

## **TREASURER**

Doreen Grey 316 8503

## **NEWSLETTER**

Marilyn Moffatt 758 6884  
Fax: 758 5556

## **MEMBERSHIP RECORDS**

Tammy Haas 754 8534  
Fax: 754 8535

## **CLASSES**

Helen Frost 317 1132

## **WELFARE**

Paradee Narkphanchiwan 398 5796  
Fax: 748 7845

## **COFFEE MORNINGS**

Isabella Henderson 758 6726  
Fax: 758 6727

## **LUNCHESES:**

Asa H Olsson 316 8577  
Fax: 316 8578

## **TOURS**

Lesley Evans 316 5065  
Fax: 316 5065

## **GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Teresa Sarhan 316 3978  
Fax: 316 3978

Anky Kennedy 316 4074  
Fax: 399 4679

Helena Kruizenga 758 7191  
Fax 758 7202

## **ORGANISATION OF THE CLUB**

S.I.L.C. creates an opportunity for women of all nationalities living in the Samutprakarn area to meet socially and participate in a variety of activities without travelling into Bangkok. We invite members to join monthly meetings, excursions and interest groups. Members pay an annual fee of 500 baht to cover costs and receive a monthly newsletter and club directory. Application forms are available from Tammy Haas, Krystyna Pawlowicz or any of the committee members.

## **NEWSLETTER**

The newsletter is published once a month from September through July with articles, letters, information and diary dates on club activities. All manner of contributions are welcome and can be sent directly to the editor or handed in during a monthly meeting. Advertisements are published at a small fee and the deadline for all contributions is the 15th of the month.

## **MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS**

Club meetings are usually held the first Monday of each month. Venues for the meeting vary and are published in the newsletter. The meeting starts at 8.00pm and lasts approximately two hours. Everyone is encouraged to attend and visitors are welcome.

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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



# DIARY DATES - NOV '97-JAN '98

## CHRISTMAS DINNER/PARTY

**DATE:** Saturday 22nd November  
**TIME:** 7.00 pm - 2.00am  
**PLACE:** Novotel Bangna  
**COST:** 1200 baht each

This year a professional DJ has been hired and we are planning on having a *great party*. Pre-dinner drinks will start at 7pm and wine, beer and soft drink are included in the ticket price. The 5 course dinner starts at 8pm and with a menu choice of Turkey, Snapper or Vegetarian cutlets. After dinner there will be *dancing, dancing* and even *more dancing*.



Door prizes and the inevitable Bangkok raffle will be on offer. We still need more prizes so if your company can help (goods, money, champagne etc) or you can approach a local business that we use a lot - please call Marilyn. The party is on this Saturday so if you still haven't got your ticket then you had better call **and get it right now (like Today!)**

Tel Marilyn 758 6884

(also see advertisement later in newsletter)

## NOVEMBER COFFEE

**DATE:** Thursday 27th November  
**TIME:** 9.30am  
**PLACE:** Kathy Arrindell's  
35/195, Soi 5/11  
**RSVP:** Kathy Arrindell 758 7121  
Isabella Henderson 758 6726



This is our last adult function for 1997, so come along and enjoy some *eggnog and mince pies and a Christmas quiz (prizes for the winning teams!)* provided by Kathy and Isabella. Celebrate Christmas and say farewell to those members leaving Bangkok and S.I.L.C. Remember to call and let the hostess know if you are coming

## CHILDREN'S XMAS PARTY

**DATE:** Wednesday 10th December  
**TIME:** 2.30 - 5.30PM  
**PLACE:** Susan Holland's  
740 Lakeside Villa I

**Everyone bring food to share**

**RSVP:** Nadine Bellemans 316 8144



After last year's success all the little ones will be so excited to come and see Father Christmas again. The advertisement later in the newsletter provides all the details you need to know. Don't forget to get your presents in early.

## JANUARY QUIZ NIGHT

**DATE:** Monday 12th January  
**TIME:** 8pm  
**PLACE:** To be advised in January newsletter  
**RSVP:** Isabella Henderson 758 6726

This will be our first meeting for 1998. Come along and make up teams of four to tackle Isabel's Quiz. If you left your brain behind at the New Year - don't worry - come along for a laugh anyway, you never know what you might know! Prizes for winners - and losers. The venue will be given in the January newsletter. If you don't receive your newsletter on time then ask Isabella when you RSVP, but make a note of the date now.

## January Committee Meeting

**DATE:** Thursday 8th January 1998  
**TIME:** 9.00am  
**PLACE:** Helen Frost's  
734 Lakeside Villa I

*Apologies only to Felicity Dent 758 6492*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have to start with a heartfelt "thank-you" to Teresa for doing such a wonderful job at the S.I.L.C. Bazaar! Many, many members have commented how much they enjoyed the morning and how well it was run. Teresa moved among the many vendors solving all the inevitable problems with enviable "jai yen" ("cool heart"). Are you sure you don't have any Thai blood in your veins Teresa?

For those of you who don't know, Teresa organised the whole affair with a committee of one (herself!)... and there were no arguments! It was a very happy, busy morning and we certainly had the customers - 97 in all, up on last year. Thank you to, Angela Boner who stepped in at the eleventh hour, allowing us to use her home as the venue owing to the inconsiderate timing of a bunch of malevolently-minded termites at Wendy's!

Now we are onto our next big function - the S.I.L.C. Christmas Party. The menu has been rigorously checked out by Marilyn and Kathy Arrindell who astonished onlookers at the Novotel recently by sitting down, all alone, to a mammoth gourmet feast - all done purely in the aid of research, of course. We are assured the food is excellent - as will be the party atmosphere and music, too. If you haven't secured your place yet, buy your tickets now. This is our "do" - don't miss it.

Welcome to our new committee member - Isabella Henderson, recently arrived in Bangkok - has stepped in to take over the role of organising the Coffee mornings. We look forward to the Christmas coffee morning where Isabella and Kathy have planned some Christmas goodies to eat and a bit of fun.

You might have noticed a new advertiser in our newsletter this month - Khun Jentana runs an agency of teachers of the Thai language. Many S.I.L.C. members are already "*puut passat Tai-ing*" with one of Jentana's teachers - and will highly recommend her. Give her a call, and learn to speak Thai in 1998.

It has been noticed that over the past few months some members have been valiantly 'doing their bit' to increase our ever-growing membership. These newcomers prove charming, demanding and very noisy, but please note they won't be eligible to stand for the committee - just yet! Many congratulations to all S.I.L.C. families with a "new arrival".

**Felicity Dent**

### TRANSPO INTERNATIONAL *Local and International Movers*

Transpo sponsor us by advertising in our newsletter each month. When asking for a quotation, please mention you are in S.I.L.C. You will receive excellent service (they will even put up your pictures for you!) and competitive rates. Just ask any of our members who have used them. Remember Transpo can help you move within Bangkok as well as internationally.



### Karen Albrecht Donation

In June, Karen Albrecht, co-founder of S.I.L.C., died in Australia after a battle with breast cancer. In our July newsletter moving tributes were written about Karen. S.I.L.C. members donated 3,800 baht in Karen's memory and this money, together with other donations from the many in Bangkok who knew Karen (a total of \$940 Aust) was sent to the Anti-Cancer Council in Victoria, Australia. Annette has received a letter back from the Council acknowledging our donation and advising that the contribution has been directed towards breast cancer research via one of the programs at Victoria's hospitals, institutes and universities.



# S.I.L.C. CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday 22nd November, 1997  
Novotel Hotel, Srinakarin Road  
7.00pm - 2.00am

Tickets 1200 Baht  
(per head)  
includes 5 course  
traditional Christmas  
dinner, wine, beer,  
soft drink, dancing  
and prizes.

## Dress

Smart casual (men - a  
ties & jacket are  
optional)

Add a Xmas festive  
touch to your dress



## Music

Professional DJ, Paul  
Jackson, will play  
your requests from  
the "60's to the 90's"

## Gift

Each couple, please  
bring a gift (max value  
150 baht, marked with  
age & sex) to be  
distributed to our  
welfare kindergartens

## MENU

*Roasted pumpkin & carrot soup*  
*Salmon mousse with Chiang Mai greens*  
*Lime Sorbet*  
*Turkey with giblet stuffing & cranberry sauce, roast potatoes*  
*or Snapper with herbed wine sauce, rice pilaf*  
*or Vegetable cutlets, roast potatoes,*  
*all served with carrots & broccoli in orange hollandaise sauce*  
*Christmas log*  
*Tea/Coffee & Christmas cookies*

If you want to join our party HURRY and  
tel Marilyn 758 6884 for your tickets

## Letter from the Editor

This is the last newsletter for 1997 but it seems very early to be saying *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*. As well as the usual notices there is an interesting letter from Melanie Johnston - a long time S.I.L.C. member who left earlier this year for China. I also have copied an article on preparing for impending parenthood. With all the births we have had lately, and even more to come, I thought this was timely. If you have children it will certainly make you laugh - if you are thinking about having children then better you don't read it!

Thank you to everyone who writes articles for the newsletter each month. I really appreciate any travel reports, reviews, recipes and items that you have. Don't worry if you feel your English is not good enough - it's nice to get an International flavour to our newsletter as after all we are an International group. I would especially like to thank two members who make my job easier - Asa who promptly sends all the information I need (sometimes the same day as the committee meeting!), and Tammy who has the onerous job of keeping membership details up-dated on her computer, supplying me with labels for the newsletter, birthday names etc. If you change address, phone/fax numbers, know someone who has left Bangkok, or we have missed your birthday then please let Tammy know so she can up-date the records.

We try and hand deliver most of the newsletters so that you are kept up-to-date on events happening. If you receive yours by mail, I apologise that it often takes 3 weeks to travel a couple of kilometres. We do print details of events well in advance if possible. Everyone please write down the dates in your diary - and take note of RSVP details.

Usually the deadline for the newsletter is 15th of the month with delivery around the 25th. This month's newsletter is distributed a little earlier to remind you all to buy your tickets for our Christmas party. Due to the holidays the dates for the January 1998 newsletter will be:

**Deadline: 22nd December**  
**Distribution: 6th January**

Marilyn

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

#### In December to:

Elin Bodin	Roseli Dudman
Rachelle Humphrey	Rosie Jope
Helena Kruiuzenga	Isabel Mitchell
Carmen Schuster	Kerry Thomas
Suzanne Viriyanon	

### FAREWELL & BEST WISHES

Lena Svedberg  
Sue Fossilo

### CONGRATULATIONS



*To Sue and Pakasit Viriyanon on the birth of their son, Ryan Pakasit, born 9th August.*

*To Helen and Julian Frost on the birth of their son, Jordan, on 29th October.*

*To Roseli and Jonathon Dudman on the birth of their daughter, Larissa, on 9th November.*



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### TENNIS

#### **LAKESIDE VILLA 1:**

Tuesday & Thursday 8am - 10am

Tel Helen Frost 317 1132  
Wendy Chang 316 4011

Sunday 4pm - 6pm  
Friendly Mixed Doubles

Tel Val Ashman 316 8145  
Wendy Chang 316 4011

### TAE KWON DO

#### **LADAWAN:**

Tuesday & Thursday 5.00 - 6.00pm

Tel Anna Leong 385 8712/  
758 6984

#### **LAKESIDE VILLA 2:**

Tuesday & Thursday 6.30 - 7.30pm

Tel Wendy Chang 316 4011

#### **LAKESIDE VILLA 1 (residents only):**

Saturday 3.00 - 5.00pm

### MEDITATION

Ladawan meditation classes are cancelled from now, re-commencing on Monday 12th January. You are welcome to attend the Monday class (9.30am) at Sunita's on Lakeside II, but please phone Sunita 316 4097 to let her know if you will be going.

### AEROBICS

#### **LADAWAN:**

Isabella Henderon's class: 758 6726

Tuesday (100 baht) 9.15am

Thursday (100 baht) 7.30pm

Kathy Arrindell's class: 758 7121

Wednesday (70 baht) 9.15am

### AQUA-AEROBICS

#### **LAKESIDE VILLA 1:**

Monday 8.30am

#### **LADAWAN: (+ 70 baht pool entry)**

Friday 10.30am

#### **SANTIKAM:**

Wednesday 4.30pm

Class Fee 100 baht

Tel Connie Ghannad 336 0925

### BRIDGE

If you would like to join a group of bridge players for weekly sessions;

Tel Hanne Sorenson 758 5934

### MAH-JONG

#### **THANA CITY:**

Wednesday morning  
at Julie Thompson's, Apartment 3A1,  
Prestige Condo PC5, Thana City

Tel Julie Thompson 336 0543

### GOLF

#### **WEDNESDAYS:**

##### **18 HOLES:**

Tel Val Ashman 316 8145

##### **9 HOLES:**

Tel Dianne Hooper 385 8729

### ARTS & CRAFTS

#### **LAKESIDE VILLA 1:**

Friday 9am - 12noon  
at Cheryl Lamb's, 758 Lakeside 1. Everyone  
welcome (skilled or not!). For more info;

Tel Helen Frost 317 1132

Cheryl Lamb 316 8157

## Combined Women's Lunch "Showcase of the World"

16 October 1997

I wonder in which language I should write? English or Greek! But I guess English will be easier for my friend Marilyn to type, and perhaps for you to follow!!

This was the second occasion on which I have enjoyed the International Women's lunch. Once again we emptied our husband's wallets at the charity bazaar, buying beautiful Christmas decorations, jewelry, silk, wood carvings, etc.

Tired of depleting the stalls we adjourned for lunch to the beautifully decorated room at the hotel, where from the first moment we were entranced by the wonderful performance of the Master of Ceremonies. He truly amazed us with his magical tricks (how did he suspend those people in the air like that?).

Maybe we were a little disappointed with the lunch (fish in banana sauce!), and we might have enjoyed good old fish and chips more, but the prizes from the Lucky Draw and Charity Raffle made it taste delicious!

What about the songs and dances from around the world? The Brazilian girls with their exotic Samba! The Turkish belly dance made me want to go and join them (in my youth I was really quite good at this dance!!) Let's not forget the French performance of the Can Can which so took the waiters by surprise that they forgot to serve the coffee!! To cap this, the waltz from the Austrians with their wonderful coordination and traditional attire. Such romance!!

I could continue to write about the other dance performances, space permitting. Enough to say they were all excellent and most entertaining.

I should just conclude by saying a wonderful time was had by all, and say congratulations to the Organising Committee, and thanks for the generous donations from our sponsors.

I hope I shall be here next year to share the occasion once again and enjoy another fantastic day with the International Women's Group of Thailand.

**Kiki Player**

## Pot Luck Lunch at Annette Faherty's

A select group of S.I.L.C. ladies braved the traffic to spend a delightful lunchtime at Annette's restful apartment. Apart from eating too much (the food was wonderful - and enough to feed all of S.I.L.C.) we broke into a bottle of wine and solved most of the world's problems with no trouble at all, over quiche and tuna bake.

We welcomed two new members - both of whom have been in Bangkok for approximately 2 months. Michelle Pease - glad to have you with us - and Miss Isabel Towell, who is going to break hearts - but won't be eligible for voting rights at our next AGM (Isabel is 7 weeks old). Much fun was had by all playing that old favourite 'pass the baby' while Mum TRIED to eat some lunch!

Thank-you, Annette, for being the perfect hostess and making us all feel so welcome.

**Felicity Dent**

## Gemstones Talk

-by Ashoo S. Chawla

Husbands read no further! The good/bad news (depending on your sex) is that good quality gemstones are definitely a bargain in Thailand. Ashoo explained to an enthralled audience - some avidly taking notes, mentioning no names..... that this is THE place to buy that ruby or sapphire you've set your heart on. Ashoo recommended buying cut stones, and then having them set, from a reputable dealing. Buying directly from a gem dealer cuts out too many middle men - and means you get more for your money-and you will not be cheated. A good stone is judged on the colour, clarity, cut and size. "Pigeon's blood" red is the most prized colour for rubies, rather than the pale pinker tones, which tend to be cheaper. Ashoo gave a most interesting and informative talk - and passed around a tray of magnificent stones. She will willingly advise you on a purchase and offered to show small groups around her gem-cutting business at a later date.

continued on next page.....



## Gemstone's Talk contd.

If you are interested in gemstones Ashoo recommends visiting the "Bangkok Gems & Jewellery fair", held in the Queen Sirikit Centre twice yearly (usually March and September). Real bargains can be had here particularly on the last day, apparently!

Many thanks to Ashoo for her most interesting talk and to Sunita for hosting the event and for providing some delicious Indian finger-foods for us all to sample.

**Felicity Dent**

### JANUARY DIARY DATES

#### LUNCH:

Thursday 15th January  
Japanese Restaurant, Central

#### COFFEE MORNING:

Thursday 22nd January

#### PRASART MUSEUM TOUR:

Possibly - Friday 30th January

#### FEB MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 2nd February

Full details will be in your January newsletter - out on Tuesday 6th January.

## Welfare Bazaar

Another successful S.I.L.C. Bazaar, due mainly to Teresa who co-ordinated the whole event. So a big **Thank you** for Teresa, also to Angela Boner for allowing us to take-over her house at such short notice. Also many thanks to Jacqui and Cliff Grove who ferried 10 very heavy tables back and forth from school and to all our helpers on the day.

97 people came to the 30 odd stalls at the bazaar. I think everyone had a good social time as well as buying early (?) Christmas presents, cards plus goodies for families and ourselves.

Ladies outdid themselves bringing lots of baking for morning tea, thank you to all. It is with this great participation and effort that our events turn out so well.

Most of the stall -holders donated raffle prizes so there were a lot of prizes and a lot to choose from. Congratulations to the winners of the wine and general raffle.

Several members thought that we take a percentage of the stall-holders revenue which is not the case. Each vendor is charged 500 baht to have a stall and is expected to donate a prize to the raffle table. The rest of the money collected is from door admissions, sale of raffles and 2nd hand books and videos.

The net amount we made for Welfare is **31,217.50 baht.**

**Well Done Ladies.**

**Doreen Grey**

## ARTS & CRAFTS

Each Friday morning a group of members interested in arts & crafts projects meet at Cheryl Lamb's house in Lakeside I, from 9am - 12noon. Some members bring along a project and work on it during the session, others are willing to teach members a particular skill they have, and some come along simply to enjoy some companionship, watch what other members are doing and perhaps get some ideas for a project of their own. The group would also like to hold specific teaching sessions, which would be advertised in the newsletter in advance and open to any member to attend. If you have a skill you are willing to share please call **Helen Frost Tel 317 1132** to arrange a date.

# WELFARE NEWS

## Swimathon Fund

In May our children raised 30,000 baht in a swimathon for the Pong Ploy Centre. So far 15,600 baht has been used to purchase 8 wooden desks and chairs, a cabinet and 4 dining tables. It is intended that the remainder of the money (14,600 baht) will be used to purchase a large item needed by the centre. It is planned that children who took part in the swimathon can go along to Pong Ploy after the New Year to present this item. See January newsletter for more details.

## Pong Ploy New Year Party

This will be held on Tuesday 16th December, 9.30 -11.30am. All S.I.L.C. members are welcome to attend. A small present will be given to each of the children.

## Concordia Christmas Party

Scheduled for Friday 19th December, 9.00am - 12 noon, again all S.I.L.C. members are welcome. Lunch will be provided and the presents collected from the S.I.L.C Christmas Party on 22nd November will be distributed here.

## Welfare Sub-committee

A welfare Sub-committee exists, consisting mainly of those who visit the local pre-schools etc that we support. Apart from co-ordinating the programme for these visits this committee advises the main committee on where best we can spend our welfare funds. Thanks to the annual bazaar and special projects like the swimathon we have built up a reasonable welfare fund (which is kept separate from our main funds). The committee would welcome any ideas you may have on welfare projects we could support, as well as anyone that is interested in joining this sub-committee to help.

Please tel **Paradee 398 5796**

## Educational Sponsorship

We will be providing sponsorship for the education of 2 children through the International Support Group Educational Sponsorship Programme. This will cost us 3,000 baht per child and we intend continuing this sponsorship for the remainder of the children's education (i.e. 3,000 baht each per year). Once our children have been selected by the ISG then we hope to be able to bring you more personal information about them and also follow their educational progress.

Details of the ISG Educational Sponsorship Programme were advertised in the October newsletter. Individuals or families might also like to consider sponsoring a child - an ideal 'Christmas Gift' from your family. If you would like to discuss this with ISG, please Tel 252 8594, Fax 679 8519. The ISG also operate a Trust Fund to cover shortages in sponsorship (eg if a sponsor pulls out) and donations are also sought for this fund.

## IV Sets

100 IV sets for children's use have been donated to a public clinic (cost 3,500 baht)

## Class Changes

Please note that the following changes have been made to classes (see the new schedule for each activity on the 'Classes' page):

### Aerobics

Isabella Henderson now takes the Tuesday morning and Thursday evening classes at Ladawan. Kathy Arrindel will take the Wednesday morning class. (NB: Last class 1997=3rd Dec, first class 1998= 7th Jan)

### Aqua-aerobics

Connie is no longer holding the Wednesday class at Ladawan pool.

**Please ask your class leader about the class schedules for the Christmas holidays**





Tis the season to be jolly.....tra la la la , la la la.....

**Children's Christmas Party, 2.30pm - 5.30pm, December 10, 1997**  
**740 Lakeside Villa I, Bangna Trad Rd, KM 5.5**

The children's Xmas party has become somewhat of a tradition for S.I.L.C. and the little ones truly enjoy the opportunity to meet Santa and have a party dedicated to their enjoyment. This year we have planned several games aimed at all age groups and will try and ensure that the really little ones don't wait too long to get their present.

What do need from the Mum's and Dad's ?

- \* A present wrapped and labeled with your child's name and age and if you wish a short message for Santa to pass on to the child. Could you please limit the cost of the gift to 150 baht per child. If you wish you can use the labels provided below.
- \* We need to feed the hungry hoards and would like to offer as much "healthy" food as possible. We would like to ask each parent whose child (or children) are participating to a bring plate of food. Drinks will be provided by S.I.L.C.
- \* Last, but not least.! In the true sprit of Christmas we would like to ask the children to bring their small change to give to children less fortunate than themselves.

To streamline coordination of the party we ask you to RSVP to only one person; **Nadine Bellemans at 316-8144**. When you call Nadine, please inform her what type of food you can bring just so we don't end up with lot's of tuna sandwiches and no fruit!

There are two drop off points for the children's presents;

**Dana Martin : 35/244 Soi 5/9 Moobaan Ladawan, phone: 758 6581**  
**Susan Holland : 740 Lakeside Villa I, phone: 316-1188**

-----  
 Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's age: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's age: \_\_\_\_\_

Santa's message: \_\_\_\_\_ Santa's message: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)

## Letter from Melanie

October 1997

Hello to all the S.I.L.C. ladies. To some of those who do not know me I'm one of those brave souls who's moved to China. And I don't mean Hong Kong! I do miss S.I.L.C. and the community of Bangkok. It has been six months since resettling and we're beginning to love this country.

We live on the island of Hainan, about as large as Taiwan, a province all on it's own. We are about 1 1/2 hours from the two major cities. I expect city or not, life is about the same anywhere in China.

The people are wonderful. Helpful, concerned to the point of being curious ( although not as obvious as the Thais), warm (again not as much as the Thais) and friendly. I get a lot of stares, as foreigners are rare here.

We actually live at a hotel, Kangle Garden Resort. That has taken some getting used to but now I like having electricians, plumbers, maids and bellboys at my fingertips! The hotel managers are great people and take good care of us.

The local food is very bland (unlike other regions of China) so we do most of our own cooking. All foodstuffs are ordered through the restaurant so we tend to get 25 kilos of NZ butter, 12 litres of Australian UHT milk and 30 kilos of flour at a time! Cheeses are brought in through our friends from HK. We have access to NZ tenderloin beef and USDA prime sirloin steaks. They make a very good hamburger when ground! The seafood is excellent.

Our local fresh market is really superior, as this is a major agricultural area for China. We get beautiful fruits and vegetables so cheap. We buy our pork from the farmers at the market and it is really great, as this is the major protein for the Chinese. Black peppercorns and robusta coffee are local products.

Lifestyle has become routine. Visits to the golf course site where my husband Cecil works is usual. Everyone is home by 1.00pm and napping until 3.00pm (a nice touch). Then back to work until 6.00pm. Fishing, swimming, bike riding and bowling top the list for entertainment. I do a lot of reading and crafts as well as taking care of family needs. We have cable TV because we are a 4 star hotel but most people have 3 Chinese government stations. No radio on the island!

The island is a mix of locals, displaced overseas Chinese from the mainland and Malay, Indonesian and Thai Chinese so the dialects are really varied. Most people at the resort speak "pu tong hua" a kind of nationally spoken language. I'm grateful that I learned Thai as it takes some of the fear out of learning this huge and diverse language.

The environment is very fresh here. It could be 20 years in the past in many towns around us. Lots of farms, rice fields and buffaloes, green mountains, rivers, hot springs and reservoirs, white sand, unspoiled beaches and tropical vegetation. The climate is similar to Hawaii. Clean air, ladies!

I hope all is well with everyone. Keep up the good work with S.I.L.C. I sure will miss the bazaar this year! Have fun. Feel free to contact me and come for a visit.

**Melanie.**

**melaniejohnston@hotmail.com**  
**Kangle garden resort**  
**Xinglong, Wanning**  
**Hainan, China 571533**  
**(86 898) 255-5211 Direct line**  
**(86 898) 255-4140 Fax**

*"The shortest distance between two points is always under construction"*  
(so true, so true, in Bangkok)

*- Noelle Alito*



# TRAVELOGUE

## HANOI

Determined to visit Vietnam while here I finally got the chance to spend a 3 day weekend in Hanoi (without husband or children). My sister was touring Vietnam at the time and we met up with her boyfriend (who lived in Ho Chi Minh, ex Saigon) on the 4th July. I had been warned not to take any jewelry or prized possessions - due mainly to pick-pockets - but also because you need to list for customs **everything** that you are entering the country with (including the titles of any books). It is very important to hold onto your copy of this form that they give you - you need to show it at the airport when departing - to prove you are leaving with everything you brought in to the country.

We spent a few hours wandering around the fascinating inner city streets. Our hotel was in the Old Quarter, each street here was named after the original goods sold there. The architecture of these old shopfronts was amazing, borrowing heavily from the French influence they were often only 2 metres wide (and up to 4/5 stories high). Apparently taxes used to be determined on your shopfront width.

That evening we celebrated the 4th July with the American ex-pats - even meeting the new American Ambassador who once was a prisoner of war for 5 years in Hanoi during the Vietnam War. What an incredible man to be able to put that all behind him and return in such a position. The Vietnamese themselves don't seem to harbour any grudges either as we then continued our celebrations in a new bar called 'Apocalypse Now' - filled with mangled wrecks of helicopters and other war reminders.

Unfortunately we must have celebrated too much because we slept in the next morning (no children you see) and were too late to see some of the sights. Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum is only open from about 7.30am - 11am. We did however make it the next morning. If you read the guide books carefully you discover that foreigners can go to a special booth and are whisked straight to the front of the 3km queue. It's a quick walk around the body and then a look through his war headquarters and museum. Many of the sights are only open for short hours and on certain days so you need to plan your trip carefully. The 'Lonely Planet' guide is excellent. The War Museum was also interesting - particularly the section on the 'War Mothers' who are a very revered group of Vietnamese Society. The Water Puppet Show, on in the evenings, is another 'must see'.

Hanoi is not a shopping mecca - there are no malls! The narrow streets are lined with goods and best bargains were caps and straw hats, T-shirts, linen, pottery. The clothing and silk is inferior to Thai. Very little bargaining is done in the true markets (maybe \$1 -\$2 off) as prices are ridiculously cheap anyway. We did find the street hawkers very aggressive compared to Thailand and were often followed by beggars for miles.

The best news is that the shops open at 8am!!! We also spent a lot of time in the many art galleries as we found the local art very striking.

Mostly however I enjoyed just walking around the streets for that authentic feel of 'the sights and sounds of Asia' and especially around the lake in the middle of the city. This has trees(!), outdoor cafe's (so plenty of stops for coffee and pastries) etc and feels very European. There are some great restaurants too - both of Vietnamese and French influenced food.

The small hotel we stayed in, The Continental, also reminded me of those in Europe. Just one or two rooms per floor, and up very narrow steps, these were clean and comfortable and a bargain at only around \$15 (US) per night, including a bathroom. No need to stay in 5 star hotels here. The staff spoke good English and were very friendly and helpful.

Hanoi is a very compact city - we got around either by walking or catching 'cyclos', for a cost of \$1 - \$2. We had some hilarious 'charade' performances to try and describe where we wanted to go. The streets are full of cyclists and motorcyclists, with cars a rarity. We soon got used to just walking across the stream of bikes - they make way for you - but we couldn't help screaming everytime we crossed an intersection whilst on a cyclo - everyone just goes together! While we struggled to fit two large foreigners on one cyclo we did see a family of Mum and four children on another.

The local currency is 'dongs' but each note isn't worth much (how familiar!) and American dollars are the most useful - in small denominations. Credit cards can be used in some shops, restaurants etc.

Altogether a wonderful experience - so completely different to Bangkok. I am sure Vietnam will change quickly so it's worth seeing now. You can do all that's necessary by flying over on Friday morning and back on Monday afternoon (possibly squeezing it into one day less if you don't waste time celebrating like we did). Now my sister will be living in Ho Chi Minh that will be a definite visit for me.

Marilyn

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Details on hotels, restaurants, sights etc \*  
\* from Hanoi and other places members \*  
\* have visited can be found in our \*  
\* Travelogue. This book is available to read \*  
\* at all S.I.L.C. functions. Please add \*  
\* information about any trips, hotels etc you \*  
\* make to our Travelogue. I welcome all \*  
\* travel stories for the newsletter. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

# NOTICEBOARD

## PRANDA JEWELRY

The manufacturers of **Prima Gold** will be having a public sale during December - date to be confirmed. If enough people are interested they will open especially for us. Other jewelry in 18ct and diamonds and a big range of fashion jewelry also available. Please contact **Jacqui 385 8468** if you are interested before December 1st.

## ARE YOU SPENDING CHRISTMAS IN LADAWAN?

If you are one of the many families wanting to have a 'traditional' Christmas at home, opening pressies and having a traditional Turkey lunch etc.... but don't know what to do for the afternoon, please let me know. I am trying to co-ordinate a family gathering either at the pool or in a large garden (any offers welcome). Perhaps Father Christmas could pay a last minute call too?

**Tel Jacqui 385 8468**

## OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT WANTED

If you have any outdoor play equipment for sale that is suitable for children please

**Tel Carina 758 6768**

**HERBALIFE**- weight management programmes and **Dermajetics** - skincare products (some lovely gift ideas for men and women). Available from Jacqui anytime (Moobaan Ladawan) **Tel/fax 385 8468**

Please note **Anna Leong's** new address: 33/218, Soi 6/6, Ladawan.

**Tel 758 7339-40, Fax 758 6984**

# JA

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*Jentana Ngamkiaw*



## Where did you get that.....that?

If you have stumbled across a new shop, service, entertainment etc that you can recommend please send details to the newsletter editor (get a business card if possible). The following have been personally recommended by members - remember though that opinions can vary!

**Leather Goods** - try Miss Jinny at Jinny Leather Goods, 286 Silom Village Centre, Silom Road. They have a wide range of leather goods and also make to order,

**Rich Tailor** - 1274 New Road Near Oriental Hotel. Tel 233 0589. Khun Prakrit (the owner) actually lives in Ladawan Village and has made clothes for some of the men. You can arrange to call at his house on a Sunday, or late in the evening, and he will bring samples and do all fittings in the village. Very handy if you have visitors or don't wish to go into town for fittings etc.

**Hairdresser** - "Hair Decor", 5th Floor Central. Khun Nong is a very good stylist, if you can ignore the mess and usual hair all over the floor! 200baht wash, cut and blow dry. Many teenagers like.

**Good Books** - "Mai Pen Rai means Never mind" by Carol Hollinger. A very witty and affectionate tale of one American housewife's love affair with the people of Thailand. Set about 1960 - but still very relevant and funny today. Many little anecdotes you can associate with.

- "A Kid's Guide to Bangkok and the Eastern Seaboard" by Jennifer Sharples. (available Asia Books - yellow paperback). Crammed full of unusual places to visit, shopping, sports, restaurants and "odd facts". A great little book to refer to for those 1/2 term and odd day holidays.

**Sheets to Fit!** - Thailand- little people, big beds - and where do you find plain sheets that don't cost an arm and a leg? 'Samphol Bedding & Mattress' on Srinakarin Rd. On left hand side (driving north i.e. opposite Seacon), about 1km past Seacon Square. Many colours etc can be ordered, prices are reasonable e.g. -

180 thread, 100 % cotton sheets, king size, white = 450 baht each.

Bedspreads can be custom made. Khun Ratana, the manager speaks good English. tel 322 4320 -2. Open 8am - 6pm.

### CSB CELEBRATION OF NATIONS

**DATE:** Wednesday 10th December  
**PLACE:** Hilton International Hotel Gallery  
**TIME:** 11am - 3pm

This fun-filled event for the whole family will feature holiday displays, live performances, Santa Claus (photo opportunity), various children's activities and CSB's famous talking Christmas tree.

Adults: 100 baht      Children under 12:  
50 baht.

### BOOK/VIDEO LIBRARY

Remember that S.I.L.C. runs a 'lending' library of books and videos. Simply contact the person closest to you (see list below) and pick up some new reading materials. Return the books/videos to any location. Donations of your unwanted books/videos are appreciated.

Ladawan - Julie Heather      385 8133  
Lakeside I - Doreen Grey      316 8503  
Lakeside II - Wendy Chang      316 4011  
Thana City - Julie Thompson      336 0543

.....be prepared *life as you know it is about to end*

Here are 12 simple tests all expectant parents should take to prepare themselves for the experience of a lifetime!

1. **Women:** to prepare for maternity, put on a dressing gown and stick a beanbag down the front. Leave it there for nine months. After nine months, take out 10 per cent of the beans.

2. **Men:** to prepare for paternity, go to your local pharmacy, tip the contents of your wallet on the counter and tell the pharmacist to help himself. Then go to the supermarket. Arrange to have your salary paid directly to their head office. Go home. Get the paper. **Read it for the last time.**

3. Before you actually have a baby, find a couple who are already parents and berate them about their methods of discipline, lack of patience, appallingly low tolerance levels and how they have allowed their children to run riot. Suggest ways in which they might improve their child's sleeping habits, toilet training, table manners and overall behaviour. **Enjoy it - it will be the last time in your life that you will have all the answers.**

4. To discover how the nights will feel, walk around the living room from 5pm to 10pm carrying a wet bag weighing approximately 4.5kg. At 10pm put the bag down, set the alarm for midnight and go to sleep. Get up at 12am and walk around the living room again, with the bag, until 1am. Put the alarm on for 3am. As you can't get back to sleep, get up at 2am and make a drink. Go to bed at 2.45am. Get up again at 3am when the alarm goes off. Sing songs in the dark until 4am. Put the alarm on for 5am. Get up. Make breakfast. keep this up for five years. Look cheerful.

5. **Can you stand the mess children make?** To find out, smear peanut butter onto the sofa and jam onto the curtains. Hide a fish finger behind the stereo and leave it there all summer. Stick your fingers in the flowerbeds, then rub them onto your clean walls. Cover your new stains with crayons. How does that look?

6. Dressing small children is not as easy as it seems. First, go out and buy an octopus and a string bag, then attempt to put the octopus into the string bag so that none of the arms hang out.

7. Take an egg carton. Using a pair of scissors and a pot of paint, turn it into an alligator. Now take a toilet-roll tube. Using only sticky tape and a piece of foil, turn it into a Christmas cracker. **Last, take a milk container, a ping-pong ball and an empty packet of Coco Pops and make an exact replica of the Eiffel Tower.** Congratulations. You have just qualified for a place on the playgroup committee.

8. Forget your zippy little Honda Civic and buy a van. And don't think you can leave it out in the driveway spotless and shining - family cars don't look like that. Buy a chocolate ice-cream bar and put it in the glove box. Leave it there. **Get a 10 baht coin, stick it in the cassette player.** Take a family-size packet of chocolate bickies. mash them down the back seat. Run a garden rake along both sides of the car. There. Perfect.

9. Get ready to go out. Wait outside the toilet for half an hour. Go out the front door. Come in again. Go out. Come back in. Go out again. Walk down the front path. Walk back up it. Walk down it again. Walk very slowly down the road for 5 minutes. Retrace your steps. Scream that you've had as much as you can stand until the neighbours come out and stare at you. Give up and go back in the house. You are now just about ready to take a small child for a walk. Always repeat everything you say at least 5 times.

10. Go to your local supermarket. **Take with you the nearest thing you can find to a preschool child - a fully grown goat is excellent. If you intend to have more than one child, take more than one goat.** Buy your week's groceries without letting the little goats out of your sight. Pay for everything the goats eat or destroy. Until you can easily accomplish this, do not even contemplate having children.

11. Hollow out a melon. Make a small hole in the side. Suspend it from the ceiling and swing it from side to side. **Now get a bowl of soggy cereal and attempt to spoon it into the swaying melon by pretending to be an aeroplane.** Continue until half the cereal is gone. Tip the rest into your lap, making sure that a lot of it falls on the floor. You are now ready to feed a 12-month-old baby.

12. Learn the names of every character from *Sesame Street*, *Bananas in Pyjamas* and *Postman Pat*. **When you find yourself singing the theme songs at work, you finally qualify as a parent.**

(Thanks to the anonymous authors of this story which has been borrowed from the Net)

**Editor's note:** I have had plenty of practice at rule No. 10.. One week, with a screaming 6 week-old baby, 20 month toddler, and rebellious 4 year-old in tow, I had to abandon my grocery shopping twice. On the third day the supermarket manager came up to me and said when I finished she would open a checkout counter especially for me. I never figured out whether she felt sorry for me or for all the other customers!





# WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(please add this page to your members directory)

## Yvonne Bray

Garden Towers, S-10A, 2/5 Moo 14  
Bangna Trad 6.5 Tel 751 9874  
751 9874

## Florence Jacobs

Prestige Condo, PC2, Apt 8B1  
Thana City  
Bangna Trad 14Km Tel 336 0685

## Michelle Pease

93/55, Moobaan Green Valley Golf  
Bangna Trad 14 KM Tel 312 5541  
Fax 312 5541

## Jaye Seaman

35/156, Soi 5/9  
Moobaan Ladawan Tel 758 6454

## Lena Trefner

Garden Towers, 14A, 2/4-5  
Bangna Trad 6.5KM Tel 751 9880

## Lynette Byers

Garden Towers, S2B, 2/4-5  
Bangna Trad 6.5KM Tel 751 9859

## Jan Parkin

33/127, Soi 4/3  
Moobaan Ladawan Tel 385 8421

## Silke Schmidt

35/277, Soi 5/8  
Moobaan Ladawan Tel 758 6800  
758 7335

## Lu Lu Vitoorapakorn

33/93, Soi 2/3  
Moobaan Ladawan Tel 383 6599  
Fax 383 6532

## Beatrice Sowden

Garden Towers, S-16B, 2/4-5  
Bangna Trad 6.5KM Tel 751 9885

## Merja Lehtonen

Garden Towers, S14B, 2/4-5  
Bangna Trad 6.5KM Tel 751 9881

## Julie Wadeson

Garden Towers, S5B, 2/4-5  
Bangna Trad 6.5Km Tel 751 9865  
Fax 751 9865

### New Fax Numbers:

Becky Hazelton Fax 385 8429  
Wendy Chang Fax 316 4011

We now have a membership total of over 110 members. Thanks to Krystyna's great efforts in recruiting so many new members from Garden Towers this month.

### **"A Women's Weekend Investigating the Nurturing Spirit of the Chao Phraya River"**

Saturday January 10th - Sunday January 11th 3,000baht (includes food & accommodation)

Run by 'Magic Eyes' - a Thai environmental program- you will cruise up the Chao Phraya aboard the converted traditional rice barge, the *Magic Eyes*, focusing on the beauty, culture, history and ecology of the waterway. The trip will include; exploring the Mon community of Ko Kret (famous for it's pottery), learn papermaking, massage therapy workshop, discussion on contemporary Thai environmental and women's issues, dinner, bed on the barge and canoeing along the small waterways of Mae Nam Noi. For more information Tel Michelle Zielinski, Magic Eyes Chao Phraya barge Program, Tel 439 4748, Fax 439 4754

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

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