

SILC NEWS



A publication of the Samutprakarn International Ladies Club

May 2012

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SILC AGM

Fri 11th May

9:00am

Bangkok Patana School

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Committee Members

Responsibility	Name	Telephone	Email
Chairman	Sarah Chaplin	089 205 1528	wwchaplins@hotmail.com
Vice Chairman	Kay Hickey	086 511 2442	hickey.kay@hotmail.com
Secretary	Angelique Leijdekker	082 009 9212	angelique.leijdekker@gmail.com
Treasurer	Betty Stewart	081 792 5367	bettystewarto@gmail.com
Coffee Mornings	Kay Hickey	086 511 2442	hickey.kay@hotmail.com
Tours	Mariska Abrahams	085 214 6900	mariska.abrahams@hotmail.com
Lunches	Jo Thomas	082 526 0260	johannethomas@hotmail.com
Membership	Geraldine McEvoy	082 204 9470	geraldine.mcevoy@hotmail.com
Welfare Coordinator	Shirley Tan	089 497 8318	forget.me.not1688@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Jan Briggs	085 556 4655	jan.briggs22@gmail.com
Advertising	Teresa Carr	085 556 8151	treindubai@yahoo.com
Bazaar	Wietske Smits Cheryl Rego	085 256 0962 081 889 5354	wiwikidssmits@hotmail.com Cheryl.rego1@gmail.com
Mahjong	Betty Stewart	081 792 5367	bettystewarto@gmail.com
General Committee	Chris Rajakarier Fiona Campbell Karyn Walker Ngoc Richt	081 136 4186 087 028 4694 081 862 2632 081 371 2107	crajakarier@googlemail.com fionakl@hotmail.co.uk karyn045@hotmail.com ngoc_richt@yahoo.com

Link Ladies

Area	Name	Telephone
Fantasia	Bianca Kleinherenbrink	089 160 0424
Ladawan	Shirley Tan	089 497 8318
Lakeside 1	Sarah Chaplin	089 205 1528
Lakeside 2	Jane Wise	087 050 0950
Nantawan	Ngoc Richt	081 371 2107
Thana City	Irene Gray	080 251 4440



Aims & Policies

Organisation of the Club

SILC 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, tours and interest groups. Members pay an annual fee of 800 Baht to cover costs and receive a newsletter and club directory.

Newsletter

The newsletter is published ten times a year with articles and information on club activities. Contributions are welcome and can be sent to the newsletter editor.

Committee Meetings

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

SILC Policy on Children

As the main purpose of SILC is to provide a network and support for its members, it is our policy that children do not attend functions and tours, except in the case of very young babies who are being breast-fed and/or cannot be left with a carer. Members with babies, toddlers and children are invited to join regular playgroups advertised in the SILC newsletter and special family activities. Details of contact names and numbers can be found in the newsletter.

Advertising

Advertising Information

Advertisements for non-profit community events are welcome and are free of charge.

Personal Advertisements for SILC members are free of charge.

Email reminders for SILC events and non-profit community events will be sent out free of charge other events must be advertised in our magazine.

Rates (per issue)

Full Page	1200 Baht
Half Page	600 Baht
Quarter Page	300 Baht
Flyer Insert	600 Baht

Discounts

Member	25%
Annual Contract	10%
(Contracts run June to May)	

Advertising requests and payment **must** be received prior to the published deadline.

Further details on advertising contact: Teresa Carr: treindubai@yahoo.com

Please send advertisement to: The Editor: Jan Briggs: jan.briggs22@gmail.com

To arrange payment contact: The Treasurer: Betty Stewart

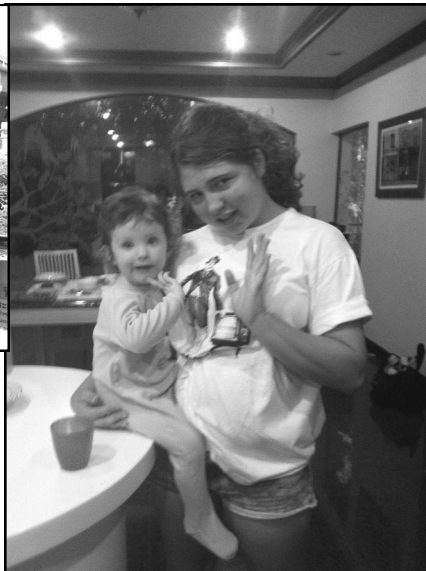
081 792 5367 / bettystewarto@gmail.com

From Sarah's Study

The Songkran holiday has flown by and I hope you've all had a great time. We had a fantastic sailing trip. Although the wind was a bit too light at times we still managed to stick to the plan and sail from Ko Samui to Ko Phangan (of full moon party fame) and then on to Ko Tao. The waters were clear and we enjoyed snorkeling in the quiet bays we moored in overnight. I was galley-slave, which wasn't too onerous a task with 2 barbeques planned and eating out the other evenings. I was very relieved about that as there is no a/c aboard and it does get pretty hot in the cabin! No guesses who was captain - Andy was in command of the ship! We also had two youthful crew members to man the ropes and winches. A great getaway from which we returned tired but refreshed to an extremely hot Bangkok.

I have written 26 'From Sarah' pages since I took over from Lian in October 2009 and over that time it has been great to get feedback as I then know people have read it. I have even had comments from husbands. For those of you who weren't in Bangkok in 2009 you might be wondering why I took over the role then? Lian was pregnant with triplets and often in Bumrungrad hospital so she had to step down. The rest of the committee persuaded me to take on the role. Oliver, Amelie and Isabelle celebrated their 2nd birthday in January and on this page there is a recent photo of Emily (my daughter) with Isabelle at Easter.

As I sorted out that photo I was looking through the photos I have taken in the last couple of months at so many SILC events and activities. I have also included a Songkran picture of my family, who are the biggest part of my life. The folder was full of pictures of Oliver swimming, Emily playing softball and our recent holiday.



In the past, after the AGM, the committee arranged a meal out. This year we would like to invite all our SILC members to join us for a very special evening at Khun Preeda's Thai house on Thursday 31st May 2012. We will have a tour followed by time to browse/shop for unique blue and white handmade porcelain pieces. After this a Khan Tok dinner will be served on the terrace so that we can enjoy the beauty of the surroundings at night. This is a traditional Northern dinner to welcome distinguished guests and it will be accompanied by candle/fingernail dance. The cost will be 600THB and BYO wine. The address is 45/6 Soi Rongjae, Off Rachadapisek Soi 32, Rachadapisek Rd. I will get more detailed info to all those who are coming nearer the time. Please RSVP to me wwchaplins@hotmail.com to reserve your place as numbers may be limited.

Many of us visited his amazing teak house in June 2010 on a SILC tour and as a reminder I have included some of the photos.

Thank you to **everyone** who has been involved in SILC over the last year. Whatever you have done it has helped to make it another great year and your contributions are appreciated by all the charities we support. I will be more specific at the AGM and hope you'll be there to hear me.

Sarah x



Deadline

Wednesday 23 May 2012 is the deadline for any articles for the June Newsletter.

If you have any recipes, book reviews, recommendations for holidays or questions for our bulletin board please forward them to the Newsletter Editor: jan.briggs22@gmail.com

Hosting? Need more chairs or spoons?

There is crockery and cutlery available for members to borrow when hosting a SILC event. For details contact Sarah: wwchaplins@hotmail.com

There are also folding chairs and some tables available to borrow for SILC events: For these contact: Betty: bettystewarto@gmail.com

Accounts

Summary Accounts 'till end of March 2012	
<u>Income</u>	
Subscriptions	฿ 2,400
Advertising	฿ 2,550
Interest	฿ 0
Mahjong Donations	฿ 4,990
Coffee Morning Donations	฿ 4,316
Book/DVD Sales	฿ 0
Donations - Misc	฿ 0
Total Income	฿ 14,256
<u>Operating Expenses:</u>	
Newsletter costs	฿ 2,207
Miscellaneous Activities/Functions	฿ 0
Total Operating Expenses	฿ 2,207
<u>Charitable Payments:</u>	
Mahawong + kitchen	฿ 6,589
Arts/Crafts/Activities	฿ 3,877
Chanukroh School	฿ 3,981
Christian Care - Children	฿ 2,066
Mahawong playground kit painting	฿ 4,469
TOTAL SILC Charitable Payments	฿ 20,982
Net Operating Profit	-฿ 8,933
<u>SAMUTPRAKARN INTERNATIONAL LADIES CLUB</u>	
<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>	
Opening Balance of Members' equity	฿ 255,010
Net Operating Profit	-฿ 8,933
Total Equity	฿ 246,077

Golf

SILC has a number of keen golfers in its midst. There are a couple of groups who play in the area at a variety of courses along the Bangna Trad. Some of us are beginners and others have more experience so if you want a game at any level then please get in touch. Even if you are new to the game it's totally different playing on a course to the driving range, so give it a try.

My contact details are: E-Mail bettystewarto@gmail.com or phone 02 316 6149 or 081 792 5367.

Betty Stewart
SILC Golfer!!



Regular Events

Mahjong

Takes place on Wednesdays

From approx 9.30am to 2.30pm

In members homes

Donation of 100b would be appreciated towards our Welfare Charities.

Guests very welcome, 200b/session

Contact **Betty Stewart**
081 792 5367
bettystewart@gmail.com



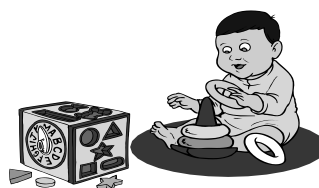
Thursday Playgroup

Playgroup every Thursday

Ages 0-4 years at members homes

Playgroup leader position vacant if interested:

Contact: **Sarah Chaplin**
089 205 1528
wwchaplins@hotmail.com



SILC Book Club

I am planning to start a book club. We will meet once a month, with the exception of July.

First meeting: Friday June 1, 1-2 pm to discuss The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins, at Julie Nguyen's house: 333/27 Baan Mailomruen Chareumprakiat Ror 9 Road (between Soi 43 and 45 just by Rama IV park in Bangna).

Hurry and start reading, but don't worry, if you don't get through the book, please join us because you can also just share whatever you're reading.

Bring along your ideas for future books and we can start to formulate a list for the upcoming months. Each person can choose a month that we will read your pick and maybe host that month, as well. Also, be prepared to pick the best day and time of future meetings, so that we can work around everyone's schedule.

Please contact Julie Nguyen if you are interested in joining.

Email: jnjinjulie@gmail.com or
contact my mobile: 082 336 9200.

I hope to hear from you soon.



Friday 11th May 2012

At

9:00 am

In

Year 1/2 Meeting Room

Bangkok Patana School

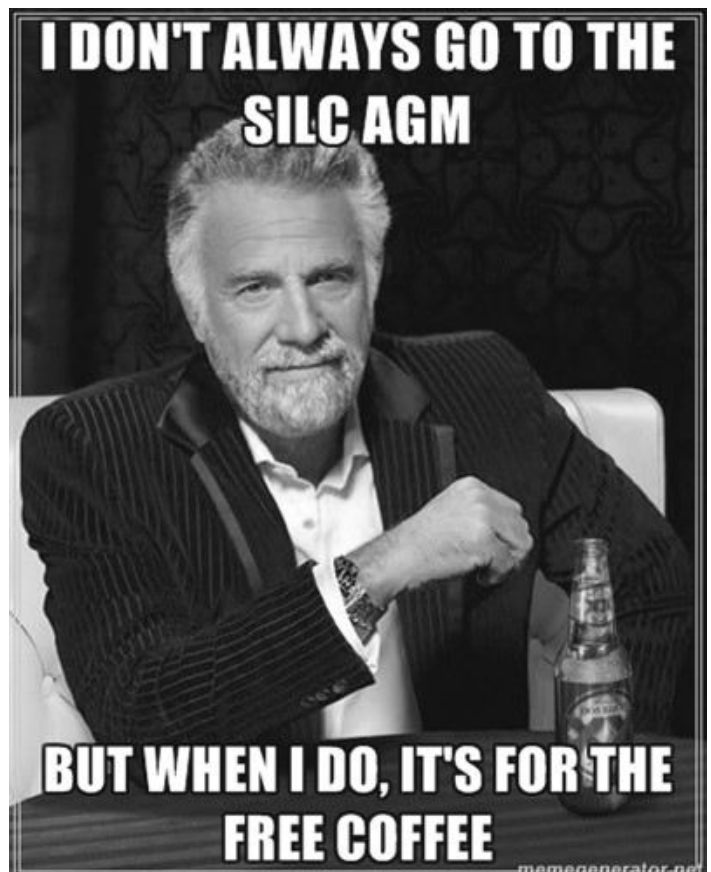
Photo ID will be required if you are not a BPS parent.

Drinks will be provided but please bring along a plate to share if you are organized. Most importantly please come along to help us reach our quorum required to hold the AGM.

If you are unable to attend we would be grateful if you can contact the Secretary, Angelique by email: angelique.leijdekker@gmail.com and leave you details for proxy voting.

Descriptions of the positions available can be seen on pages 16/17 of this newsletter.

If you would like any information on any of the positions, please do not hesitate to contact the current officer.



Coffee Morning/Lunch

MAY COFFEE MORNING/LUNCH
At
OLIVE CAFÉ AND TEN TEN NAIL BAR
593/2 SUKHUMVIT RD.
BETWEEN SOI 33 AND 35
Date: Friday May 25th
Time: 11am onward

As we have our AGM on May 11th we decided to combine the coffee morning with a lunch at the lovely Olive Café. We are also trying to organise a makeup demonstration in Ten Ten but this has not been confirmed yet.

So please come along and have a coffee or stay for lunch and possibly the makeup demonstration! Love you see you there.

If you would like to join this event can you please RSVP by May 23rd

Hickey.kay@hotmail.com or
Johannethomas@hotmail.com



All SILC events are subject to change. Please confirm your attendance with the relevant contact.



SILC TOUR MAY/JUNE THE BANGKOK NATIONAL MUSEUM

On Thursday 7 June we will take you to the National Museum in Bangkok

The national museum is situated in the original palace of the Second King. It houses the museum's textile and ceramics collections, theatrical and musical instrument collections, the gold room and an interesting weapon collection. The museum traces the history of Thailand through artifacts from various periods of Thai history and areas of Thailand.

We will be shown around the museum by a guide of the national museum volunteers.

The tour will start at 10:00 am and will take about 90 minutes.

Transport will be arranged, details concerning the costs follow later.

Entrance fee of the museum: 200 baht pp and for the guide: 100 baht pp

We can have lunch in the area before we return to school.

Address of the museum:

Na Phrathat Rd,

Phra Nakorn District,

Bangkok 10200

Located opposite Sanam Luang

Looking forward to seeing you on this interesting tour!

Please RSVP by Thursday 24th May and let me know if you will take the bus from Bangkok Patana school or go directly to museum by yourself.

Mariska.abrahams@hotmail.com or 085-2146900



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Central Department Store, Chidlom Branch

(7 Fl, Food Loft)

Emporium Shopping Complex

(5 Fl, International Food Hall, near Sunrise Tacos)

(5 Fl, Gourmet Market)

MBK Shopping Center

(5 Fl, The Fifth Food Avenue)

Nichada Thani

(The East Club, next to Rose Marie Academy)

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Tour Review

Monday, 26th of March 2012

I'm leaving already at seven o'clock in the morning, rather early for a daytrip! I take the school bus and my children feel great about it!

The Appointment was at 7:30am, sharp, at True Coffee ... and there I was, right on time but all alone! I saw no van or other ladies! Suddenly Mariska phoned, strictly at 7:30, to say that the bus is waiting at the main entrance of the school! Once the van is completely full, all chattering ladies, enthusiastic and cheerful, we are heading for our trip, first part on the bus, followed by a trip on the canals of old Thonburi.

The traffic goes rather fast and we're right on time at the Maharaj Pier. We start our ride on the long tail boat for about two hours. There is a lot of traffic on the Chao Praya and some ladies receive a small shower with the dirty water...! We are sailing into a small canal where we have to wait until the sluice opens, never seen before on the klongs! Suddenly there is a small break ... we can feed the fish! Large pieces of bread flying all around, lots of fish come out here and there's again a splash of water on our clothes! It seems that we are already playing the Songkran Splash! We continue our journey and it starts raining, we all spontaneously creep a little closer together. Our first stop is at the Orchid Farm. A kind, old man shows us his flowers. Due to the flood of the recent months, he had to start all over again. A bit out of sympathy for this man, but also because he had a special type of orchid, I bought two of his magnificent flowers, which meanwhile have a nice spot in the front of our house.

We sail further in the direction of the "Artists House" and what you see on the waterway is still very confronting. People living in poor, wooden huts on top of the water, clothes hanging everywhere to dry, contrasting with many satellite dishes. A keen eye can spot "a varaan" ... he's on the edge of the canal, taking a power nap in the quiet environment! If you ask me, a bizarre pet!

Then we arrived at "The Artists' House". The structure of the house is 200 year old and they would like to keep things in the original style. Various artistic productions are presented. There were some nice pictures and drawings. We could even recognize a picture of "Old Bruges", a lovely place in Belgium! And for those who don't know me yet, I come from Belgium so I was nicely surprised!

We sailed further and go to take a look at an old floating market, however it is only open during the weekend days. I would love to go back one day, but how can you find this place without a guide? Our trip on the water comes to its end and together we have a small lunch at S &

P. Around one o'clock we drive back to school and was raining, lots and lots of rain! By the time we arrive back at school, sun is shining again and we were ready to pick up our children and listen to their stories of the day!

I have enjoyed my first "Silc Tour" and I'm sure I'll come again!
Mariska, many thanks for the nice organisation!

Hilde



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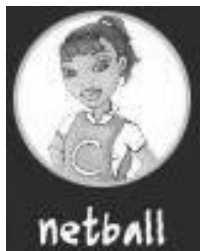
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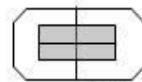


At Bangkok Patana School
Wednesday nights 5.30-7.30pm

If it's been a while since you've played....

We will help you get back into the game!
Please email Jenni Jones to register

jennikjones@hotmail.com



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For further information contact Terence Moriarty on 02-391-5670 or 02-712-8503.

New Members



New Member March:

Liliana Milton

Welcome to SILC

If you know anyone who may be interested in joining SILC please ask them to contact:

Geraldine McEvoy: 082 204 9470

geraldine.mcevoy@hotmail.com

Put a face to the name.

New members, please send in a short blurb to introduce yourself to other members, along with a photograph if possible (with or without the family).

Send to the editor:
jan.briggs22@gmail.com

SILC Directory Ammendments

Lorraine Illing, New Email Add:

lorraineilling@gmail.com.

Isabella Henderson, New Email Add:

isabellarhenderson@hotmail.com

SILC Directory Ammendment

Jo Thomas New Address:

43 Ekamai Gardens

8 Ekamai Soi 8

Sukhumvit 63 Road

Bangkok 10110

Tiny Tigers Playgroup *at Bangkok Patana School*

Our Tiny Tigers Playgroup welcomes children on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8.00 to 9.30am.

Set within the stimulating environment of our Foundation Stage, Tiny Tigers is open to accompanied children from 1 to 3 years of age.

Staffed by our team of specialist early-years teachers, the playgroup enjoys full access to the wonderful facilities available only at Patana.

For information please contact Rachel Jones on rajo@patana.ac.th or telephone 02 398 0200.



Bangkok Patana School

*The British International School in Thailand
Established 1957*

Bangkok Patana School, 643 Lasalle Road (Sukhumvit 105), Bangna, www.patana.ac.th

Coffee Morning Review



The April coffee morning was generously hosted by Samantha Pryor, our web-site sponsor, at her lovely house on Sukhumvit 71.

Samantha is a Psychotherapist & Hypnotherapist and, after providing us with coffee, tea and some of the most delicious cupcakes I have tasted here in Bangkok, proceeded to dispel the myths about Hypnotherapy.

She outlined the various areas of her work and we were all very interested to hear that hypnotherapy is not at all like the stereotypical image portrayed on tv shows and can easily cure us of the usual complaints of binge eating, smoking, fear of spiders, dogs, flying and even exam stresses to name a few. We enjoyed a very peaceful few minutes as she relaxed us all as a group and transported us to our favourite beach. I was surprised to find how easy it was to relax whilst listening to her soothing voice and I imagine if I were in a quieter situation, and not sharing the sofa with four other women, then I would be quite open to the help that hypnotherapy could bring.

We also spoke about the stresses that we 'trailing spouses' encounter when we move once again to a new country. Once the children are settled in school and we have discovered the shops, how we all cope with filling our time and making new friends and a new life for ourselves.

We all found it a very interesting morning, and with the exam season looming I can imagine Sam may have a busy month coming up!

Details of Samantha's business can be found on the SILC website www.silcthailand.com by clicking on her logo found at the bottom of every page.



Official SILC Committee roles

Chairman

Shall preside at all meetings, affix signature to all official contracts entered into by SILC. Serve as the official representative of SILC. Chair the Committee meetings as well as other club events at which she presides. Write lead article for the newsletter.

Vice President

Shall assume duties of the president in her absence, will assume any responsibilities

delegated by the President from time to time. Shall be responsible for all matters concerning the Evening Meetings including arranging guest speakers or social focus, venue, purchasing drink as necessary and gift for guest speaker and preparation of an advertisement for the newsletter.

Secretary

Shall record and keep the minutes of all official meetings and give them to the Committee members before the next meeting. Has charge of all documents not specifically under the charge of any other Officer and will handle all correspondence for the club.

Treasurer

Shall be the custodian of all funds and will give authority to others to collect monies for annual subscriptions and receipt of all monies. Shall make payments, keep accurate accounts, present monthly statements at the Committee meetings and submit yearly accounts at the AGM after submitting financial records for audit.

Shall keep a back up data base of each member's name and address in case of absence of membership officer.

Newsletter Editor

Shall be responsible for producing a monthly newsletter to inform members of the activities of the club and accept contributions by members of appropriate material to be published. Shall edit all information. Shall liaise with officers for information and decisions regarding appropriate content and advertising. Shall appoint a sub-editor if necessary. Shall be responsible for collation, labelling and distribution of the newsletter.

Membership and Newcomers

Shall keep a database of each member. Shall print labels for each month's newsletter. Produce an annual directory for member use and an intermediate update if required. Shall make personal email contact with each new member, inform them of the SILC website and provide each with a SILC Members directory.

Welfare

Shall be responsible for the investigation of and contact with charities based on the club's goals for welfare. Shall prepare a monthly progress report for the Committee meetings and for the newsletter as appropriate. Shall make suggestions for the fundraising for welfare monies and help in the implementation of these projects.

Coffee Mornings

Shall make all the arrangements each month, including venue, food, beverages and theme. Shall arrange for a guest speaker and purchase a gift if applicable. Shall be the contact person. Shall prepare an advertisement for the newsletter.

Lunches

Shall organise a suitable venue and date each month and make all the arrangements. Shall be the contact person for reservations. Shall prepare an advertisement for the newsletter.

Tours

Shall make all the arrangements each month for suitable tours in the Samutprakarn and Bangkok area, including setting dates, arranging transport, all necessary reservations and calculations of cost. Shall be the contact person and shall prepare an advertisement for the newsletter.

Advertising

Shall be responsible for the procurement of new advertisements for the SILC Newsletter. Liaising with the Newsletter Editor and the Treasurer to ensure payment is received and the advert is placed.

General Committee Member

Shall give support and aid to all other committee members when requested. Shall assume duties of officers temporarily unable to carry out their duties or in the event of their departure.

Bazaar

Shall organise the Annual SILC Bazaar.



SILC AGM

Fri 11th May

9:00am

**Bangkok Patana School
Year 1/2 Meeting Room**

See Page 8 for details

**If you are interested in any of
the above positions job sharing
is possible!**

How about joining the SILC Committee?

Chairman

My role as Chairman is to front things, run committee meetings and speak on behalf of SILC whenever necessary. Our AGM is one of those times and I hope you will join us on **Friday 11th May 2012 at 9am at Patana in the Year 1-2 meeting room.**

I know there will be some changes to the committee at the AGM. I am standing down so please consider this role and if you want to have a chat about it please call me. I hope you'll volunteer and help us provide a good range of activities by getting involved yourself. There are lots of opportunities on the committee this year.

Being Chairman is a very rewarding role. I personally believe that SILC is run best by a committee, not one individual, and this role is part of that. The current committee do such a great job this role has been easy.

Sarah Chaplin



Treasurer

Hi All. Just to introduce myself, my name is Betty Stewart and I've been a member of SILC for the past 18 months. Last year I was "roped" into taking on the role of Treasurer - no regrets. It's been a great job since I am involved and see all the projects as they "hit the books". What do I do . . . all the normal things, recording the income and expenditure, keeping track of the cash and bank accounts, that's about it really - apart from the odd report - and of course this screed. If you can count and input numbers onto a basic spreadsheet this is the job for you. You'll just **LOVE** the SILC bazaar, counting all those pennies makes it worthwhile, especially with a glass of something special to hand.

It's great to be involved in SILC and I would recommend this or any of other positions as a way to work for a good cause, have fun and meet special people at the same time. Just **HAVE FUN!**

Betty Stewart

Secretary

Dear SILC ladies, my name is Angelique Leijdekker and I have been secretary for SILC for the last year. It has been a fun job and I have enjoyed getting to know the committee members better.

My job consist of writing the minutes after every meeting and after the AGM. The role as a secretary is not very difficult or time consuming so I will kindly agree to stay on and commit myself for another year.

Best wishes,

Angelique Leijdekker

Newsletter Editor

I have been producing the SILC Newsletter since June 2009. The role consists of setting the copy deadline, chasing up the various adverts and stories to go in the newsletter. Liaising with the Advertising Co-ordinator and the Treasurer to ensure that adverts have been paid for before publishing. Producing it on the computer and taking it to the printers. Then collecting and distributing it via the post and various link ladies. It is not too hard a job - as long as there are no last minute hitches, your computer doesn't die on you or school doesn't close for flooding! I am quite happy to continue in this role for the next year.

Jan Briggs

Membership

My name is Geraldine McEvoy and I have been in the role of Silc Membership for the past year. I took up this position with great apprehension but have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I have found being a member of the Silc committee a great way of making friends and being in the membership role you get to meet many nice new ladies. The membership duties include keeping the Database updated regularly with information on members new and old i.e.: name, address, phone number and e-mail address. I have kept the e-mail listing up to date with addresses, sent out Application for Membership to new members, follow up with a welcome letter and sent out regular notices regarding Silc events or welfare/community notices. A Silc Directory is printed yearly between November & December and very easy to do from the data base. Once a month I also print the address labels for the newsletter editor. I have worked closely with the treasurer and newsletter editor whom have been a great support to me in this role. This is a fantastic role for new people to get involved in Silc with very little time involved and if required I will help or support whom ever takes over this position.

Geraldine McEvoy

Silc Tours

Organising SILC Tours is great fun and as a tour-organizer I can explore places I haven't been before, or members come up with ideas. Once an idea is something worth sharing with other Silc members then I have to organise several things: guided tours, coffee/lunch, transport, usually a Patana bus, and work out the costs involved. I write an advert for the SILC newsletter to let everyone know what I have planned. Then I take all the bookings (mainly by email) and off we go on the day. We've done some great trips: exploring Bangkok by Segway, a guided walking tour through Silom, a visit to the beautiful Prasart museum. It's always been great fun and a very sociable day. I take some photos and organise the write-up for the SILC newsletter, which I try to persuade someone on the tour to do! Luckily someone is also willing to do that. Thanks to everyone who has done a write-up.

In May I will be organizing my last SILC tour before stepping down. I hope someone will take over this great role. There is some amount of work involved, but always keep in mind it is great fun exploring this beautiful city and share it with other SILC-members. I will be staying in Bangkok, so willing to assist if needed.

Please think about volunteering for this SILC role. If you want more information just give me a call

Mariska Abrahams

Advertising Co-Ordinator

This is a new post that has only come into being over the last 6 months. With the Newsletter Editor's position becoming busier with the introduction of the website, it was decided to make the newsletter advertising a separate entity. The Advertising Co-ordinator and Newsletter Editor work very closely together. It is the job of the Advertising Co-ordinator to approach companies/organisations to bring in new advertising business and to co-ordinate with the advertisers with regard to payment and placing of their adverts. The Advertising Co-ordinator also liaises with the Treasurer to ensure payment for the advertising has been received.

This is an enjoyable and not very taxing position if you would like a role on the Committee that does not commit too much of your time

Teresa Carr

Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings are held once a month usually at a members home or the organizer will arrange the location. An advert for the coffee morning to be put in the newsletter and on the website will be done by the organizer who will arrange the morning. These can be anything from a general get together, a themed coffee morning, and demonstrations or sometimes a speaker.

SILC have their own crockery, glasses and cutlery for the host to use if required and these are kept at the organizers house.

Kay Hickey

Lunches

This role consists of finding a suitable place for lunch once a month, either in Bangkok or local to the Bangna Area., making the reservation with the restaurant and providing an advert for the monthly newsletter.

This role can easily be shared with a friend and gives you a great opportunity to sample some of Bangkok's great restaurants.

I am happy to continue in this role for another year.

Jo Thomas



Welfare Co-ordinator

Being a welfare coordinator is anything but boring. The three preschools that SILC support currently are Mahawong (180kids), Prakkasamai (100kids) and Chanukroh (80kids). Fruits & groceries were delivered weekly and activity was organised on a monthly basis. I have enjoyed every little time I've spent with the children and teachers. I have also enjoyed working with the all other welfare team members and members who always came to help.

My post is vacant and I would strongly encourage anyone to have a go. Just a few hours a week and a big heart are all that are required.

Shirley Tan

SILC Bazaar

The bazaar organizers is really a 2 people job. This year both Cheryl & I are moving onto other countries so this position is vacant.

It's a great job because in the beginning of the year it is quite a lot of work but after that you can look back on it as a job well done.

There is contact with Patana, contacting and organising the vendors to have food and diversity, followed by receiving payments, advertising and planning the tables, organizing brick a brack. A tombola would be very nice, just like a bit of decoration.

The school always is a great help, and on the day there will be lots of volunteers.

A good job for an organised person or two.

Wietske Smits & Cheryl Rego

What's On in Bangkok

Exhibition: Prathamesh – A New Beginning

By local artists Smita Badwe and Vandana Deosthali's.

On show in both the Rotunda Gallery and The Garden Gallery Café from May 1st – June 3rd 2012

Smita and Vandana's premier exhibition showcases renditions of Lord Ganesha, the world renowned elephant-headed deity. The collection includes some 30 paintings highlighting the various depictions of the highly revered Lord Ganesha or Phra Phikanet in Thai. The preferred medium of oil paintings, primarily bright colours with glossy finishes best portrays the spirit in which is admired.

Opening Reception: Friday May 4th 6:30-8:30 pm.

Creative Writing Workshop From Reading as a Writer to the First Draft and Beyond

with Elley Polonkey-Johnson, MFA Creative Writing, Lesley University

Date: Monday April 30, May 14, May 21 & May 28, 2012.

Time: 9:30am - 12:30pm

Cost: 1,000 per session or 3,500 baht for all four sessions

Session 1: Monday April 30th: RAW - Reading as a Writer: Students will learn to read deeply, chisel away at the text, and excavate the elements of creative writing at work. Brief writing exercises will support ancillary readings and together both will aide the student's understanding of the elements of creative writing.

Session 2: Monday May 14th: The First Draft: This class will build on the first class by addressing techniques to assist the writer with getting down that dreaded first draft. Writing exercises and readings will support topic learning.

Session 3: Monday May 21st: Story Arc and The Hero's Journey: We will build on the techniques from the first two classes and look at the literary Hero's Journey to understand story arc. Writing exercises and readings will support topic learning.

Session 4: Monday May 28th: Type "A" Revision and the Writer's Workshop: We will learn how to take a first draft and make it a second draft and look at finding visual language, painting believable characters and the weight of your verbs. We will then discuss the workshop process and learn how giving stellar feedback is just as valuable as receiving critiques on our own work.

Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th May 2012 9.30 to 4 pm. USED BOOK SALE

Children and adult books covering all genres. Prices from 50 baht to 200 baht. All welcome. All money goes towards the upkeep of the Neilson Hays Library.



Bulletin Board

Oil Request

We need approximately 96 bottles every two weeks. This is hard to come by so at the moment we are aiming to donate the 96 bottles at least once a month.

The ladies in the slums are aware that they cannot get it all the time now and they are trying to spare it.

So please if you think of it can you throw a bottle of cheap oil in your shopping basket every week and donate it to this well deserved cause!!

Donations to Kay at hickey.kay@hotmail.com Phone: 086 511 2442

Donations can be left with your link lady or bought to any SILC event

Cooking Oil
Donations
gratefully
accepted

Thai Song Requests:

Please continue to collect your **plastic bags** for the ladies of Thai Song to weave them into reusable shopping bags.

They also require **soft drinks cans** which must be rinsed out and uncrushed for making ear-rings.

Contact: Teresa Carr: treindubai@yahoo.com

Or bring along to any SILC event.

Drinks Can Ring Pulls:

While you are enjoying your cool fizzy drinks, please try to remember to pick up as many of the ring pulls as you can for the Prosthetic Limb Foundation

Contact: Teresa Carr, treindubai@yahoo.com

Or bring along to any SILC event.

For Sale:

Girls Raleigh Mountain Bike suitable for age 8 years and over.

18 gears Shimano. Side stand. Quick release front and rear wheels, easy to fit into car boot.

Includes trip computer for speed & distance, with instructions.

Excellent condition. Brought from the UK

Price: 3500 baht

Contact: Jan Briggs: 0855 564655

Email: Jan.briggs22@gmail.com



Funnies

An Angry Wife To Her Husband On Phone: "Where d Hell Are You ...?"

Husband: Darling you remember that jewellery shop where you saw the Diamond necklace & fell in love with it, n I didn't have money that time and said 'Baby it'll be yours one day..."

Wife, with a smile & blushing: "Yeah I remember that Love!"

Husband: "I'm I the pub just next to that shop"

An airline introduced a special package for business men - Buy a ticket, get your wife's ticket free!

After great success, the company sent letters to all the wives asking how was the trip?

All of them gave the same reply... "Which trip?"

An intelligent wife is one who makes sure she spends so much that her husband cant afford another woman!




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Mahawong Songkran Celebration

Tuesday, the third of April, we went to Mahawong Centre, to celebrate Songkran. Thai New Year is a very important festival for Thai people, who believe that, by throwing water, they purify the New Year that will come. During these three days festivities of Thailand's population will not work and visit his or her family to have dinner, spending time together and making a visit to the temple.

As a foreigner, I have always enjoyed this festival, because this is full of joy and happiness. Can you imagine, have a non-stop party for three days? No, I would not be able myself.

Well, this sunny morning was a good day to get wet, and the staff of Mahawong wore lovely colorful blouses. At first, we had to dance and this was quite exhausting because of the heat and humidity. All the children had to laugh at the farang, who could not dance as they can, but we had a great time! After that, we got our blessing with water and flowers and the party began.

For the smallest children there was a small baby pool and the elder ones shared a big pool. There was no way to escape all the water guns, which were given to the children. Everyone was soaking wet and the ones, like me, who had forgotten her spare clothes, had to dry in the sun after the party had finished. Thank you so much, Dr Amporn, Julie, the staff, and all the children of Mahawong Centre. We had a great time at Songkran. Hopefully we will meet each other again next Year!

Marianne Metzelaar



Chanukroah Songkran Celebration



Volunteers Bettina, Mei Mei, Chris, Margit, Shirley, Doris, Julie Cragg, Julie Nquyey and Mary celebrated Songkran (Thai traditional New Year) with the Children of Chanukroah preschool. As you have probably guessed water was the main ingredient of the day. Shirley fashionably early as usual had already built up a good sweat filling all the swimming pools. All that was left to do was fill the water balloons, water guns and wait patiently for the children.



It didn't take long before the children, Teachers and Silc ladies were in full swing blasting each other. All of us had a real taste of the meaning of Songkran, which marks the end of the hot season. Water is a precious resource in Thai culture as it is essential for rice and life in general. It also symbolizes time to wash away bad luck and begin anew with a clean soul.



The children bearing high-powered water guns along with buckets and water balloons blasted and pelted everyone who stood in their way. Loaded with plenty of water FUN was the order of the day, as everyone got wild and wet with some intense water throwing as well as a little healthy competition and more than just a glint in their eyes. There was a highly charged atmosphere among the children and their faces were alight with great big cheeky smiles as everyone enjoyed the biggest water fight of their lives. No one was exempt from getting completely soaked. I even woke up the next day with a painful blister bubble on my trigger finger after firing rounds of water!

I can honestly say the all our souls must be as white and as pure as the driven snow, although you won't be seeing that in Thailand!

Needless to say everyone had a wonderful time. Thank you ladies.

Chris

