

SENDER: S.I.L.C. EDITOR,
169 MOO 14
LAKESIDE VILLA 2
BANGNA TRAD RD., KM 7.5
BANGPLEE
SAMUTPRAKARN 10540



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1995

SAMUTPRAKARN INTERNATIONAL LADIES CLUB

Committee Members and Activity Leaders

Call these ladies for more information on club activities.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

Lorna Schroeder.... 316-4050
(Fax. 316-4050)

VICE-PRESIDENT

Wendy Chang..... 316-4011

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jayne Zeitlyn..... 316-4021
(Fax. 316-4021)

SECRETARY

Angela Bambridge... 758-6811

TREASURER

Annette Faherty 385-8133

MEMBERSHIP

Yasemin Watkins.... 758-6581
(Fax. 758-6581)

NEWCOMERS

Karen Albrecht 316-4135
(Fax. 316-2976)

LUNCHEES

Sue Leon..... 316-8125
(Fax. 316-1594)

COFFEE MORNINGS

Lesley Evans..... 316-4017
(Fax. 316-4017)

Janet Hyland..... 751-7821
(Fax. 751-7821)

WELFARE

Penny Minges..... 316-4051
(Fax. 316-4051)

WELFARE SUBCOMMITTEE

Jeed Suphavarodom 316-2622
Paradee

Narkphanchiwan..... 398-5796

Melanie Johnston 316-3483

GENERAL COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

Sue Leon..... 316-8125

Alison Hedge..... 316-8586

Pat Duffy..... 385-8105

Sharon Land 316-4075

ACTIVITIES LEADERS

CLASSES

Maike Voorhuis..... 316-8112
(Fax. 316-3117)

BOOK CLUB

Alison Hedge..... 316-8586

AEROBICS

Kathy Arrindell..... 398-6208

CHILD PLAYGROUPS

Pat Duffy..... 385-8105

TOURS

Sunita Kulisra 316-4097

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Susan Vanstaen..... 316-1188

Sharon Land 316-4075

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 traveling 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 Karen Albrecht and Yasemin Watkins, or any of the committee members. For the convenience of some members, membership fees can be paid to Denise Lindsay and Rose Lanham, who are usually at the PTG Room at Patana International School.

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 for members are published at a small fee and the deadline for all contributions is the 15th of the month.

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS

General club meetings are held the first Monday of each month. Venues for the meeting vary and are published in the newsletter. We try to focus for the evening whilst allowing time for club business and socialising. The meeting starts at 8.00 p.m. and lasts approximately two hours. Everyone is encouraged to attend and visitors are welcome.



1995

President's Message,

The **SILC Bazaar**, held in October, was a great success. The event generated a good sum for our welfare fund. It also provided members a convenient, enjoyable shopping day for buying gifts and must have items. Many thanks to all who supported the bazaar. We are all grateful to Janet Hyland and Lesley Evans for their tremendous efforts in coordinating the event, to Sharon Land for graciously offering her home as the venue, to Karen Albrecht who created the posters and, to Annette Faherty for working the entrance booth and keeping our tallies correct. To all our members who donated wine, cakes, books and videos and who worked our stalls, your help is appreciated. We hope you all look forward to this event again next year.

The **SILC Festive Dinner**, our annual event to celebrate the season, is slated for Saturday, 2 December. It will prove to be an occasion to remember. This is one of our few events where spouses can come and meet each other. A limited number of guests will also be welcome. Come, bring your spouse, bring a guest and mingle. Tickets will be sold at this upcoming monthly meeting and through committee members. The deadline for purchasing tickets is 22 November.

An exhilarating workout and motivating talk awaits us all at the November monthly meeting with the topic of **New Body Fitness** by Sharon Riley. Please note that there is a small charge to cover refreshments which will be provided by Bangna Towers.

This month a **farewell luncheon** is planned for a co-founder of SILC, Karen Albrecht. Karen has influenced all of our lives by helping create this club thus creating a sense of community within our area. She has been an inspiration to many of us and a driving force in the club. Her humorous stories submitted to the newsletter have been well received with lots of laughter. Her sense of direction for the club will continue to influence us even after her move to Singapore. Please contact Sue Leon to RSVP for this international potluck luncheon.

Thanks to all who turned in their class survey to Maike. She has acted upon your declared interests and has arranged three **new classes** to begin this month, ballroom dancing, jazz dancing and cake decorating. All class sizes are limited due to venue size. Contact Maike by phone or fax to confirm your place.

See you at our next event,

Lorna Schroeder

DIARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER 1995

MONTHLY MEETING

- Monday, 6 November at 8.00 p.m.
- Bangna Tower, Tower 'B', Bangkaew Room, 2nd Floor, Bangna Trad Hwy, 6.5 Km, Samutprakarn.
- **'Fitness and the New Body' by Sharon Riley.**
- R.S.V.P. Lorna Schroeder at 316-4050 or Wendy Chang at 316-4011 by 3 November.
- There will be a fee of Baht 150 to cover refreshments during the meeting.

Sharon Riley has worked for more than 8 years in Asia and owns her own company, Fit Link in Bangkok. She was recently named the Fitness Leader of the 1995 for Thailand by Network Australia. Growing up in Sydney, she never thought she would develop one of the most popular forms of aerobic dancing and today, she has created her own style of low impact aerobics, combining hand weights, called New Body.

Her talks are known to be very inspirational so she will soon have you up on your feet doing a workout. For this reason, please come in suitable exercise outfit.

N.B. Tickets to the S.I.L.C. Festive Dinner will be on sale during the evening.

COFFEE MORNING

- Thursday, 16 November at 9.30 a.m.
- Dianne Clark's home, 770 Lakeside Villa 1, Bangna Trad Hwy 5.5 Km, Samutprakarn.
- **'Porcelain Painting'** by Chantra McKiggan.
- R.S.V.P. Dianne Clark at 316-1071 or Lesley Evans at 316-4017 by 14 November.

There will be a short demonstration on porcelain painting by Chantra McKiggan, who studied this art in the U.K. She will also be putting some of her items on sale.

COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, 2 November at 9.00 a.m. at Karen Albrecht's home, 155 Moo 14 Lakeside Villa 2, Bangna Trad Hwy 7.5 Km, Samutprakarn (Tel. 316-4135).

LUNCHEON

S.I.L.C. is having a farewell luncheon in honour of Karen Albrecht. She is a grand lady who needs very little introduction and will be missed by many of her friends in Bangkok. Our very best wishes go with Karen, Clyde, Ryan and Jessica.

Apart from being one of the co-founders of this club and also serving as the first president, she has continuously played a prominent role in nurturing it into what it is today - a very successful and professionally run ladies club. Rightly so, as she has remarked with some affection on several occasions that the club is like a "baby" to her.

Sue Leon will be hosting this farewell luncheon at her home, 776 Lakeside Villa 1, Bangna Trad Hwy, 5.5 Km, Samutprakarn on Wednesday, 22 November at 12 noon. As it is a 'pot luck' occasion, every one attending is requested to bring along a plate of food from their own country, giving it an *International* theme. Please ring Sue on 316-8125 if you are coming and the name of your dish. It is going to be a very interesting lunch as we prepare to 'eat our way around the world' so come along and join in the fun.

TOUR OF THE MONTH

- Monday, 13 November at 8.30 a.m.
- Visit to a beautiful Thai home near International School of Bangkok.
- Meet at Lakeside Villa 1 parking lot in front of the Mini Market and we will carpool from there.
- R.S.V.P. Sunita Kulisra at 316-4097 or Wendy Chang at 316-4011.

This beautiful Thai home is set in a rain forest garden and the family has

collected treasures from all over the world. After the tour, we will have lunch at a Thai restaurant on a nearby lake.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

AEROBICS



WELCOME BACK KATHY !
Our aerobics/fitness instructor is back on her feet and has resumed giving classes at the usual venue. Times have changed slightly as follows:-

Lakeside Villa 1,
(Fitness Room)
MONDAY 8.30 to 9.30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
9.00 to 10.00 a.m.
Fee : 50 Baht

For S.I.L.C. members who live closer to the city, Sabine Bouillon is giving the classes in Soi 79. Ring 311-7036 to make a booking.

Aqua Aerobics
Tuesday & Wednesday
9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.
Aerobics (Step/Lower Impact/Weights)
Thursday & Friday
9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.

Sukhumvit Garden City House 414
(Sports Complex)
Sukhumvit Soi 79, Bangkok



MOTHERS & TODDLERS GROUP

Playgroups are held every Monday from 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. for ages birth to nursery school years. Venue changes weekly with homes being shared by participating mums. Please contact Pat Duffy at 385-8105 for details.

The playgroup is looking for new members with younger children as the present group is going onto nursery school. Please offer your suggestions if times and dates are not convenient. The playgroup is also looking for someone to take over as organiser from December.



ART GROUP

Mondays - 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Cheryl Lamb's home, 758 Lakeside Villa 1, Samutprakarn.

Anyone, beginner or experienced is welcome to join this weekly group. Individuals may take turns to prepare a still life or other topics of interest. Many of us already paint using water colours, but those doing oils, pastels, etc. are also very welcome. If you would like to learn painting or feel you could use some extra stimulus through painting in a group, please come along.

During the October monthly meeting, the art group presented an array of beautifully handmade greeting cards of three dimensional appearance and other art pieces ranging from water colours and

sketches. There appears to a lot of untapped talent in some of our members! For further information, please call Cheryl at 316-8157.

TAE KWON DO

LAKESIDE VILLA 2 -

Tae Kwon Do classes are being conducted by Khun Choo Chai on Mondays, 4.30 - 6.30 p.m. at Penny Minges' home, 207 Lakeside Villa 2, Bangna Trad Hwy. 7.5 Km. Samutprakarn (Tel. 316-4051). Open to adults and children ages 6 and above.

LAKESIDE VILLA 1 -

Classes are also being held at Lakeside Villa 1 (for residents only), Fitness Room on Saturday. There is only room for two more students. Please contact Khun Choo Chai through Penny Minges.

LADAWAN -

Classes for all levels are being held at Anna Leong's home, 33/220 Soi 6/6, Moo Baan Ladawan, Samutprakarn every Tuesday and Thursday, 4.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. Please call Anna at 385-8712 during the evening.



MAHJONG CLUB



We welcome all players, experienced or beginners, at this weekly mahjong session held at Jayne Zeitlyn's home, 169 Lakeside Villa 2, Bangna Trad Hwy. 7.5

Km, Samutprakarn on Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. Don't worry if you have never even heard of this game of tiles but wish to learn. We have lots of information you can read and are willing to teach. Please ring Jayne at 316-4021 for more information.

TENNIS ANYONE?

Tuesday and Thursday mornings
8.00 a.m. till exhaustion

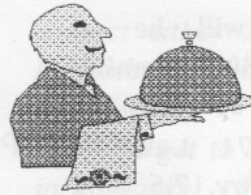
In view of growing interest and attendance from members, it has been decided that there will be two Tennis sessions every week - Tuesday and Thursday. We would like to encourage more interested players to join in the fun! All levels welcome. For more information call:

Annemiek Monhemius at 399-0074
Wendy Chang at 316-4011

Note:

Annemiek has been organising tennis lessons at Thana City Country Club, Bangna Trad Road Km 14. Under the leadership of coach Dean Zimmermann, the four lessons provided players with one hour training followed by 1/2 hour of double play techniques.

Depending upon interest, there will be another four lessons after the October school break. Please contact Annemiek if you wish to attend.



INDIAN COOKING CLASSES

Sunita's popular cooking classes are scheduled for November - every Tuesday - 10 a.m. to 12 noon - 1,600 Baht for four classes.

Phone Sunita Kulisra to make a booking at 316-4097.

NEW CLASSES

CAKE DECORATING



by
LOIS CARSON



Lois Carson was our guest speaker at the October Coffee Morning at Lesley Evans' home. There was a wonderful turnout which goes to proof how many ladies like to indulge in sweets. Thank you Lesley for hosting a very successful coffee morning. Lois Carson was so impressive that many ladies showed interest in doing a cake decorating course. Maïke Voorhuis, who is in charge of S.I.L.C. classes, has succeeded in talking Lois into the following arrangements:-

Cake Decorating Classes will be on Thursdays, 2, 9, 23 and 30 November between 10 a.m. to 12.30 noon at Lesley Evans' home, 171 Lakeside Villa 2, Bangna Trad Hwy, 7.5 Km, Samutprakarn. Cost is 800 Baht for four lessons. You are requested to bring your own mixing bowl, a blunt ended knife, one lemon and grease proof (wax) paper. Lois will be supplying icing sugar and colours.

Please ring either Maike at 316-8112 (after 4 p.m.) or Lesley at 316-4017 to make a booking. The class needs a minimum of 6 people.



To get into the Christmas spirit, there will be one Cake Decorating class just for children (6 years onwards) at Penny Minges' home, 207 Lakeside Villa 2, Samutprakarn on Monday, 11 December from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Cost is 50 Baht per person. Lois will supply children with icing sugar and colours as well as ginger biscuits to decorate on. Please ring Maike or Penny (Tel. 316-4051) if your children are attending.

[Lois Carson can be contacted at 258-5295 for any cake orders.]

JAZZ LESSONS

Kathy Arrindell is organising a Jazz Class on Tuesday, 7 November at the Fitness Room, Lakeside Villa 1, Samutprakarn between 10 to 11 a.m. There will be no charge for the first lesson, but

future classes will be 200 Baht per month.

Please wear ballet shoes, jazz shoes or go bare feet if you like. Contact Maike Voorhuis at 316-8112 (after 4 p.m.) or Kathy Arrindell at 398-6208 if you are interested to join.

BALLROOM DANCING

Wednesdays,
8, 15, 22, 29 November
8.15 p.m. - 9.45 p.m.

800 Baht per couple for four lessons at the Fitness Room, Lakeside Villa 1, Samutprakarn. Dance teacher will be from the Bangkok Leading Dance Academy. Maximum 5 couples only.

Note - wear shoes with leather soles and no stilettos/high heels please.

Again, please call Maike to make bookings.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



S.I.L.C. FESTIVE DINNER

Boy, do we have a fun night planned for you! There will be a mysterious Master of Ceremony who will make it a night to remember. Couples, please don't forget to bring one well disguised gift to be exchanged during the course of the evening (anything from a can of gourmet food to a pair

of garden slippers - tacky - good taste - the more outrageous the better). There will be other games like quizzes and spot prizes for most outlandish dressing - the theme for the evening being festive, so let your ideas flow with the mood of the season.

Date: Saturday, 2 December 1995
Time: 7.00 p.m. (Cocktails)
8.00 p.m. (Santa's Buffet Dinner)
Venue: Novotel Bangna
Price: 1,000 Baht per head

Please make your bookings with Wendy Chang (316-4011), Karen Albrecht (316-4135) or Jayne Zeitlyn (316-4021). Friends and family members are all invited.



S.I.L.C. CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Santa Claus is coming to town! **Lesley Evans** has kindly offered her home for the party this year. Right now, we are calling for volunteers to help with the supervision of kids on that day and organising of games. We would also appreciate some mums donating cakes or any platter of food. Please contact Sharon Land at 316-4075 or Lesley Evans at 316-4017 as soon as possible.

As is customary in past Christmas parties, mums are requested to bring a gift for each of their own children (300 Baht or less) with written names and comments on the presents. All presents must be dropped off at Lesley's home on 30 November or 1 December. Please

contact either Sharon or Lesley by 1 December if your kids are attending.

Don't forget to bring along your money jars (banks) of small change for the S.I.L.C. Welfare.

Date: Tuesday, 5 December 1995
Time: 2 - 4 p.m.
Venue: 171 Moo 14 Lakeside Villa 2,
Bangna Trad Hwy 7.5 Km,
Samutprakarn 10540

S.I.L.C. is sponsoring the Christmas Children's party this year so there will be no entrance fee.

S.I.L.C. BULLETIN BOARD

- S.I.L.C. ladies are making tickets for the Christmas Festive Dinner. All those who are interested to join in this 'craft' session can meet at Karen Albrecht's home, 155 Lakeside Villa 2, Samutprakarn at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 31 October. Please bring a pair of small sharp scissors. Please ring Karen at 316-4135.
- A big thank you to Anky Kennedy for hosting last month's meeting. It was well attended, despite the rain, and everyone went home knowing more about what CSB can do for them. For those who could not make it to the talk, CSB is an association whose goals are to provide relocation information, referral, orientations for newcomers, counselling services of all types, promote cross cultural awareness and to arrange programmes for the entire

community. Judith Kocher went on to tell us how CSB has grown over years and now has offices in Chaeng Wattana and even Pattaya. Watch out for their new book - 'The Thais And I: Successful Living in Thailand'.

- **CSB's Celebration of Nations**
Sunday, 10 December
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
at Hilton International, Nai Lert.
 This is an annual holiday event for all families. For additional info, please call 258-5652.

- *Christmas came early for Jan Boonbanjerd Sri who won the 1st Prize Raffle Ticket at the S.I.L.C. Charity Bazaar - a case of 12 bottles of wine! I reckon Jan is going to be a very popular lady now.*

'The Fiddler On The Roof'

A High School Production
at Bangkok Patana School
Auditorium

Dates: Thursday, 23 Nov
7.30 p.m.

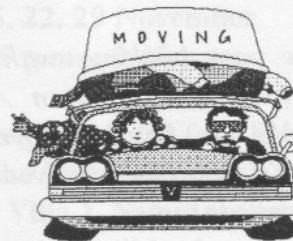
Friday, 24 Nov
7.30 p.m.

Sunday, 26 Nov
2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Prices: Adults 150 Baht
Children 100 Baht

For ticket information, please call Penny Minges at 316-4051 or Denise Lindsay at 254-1593.

- *Is there anyone in Lakeside Villa 1 who is interested in attending Sunita's Indian Cooking Classes? Dianne Clark who lives in Lakeside Villa 1 would like to transport to Sunita's. Please call Dianne on 316-1071 if you can offer any assistance - thanks.*

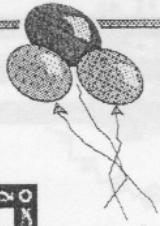


"Chok Di Lah Gorn Na"
GOOD LUCK AND FAREWELL!

Also leaving the shores of Bangkok in the impending months are Virginia McMahon, Malou Andreas and Narelle Buckingham. S.I.L.C. would like to acknowledge and thank Virginia for her great contribution in organising the many interesting coffee morning activities last year.

Malou and Narelle are returning to their home countries and we hope they bring back many fond memories of their stay in Bangkok. Thank you for all your help and support.

Good luck to you and your family and do drop us a line sometime.



S.I.L.C. BAZAAR REPORT



We are delighted to report that with the support of all involved, you have provided the S.I.L.C. welfare fund with a grand total of Baht 20,520. This is thanks to the generous donations of wines, books, videos and cakes of so many members.

Annette did a sterling job at the Admissions Table. She was a great asset as she was able to extricate "loads" of money from her unsuspecting friends and acquaintances as they came through the door.

Our thanks to all those of you who helped man the S.I.L.C. stall and sell raffle tickets on the day, and to those of you who provided us with tables. We (Sharon, Lesley and Janet) will remember the day for a long time and will certainly not be in need of Kathy's workouts for several weeks, as moving the furniture provided more muscle-work than we have had for a long time!

Once the vendors had unpacked their wares and the chaos subsided, we thoroughly enjoyed the morning along with the rest of you. For those of you who were unable to make it - you missed a great time. It was nice to know that the stallholders also enjoyed the event and managed to make some money into the bargain.

Last but not least, our grateful thanks must go to Sharon who, in spite of being heard muttering in the corner, "Never again", remained the perfect, unruffled hostess throughout the morning and was such a help to us in planning the event.

The 20 Baht raffles proved a tremendous success with 12 lucky winners of prizes donated by stallholders. The winner of the Wine Raffle was Jan Boonbanjersri, who, we are informed is a "non-drinker"!! However, her good friend Wendy, has promised to help her enjoy the prize.

At the end of the day, when the money was passed to our assistant treasurer, Jayne (who loves counting money). She proudly announced that the generosity of S.I.L.C. members and friends had again come to the fore. A breakdown of this income is listed below:

	Baht
Books and videos sale	1,580
Wine Raffle	9,000
Table fees - 13 @ B200	2,600
Door fees- 42 @ B100	4,200
B20 Raffles	<u>3,140</u>
	<u>20,520</u>

Janet and Lesley

S.I.L.C.
FESTIVE DINNER
(with bad taste gifts!)



Saturday, December 2, 1995

NOVOTEL HOTEL
Srinakarin Road

Cocktails : 7 pm Buffet Dinner: 8 pm
Festive Dress
Tickets - 1000 Baht each

S.I.L.C Members, Partners and Guests
are invited to this year's
Festive Dinner

Please bring along one gift per couple
{Bad taste only, but nicely wrapped!}
The evening promises plenty of good cheer
You never know what you'll end up taking home (!?)

Prizes for the most innovative Festive Dress Accessories

Tickets available from
Wendy Chang (Lakeside Villa 2) 316 4011
Yasemin Watkins (Ladawan) 758 6581

Please book early!



S . I . L . C . CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

ATTENTION
ALL S.I.L.C. CHILDREN!

and your parents

COME ALONG TO THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

2 - 4 p.m.

at the home of

Lesley Evans

171 Lakeside Villa 2

Games

Afternoon tea

Visit from Santa

(Santa's visit is always fun AND he always seems to know what the children have been up to!)

Please bring along your Welfare Banks (small change) for S.I.L.C to help children in need.

Members are asked to bring along Christmas Cookies, finger sandwiches or other festive fare! Please call Sharon if you can assist.



R.S.V.P: Dec 1 Lesley 316 4017 Sharon 316 4075

You better not laugh, you better not cry, Santa Claus is coming to town!

Come, sit on his knee and have a private chat about your important requests for this Christmas

NEW FACES



A warm welcome to the following ladies who have recently joined S.I.L.C. We look forward to meeting you at one of the meetings or other activities in the near future! Having just returned from our annual bazaar, as I write this, it was good to see many ladies enjoying their first sale of the exciting and different local crafts and products, as well as the goods and creations of entrepreneurial expatriate women.

See you somewhere, sometime soon, but not for long as I'll be gone soon!! What will I do when I am no longer faced with the challenges and joys of Bangkok? No more U turns from the fast lane into the fast lane on Bangna Trad, not quite so many happy smiling people ready to assist, no more waiting for the driver (who has been very recalcitrant these past two weeks) etc etc

Karen Albrecht
NEWCOMERS SECRETARY

WELCOME TO S.I.L.C.

Deborah Cohen
35/66 Mooban Ladawan
Srinakarin Rd
Samutprakarn 10540
Ph. & Fax: 758 7076

Tracey Eagle
572 Mooban Ekpailin
Srinakarin Road
Samutprakarn 10540
ph.385 8329

Jenny Ekwarin
5/104 Lalin Greenvine
Moo 16 Soi Pattana
Chumchon
Srinakarin Road
Samutprakarn 10540
Ph.758 9048

Carolyn Nawijn
Mooban Panya
477/2 Soi 33
Pattanakarn Road
Bangkok 10250
Ph.300 3846

Giny Posthumus
35/238 Soi 5/9
Mooban Ladawan
Srinakarin Rd
Bangplee
Samutprakarn 10540
Ph.758 6631
Fax. 758 6629

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/RENEWAL

Pat Lewis
9 Sukhumvit Soi 85
Prakanong
Bangkok 10250
Ph. & Fax: 311 6494

WELFARE NEWS

THANK YOU!! On behalf of the Welfare Committee, I want to extend a warm thank you to Janet Hyland and Lesley Evans for the great organization of the SILC Bazaar and Sharon Land for hosting the event. Through your efforts, many less fortunate people will benefit.

CALLING ALL CHRISTMAS CAROLERS!!!

On Friday, December 8 from 10:00 - 12:00, we will be merry making at Concordia Daycare Center. We invite all members to participate. I can promise you will never regret those two hours spent bringing smiles to many very endearing young children. We would love carolers, cookies and craft designers to carry out Christmas cheer!!! Call Penny 316-4051 to RSVP or just come by on the 8th.

BAHT BANKS/CHANGE FOR CHARITY

Involve your family in SILC Welfare Projects. Fill a bank at home with loose change. Bring it to the SILC children's Christmas Party, December 5, where we will collect the money in a BIG BUCKET BANK to be used for Christmas parties we organize for the slum children in the daycares we visit weekly. Every little bit helps...

DONATIONS

Diane Hooper, a member who is volunteering at the Bangna SKIP school, is asking for good quality educational toys and dress up clothing to be used at the school.

Paradee Narkphanchiwan, while visiting a small daycare which is part of the Pong Ploy Temple near Soi LaSalle, found that they too were accepting donations of toys and in need of crayons, notebooks and writing utensils.

Given the need as described, we are asking for donations of used and usable toys, books... to be dropped off the week of November 20 at the following points:

- 776 Lakeside Villa 1- Sue Leon's home
- 207 Lakeside Villa 2 - Penny Minges' home
- 34/39 Moo Baan Ladawan-Annette Faherty's home

Keep those eyeglasses coming in!! Remember this is an on-going project!



A VISIT TO S.K.I.P. ON A TUESDAY MORNING

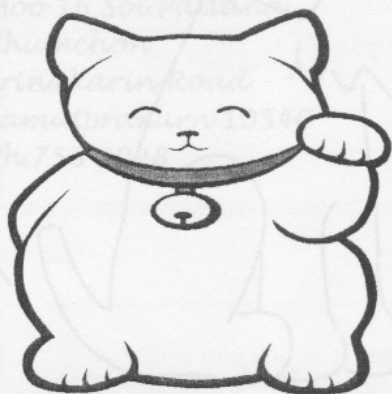
by Karen Albrecht

Recently, I joined Sue Leon and Janet Hyland on one of their regular visits to S.K.I.P. on Soi 77, sub soi 49. The Slum Kindergarten Improvement Programme creates opportunities for young children living in very poor circumstances to receive a start to their education. This particular kindergarten exists in the middle of a sort of shanty town, with small houses on stilts over water (black) and rubbish (plentiful). The concrete walkway is a big improvement Sue tells me over the planks, mud and water of earlier days.

The kindergarten presently caters to up to 107 children each day. The room is quite small, with a few tables, storage locker, blackboard, cushions and some colour charts to brighten the walls and several lines of neatly dressed children all waiting (so quietly!) for the visitors. All 100+ children were wearing name tags in Thai and English and very smartly and happily cried, "Good Morning Teacher!" in response to Sue's greeting. The teacher, Khun Soo does not speak English but our Sue is pretty talented and manages to communicate in Thai and English for the 2 1/2 hour session. The children are familiar now with the routine - songs, lesson, game, story and art/craft activity. They know several English words and phrases already and use them appropriately.

Khun Soo is a young, dedicated and talented teacher. She impressed me with her calm manner and sensible (clever, actually) approaches to dealing with a vast number of little ones. The children are provided with a hot lunch daily. They are very well behaved and relatively undemanding. Dental care of course is neglected. These people are very poor. S.I.L.C. has undertaken to provide the supplies used on the Tuesday morning visits.

Each week, in preparation for the story, a tape with the story in English and Thai is prepared by Sue and her very helpful and co-operative maid, Dtoy and sent along each Friday. Preparing these tapes has its funny moments, as does the preparation of the props for the story and the art activity. Working at S.K.I.P. is a very hands on affair! Sue leads the session with her capable and innovative assistant Janet ever at the ready. The story of The Fat Cat was a treat for all! The children's faces lit up the moment Sue started (with Khun Soo translating) - the children knew they were in for a good show. Earlier, the English word cat was



introduced. Janet, after a while piped up and requested that she be stroked on the back so that she could show them about purring. All the children were encouraged to mime scratching, washing, drinking, meowing, stretching, sleeping. Narrator Sue quickly warmed to the story about a cat who ate the rice, then the pot, the old woman, two birds, etc then finally the woodchopper. Janet, meanwhile had donned her cat mask and was prowling around getting

ready to eat everything. Every few minutes she stuffed some more cushions up her T shirt until she was indeed a very fat cat. She pretended to eat a few children along the way and everyone was delighted with that. The story telling and mime was a big success - the looks on the children's faces were a treat to see.

We all sat down on the floor, three staff, three visitors and 100 + children to make cat masks from paper plates with straw moustaches and cut out ears. The children did so well. They cut, pasted and drew while we stapled, glued and helped to attach staws until every one was satisfied and wearing their mask. The logistics of working with such a large number of children in a confined space is easily overcome it seems with thorough preparation, well targeted activities and a healthy dose of enthusiasm. The programme certainly is a tribute to Sue's ingenuity and willingness to put the time in to plan each session so carefully. The range of quality activities offered each Tuesday morning ensures that real learning takes place through very positive and happy experiences.

Actually, there is quite a team of special ladies who give of their time each week to help underprivileged children. Dianne Hooper attends the S.K.I.P. at Bangna each week and a group help out regularly at Concordia - Sue and Janet, Penny Minges, Dianne Clarke, Paradee Narkphanthiwan and Jeed Suphavarodom. The programmes are working really well and each visit is accompanied by lots of fun and enjoyment.

The children do appreciate the attention given by these marvellous visitors, as is shown by one little boy's outburst during a session at Concordia Day Care one Friday morning. He misunderstood and thought that the end of Sue's story indicated the end of the visit (i.e no art etc) and began to talk rapidly in Thai. The teacher listened, smiled and translated, " Khun Farang, please not finish, not go yet" "



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