

SILC NEWS



A publication of the Samutprakarn International Ladies Club

October 2012

This Month:

Coffee Morning - Thurs 4th October
Samitivej Hospital Srinakarin

Lunch - Tues 9th October
Combined Women's Lunch 2012



If you have not already renewed your SILC Membership, please do so this month.

Contact our Membership Co-ordinator - details on page 2.

Membership application form for new members is available to download from our website: www.silcthailand.com

Committee Members

Responsibility	Name	Telephone	Email
Chairman	Sarah Chaplin	089 205 1528	silcchair@gmail.com
Vice Chairman	Karyn Walker	081 862 2632	karyn045@hotmail.com
Secretary	Angelique Leijdekker	082 009 9212	liekley@live.com
Treasurer	Betty Stewart	081 792 5367	bettystewarto@gmail.com
Coffee Mornings	Teresa Carr	085 556 8151	treindubai@yahoo.com
Tours	POSITION VACANT		
Lunches	Jo Thomas	082 526 0260	johannethomas@hotmail.com
Membership	Geraldine McEvoy	082 204 9470	mcevger@gmail.com
Welfare Coordinator	Chris Rajakarier	081 136 4186	crajakarier@googlemail.com
Newsletter Editor	Jan Briggs	085 556 4655	jan.briggs22@gmail.com
Advertising	Teresa Carr	085 556 8151	treindubai@yahoo.com
Bazaar	Angelique Leijdekker	082 009 9212	liekley@live.com
Mahjong	Betty Stewart	081 792 5367	bettystewarto@gmail.com
General Committee	Ngoc Richt Fiona Campbell Cheryl Rego Julie Nguyen Audrey Fernandez Sara Cartwright	081 371 2107 087 028 4694 081 889 5354 082 336 9200 087 282 7979 081 966 2236	ngoc_richt@yahoo.com fionakl@hotmail.co.uk Cheryl.rego1@gmail.com jnjnjulie@gmail.com audreyjacqueline@yahoo.com sara.crtwrgh@gmail.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



From Sarah's Study



It was lovely to meet so many of you at our Welcome Back coffee morning. I was sorry that I didn't have more time to chat to everyone so I hope to see you again soon. SILC are thrilled to welcome 14 new members so we are flourishing!

The latest on my resolutions is that spending less time on the computer has meant more time doing other things. I've exercised almost every weekday doing an aqua class, yoga session and walking with Kay around our moobaan. Sorry emails might take a little longer to reply to as I'm not on the computer as much! Aren't we always telling our kids to get the balance right.....!

I loved Marna's article in the September newsletter and have since enjoyed reading others on www.chickynet.com/thailand. The same day I eagerly opened a glossy new magazine which said 'This issue is all about the things that bring you happiness ...' Top of the list is that our nearest and dearest are healthy and happy. (I nodded in agreement knowing that many of our kids have had nasty bugs lately). Good friends, love and sharing with others - a smile spread across my face.....a facial expression which I love as it spreads the happiness!

There are also lots of simple things that make us happy. A good glass of wine, a delicious meal, a holiday and (one for Bangkok) a gorgeous new handbag. The MBK happy factor!!

Throughout the issue there were inspiring stories of realizing long held hopes and dreams. One lady had taken on a challenge to learn to ride and then took part in a charity bike ride in Vietnam and Cambodia. They had warm welcomes everywhere, there was great camaraderie and they overcame the challenges together. All of which made for a happy experience - as long as you ignored the sore bottoms and aching muscles! She said "Doing something physical rather than simply transferring money really does make you focus on your reasons for undertaking such a challenge"

This article ties in so well with all the wonderful work SILC members do in the local community. If you visit the preschools for an activity there is a great feeling as you leave of happiness at what you've shared that day even if you are tired after a morning without a/c! Obviously sometimes a donation is the best way to help in other situations and our members are fantastic at putting their hands in their pockets or buying oil for Sister Joan. At a recent meeting of the Inter Association welfare group Chris and I attended someone commented "considering what a small group SILC are you do a lot in the local community."

I'm so happy to be a part of SILC and sharing time with so many wonderful members. In October I'm looking forward to coffee at Samitivej and the Combined Women's Lunch hosted by the American Women's Club of Thailand. For those of us with kids it's half term too and I wish you all a happy time with your families.

Please don't forget to renew your membership to ensure you continue to receive the SILC Newsletter.

Sarah x

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:
silcchair@gmail.com

There are also folding chairs and some tables available to borrow for SILC events:

For these contact: Betty:
bettystewarto@gmail.com

Deadline

Wednesday 17th October 2012 is the deadline for any articles for the Oct. 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

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

Regular Events

Mahjong

Takes place on Wednesdays

From approx 9.30am to 2.30pm

In members homes

Donations are appreciated towards our Welfare Charities.

Guests very welcome, 200b/session

Contact: Betty Stewart

081 792 5367

bettystewarto@gmail.com



Golf in Samutprakarn

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.

Contact: Betty Stewart

081 792 5367

bettystewarto@gmail.com



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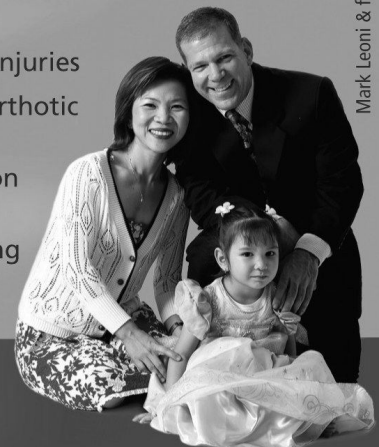
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Accounts

<u>Summary Accounts 'till end of August 2012</u>	
<u>Income</u>	
Interest	฿ 0
Advertising	฿ 0
Coffee Morning Donations	฿ 0
Mahjong Donations	฿ 0
Donations	฿ 615
Cookbook Adverts	฿ 30,000
Donations - Misc	฿ 0
Total Income	฿ 30,615
<u>Operating Expenses:</u>	
Newsletter costs	฿ 0
AGM	฿ 0
Total Operating Expenses	฿ 0
<u>Charitable Payments:</u>	
Mahawong	฿ 2,650
Arts/Crafts/Activities	฿ 0
Chanukroh School	฿ 3,042
Slum Relief	฿ 0
TOTAL SILC Charitable Payments	฿ 5,692
Net Operating Profit	฿ 24,923
<u>SAMUTPRAKARN INTERNATIONAL LADIES CLUB</u>	
<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>	
Opening Balance of Members' equity	฿ 240,233
Net Operating Profit	฿ 24,923
Total Equity	฿ 265,155



SILC now has a dropbox account which will make it easier for you to share documents related to SILC, especially for sending articles and photographs in for the newsletter. Each month I will create a file for the newsletter that you can drop your things into.

Our details are:

Username: silcthai@gmail.com

Password: bangkok2012

Many thanks, Jan, SILC Newsletter Editor

Welcome Back Coffee Morning Review

It was a dark, rainy morning and I was sorely tempted to indulge in the secret pleasures of a good book and my bed. Then I thought of all the reasons I should go to the coffee morning (in no particular order):

Home-made comfort food

Catching up with friends

Meeting new friends (and neighbours!)

Getting a bit dressed up (ie wearing lipstick and something other than shorts)

Oh yes, and I have to pay my subs

Venue is close by

Children at school, finished work so why the hell not?

I had planned to have at least 10 points before I made my decision but it was a no brainer. I'm so glad that I made the effort - what a fantastic morning.

I was met at the door by the SILC wonder ladies - enough to warm the cockles of even the coldest of hearts. Although in hindsight I did get roped into writing this article. Don't tell anyone that I'm a sucker!

How many SILC ladies can you fit into a room? Phew, I'm not sure but it was packed to the brim. Well done everyone for a great turn out.

I was drawn to a chair in the centre of the room that happened to be by the food. Great food and company, who could ask for more? We were deeply engrossed in conversation (well actually, gossip) when we were interrupted by a loud noise. "What is that sound?" I was asked. "Well that's our chairlady" I sniggered! Standing like a goddess at the end of the room she succeeded in getting everyone's attention!

Introductions were made and phone numbers exchanged. The morning flew by. As I said my "hello and goodbye" to people I didn't have a chance to chat to because I was too lazy to get up off my seat, I promised myself next time!

Julie Cragg



October Coffee Morning

**This month we have been invited to
Samitivej Hospital, Srinakarin**



The hospital team will give us a presentation on breast cancer awareness, anti-ageing skincare and esthetics, health and well-being and tell us about their services and new clinic at Soi Lasalle.

Thursday 4th October 10 - 12pm

In the Conference Centre, Floor 7

Samitivej Srinakarin

488 Srinakarin Road

Tel: 02 378 9000

There will be a charge of 100 baht per head for coffee

Proceeds of the coffee morning will be donated to Samitivej's charity which pays medical expenses for underprivileged families

R.S.V.P. To: Teresa Carr at
treindubai@yahoo.com

Closing date for replies - Mon 1st October



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

October Lunch

Combined Women's Lunch 2012

hosted by the American Women's Club of Thailand

THE RIP ROARING TWENTIES PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ



Period Costumes Suggested
& Prizes for Best Dressed



Tuesday, October 9th
Sofitel Bangkok Sukhumvit
Shopping: 9:30 am
Lunch Served: 11:30 am
Ticket Cost: 1,600 baht/pers

Book & Buy Tickets:

- ◆ Online at www.awcthailand.org
- ◆ Mondays at Casual Connections (The Coffee Club, Sukhumvit 63, as of Sept 10th)
- ◆ AWC office, 72/1 Sukhumvit 38, Tel: 02-712-3380
- ◆ Contact: cwl@awcthailand.org

Proceeds benefit AWC Community Projects

We are not organizing a separate lunch for October due to the short timespace available with school holidays and other commitments.

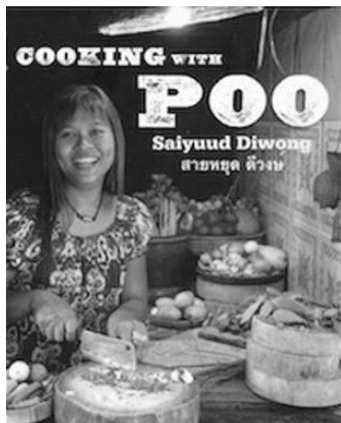
The Combined Women's Lunch would have been Jo's choice for you all this month, but unfortunately she will be away on that date.

If you would like to get together with a group of friends and enjoy some Twenties style entertainment then please arrange tickets via the AWC as per the advert opposite.

Sorry for the inconvenience. We hope to see you for coffee on 4th October.

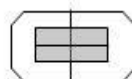
Cooking with Poo Cookbooks

If anyone would like to purchase one of Poo's cookbooks Lyn Hine now has a supply. 500b each, all proceeds to a very worthy cause!



Contact Lyn:

hineboysplusone@gmail.com



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

Bulletin Board

New Toothbrushes Please!

The children at Mahawong have been diligently cleaning their teeth since we supplied them all with a toothbrush and dental care tips from the dental nurse. But now the toothbrushes are looking very worn and need to be replaced.

Please consider donating a toothbrush or two for these grateful children and help them to keep their lovely pearly smiles.

We require toothbrushes for age 3-6 years. Bring them along to any SILC event or hand them to the Welfare Members.

Thank you

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

Excellent Maid Looking for work in the Silom/Sathon/Sukhumvit area.

She lives in the Pratunam area and would like sleep-out work Monday to Friday as she has a young daughter. Excellent at cleaning, cooking, ironing etc.

Please call her directly - Roma on 089 774 9493

For reference purposes you may call Candy on 081 803 6930

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.

Any ladies tempted to try their hand at a fun **Aqua Aerobics Class**, please join us at Mooban Nantawan Srinakaran on Monday Mornings from 10:00 to 11:00 am. If possible please bring a pool noodle which can be bought at Toys R Us.

For more info please call Candy on 081 803 6930 Hope to see you there.

September Lunch Review

Patara Restaurant, Thonglor Soi 19

Friday 14th September saw my first SILC lunch and also my first visit to Patara restaurant. Tucked away on Thong Lor Soi 19 and set in a lovely tropical garden, the restaurant is sophisticated, elegant and restrained - Jim Thompson's without the leopard skin and colour clash.

The lunch was well attended by 15 ladies who dined from the stylish set lunch menu, reasonably priced at 280 Baht for 2 courses. The food was delicious - I had dainty Thai tacos followed by fish with chilli and basil which were very good, both to look at and to eat. Others had a deconstructed pad Thai, red curry duck and an enviable chicken salad with sticky rice, again all beautifully presented.

Starting with the special fruit cocktails on the veranda, Patara would be a great place to take guests in the evening, particularly to show that Thai food doesn't just come in a plastic bowl from a road side stall. Lunch portions were suitably lady-ish but I am assured that the a la carte menu would satisfy a hungry bloke without resorting to a kebab on the way home. (A British male tradition if you aren't from the U.K.!)

I left in the complimentary tuk-tuk to Thong Lor BTS station - another treat, especially for a newbie who is in fear of being invited to the driver's brother-in-law's cousin's gem shop which is what happens in every regular tuk-tuk if my tourist bumf is to be believed.

A most enjoyable lunch with lovely food and ambiance and a great crowd. Thanks to Jo for organising. Now, when's the next one?

Jane Campton



New Members



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

Geraldine McEvoy: 082 204 9470

mcevger@gmail.com

My name is Jane Campton and I have just arrived in Bangkok with my husband Guy, who works for Triumph Motorcycles, and my children Finn, Y9, and Dan, Y7. I am a textile designer by training, a fashion designer by trade and an art teacher by default. Its our first overseas posting and, coming from a very small and very rural village in Leicestershire, its all a bit of a shock!

Things I like about my new life here so far include-

- How friendly everyone is.
- Chatuchak on a Sunday and other weekend adventures.
- Morning walks past the market and the monks collecting alms.
- The amazing vibrant colours everywhere you go.
- The little contraption I use to dry our smalls. I've never had one before and it gives me great pleasure to hang everything in order!!

Things which baffle me include-

- Thai sweeping brushes.
- How those dogs in the middle of the road don't get run over.
- How many bags I come home with from the supermarket.
- Why I brought 12 jumpers.
- How those bust enhancing creams in the market work.

Things I'm not keen on include-

- Sweating like a...(I was going to say fat girl in the disco but feel free to insert your national simile here).
- Durian.
- Sweating.
- Really hard beds. The ironing board would be more comfortable.
- Did I mention sweating?

I don't have a photo (I gave up having them taken a while ago, preferring to think of myself as 24 and gorgeous) but you'll recognize me - I'm the inappropriately dressed, sweaty, ginger one!

New Members Sept:

AMARA KETJAN

BEENITA STEPHENSON

CHAMAIPORN (LEKK) BURRELL

DEBBIE ETTLE

GEORGINA O'MOORE

GINA CHRISTIE

HAZEL CARDEN

JANE CAMPTON

NATHALIE WEST

NING UTTHAWIANG

SADIE MILLS

ULLA POULSEN

VIVIEN CHOW

WILAWAN RINNE

Welcome to SILC

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

Don't forget to visit our website:

www.silcthailand.com

SILC Mahjong Group

Welcome to the world of Mahjong in Samutprakarn. It is described on the internet as "**Mahjong: One of the Toughest and Oldest Indoor Games**", we're obviously playing a different version! SILC Mahjong is a social, fun way to meet and have fun. Winning doesn't seem to be the reason for playing, it's mostly about getting to know everybody in a very relaxing environment - be it all that there's a few tiles strewn around the table, 72 to be exact.



History: Mahjong, also spelled mah-jong or mah-jongg is a game of Chinese origin. Dating to over two thousand years ago, Mahjong is said to have originated in the court of the King of Wu. This was roughly the time that Confucius existed, which was some five hundred years before the Christian era. Within this court, there lived a beauty in seclusion. To keep herself from utter boredom, she invented a game of her own. She began to carve domino-shaped pieces of ivory and bamboo. When she was finished, she invited three of her maids to play her newly invented game. Each person was to receive 34 tiles in which they would each create a wall with. The exact rules that were applied are unknown but the lowest score is said to have been 22 points and the highest 389,928 points **[I know how they got 22 points . . I've been there too!]** .

For centuries, Mahjong was exclusive to the royal class. It was against the law for commoners to play. The penalty for commoners who dared to play Mahjong was decapitation. However, around 500 A.D., the penalty was lifted, which enabled everyone who desired to play Mahjong to do so.

Lifting the ban on the commoner's right to play Mahjong enabled the game to spread to various countries around the world, including England and Australia. Its invasion into the United States did not occur until 1920. Joseph P. Babcock, an American resident of Shanghai, was the person responsible for introducing Mahjong to the United States. He coined and copyrighted the term "mah-jongg," along with a simplified set of rules which he put together. **[THANK GOODNESS!]** To promote the game in the U.S., Babcock also gave English translations to the tiles and added index letters and numbers familiar to card players. Babcock was also responsible for the first few Mahjong sets ever to be imported into the U.S.

People desired the mental agility that games of the past had to offer. If a mental challenge was what people wanted, Mahjong was definitely the game, for it was often called the "game of a hundred intelligences" simply because it required much concentration. **[Having read this I have no idea what we are playing – intelligence, mental challenge WOW!!]**

Basic: A bit like canaster, rummy, poker we make "sets"; all the same number type of character, reverse runs, jumping jacks, honours, wriggly snake, gertie's garter, potato peelings . . . just joking! It's really quite easy at the basic level at which we play.

Next Step: We meet every Wednesday, any time from 10 am to 2:30 pm, bring a plate of nibbles if you have time to get them together. There are usually about 16 of us, so we have 4 tables with 4 at each table - so a good chance to get to know everybody. The venue changes with a different host each week - so you get to see a lot of different moobans and houses. Just a word of warning, please don't pig out on the nibbles because the host provides a lunch as well! There's no charge for mah-jong but we do have a collection box for SILC charities which you can donate to if you want - non-members are welcome but have to pay 200 baht per session.

Look forward to meeting you all, just come along.

Betty Stewart
Mahjong ~~Director~~ Co-ordinator





Masala Art

-the art of blending spices
FINEST INDIAN CUISINE



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THAILAND'S
BEST
RESTAURANTS



2011
THAILAND'S
BEST
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www.masala-artbkk.com

Reservation 02-713-8357
084-755-6654

SILC Book Club - October Meeting

When: Friday October 12th (an earlier date due to the school holiday)

Time: 12-2pm

Where: Julie Nguyen's house
Baan Mailomruen (Promphan Park), 333/27 Chareumprakiat Road in Bangna

Book: The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry
By Rachel Joyce

More Details: Contact Julie at jnjinjulie@gmail.com or 082369200

Please come even if you haven't read the book.
We will discuss books in general and future books.

Hope to see you there!



Book Club Review

August 2012

Still Alice

by Lisa Genova

Our second book club meeting had us reading “Still Alice” by Lisa Genova. Thought I should write something about the book but first things first, lets talk about US – always a favourite topic! Julie is our organiser and we will be meeting regularly at her house on the last Friday of the month at 12:00. We’re not doing the lunch thing, just straight into discussion (as if), everybody brings a plate of nibbles which seemed to be sufficient for keeping the tummy from growling too much and disturbing the reflections of others. The book club is open to all – especially SILC members.

On Friday 31st August seven of us turned up, the food was great and the conversation . . . well, needless to say we didn’t just talk about the book! We did discuss the book, nitnoi ka,, half of us had read it (the others are waiting for the film . Rachel!), but that didn’t stop the discussions because the the book is very thought provoking and the issues very topical.



Still Alice is not the book I would normally choose to read – that’s why I joined the group (in part) - but I’m pleased I read it. The book is about a Harvard Professor with early –onset Alzheimer’s (see fuller resume below). At the start of reading I definitely felt very troubled with the content, so many of the things she did, I do too, forgetfulness, mislaying things (Where are my glasses?” I ask when they’re on top of my head! That type of thing), etc.. But she has other more significant problems which, fortuitously, I don’t have. The others all felt the same. The family relationships and reactions were explored as was her contemplation of suicide which we all talked about.

In summary – worth a read, but don’t get too depressed.

Written by Betty Stewart, SILC book club member

For more information about the SILC Book Club contact:

Julie Nguyen

Tel. No.: 082 336 9200

e-mail: jnjinjulie@gmail.com

Address: 333/27 Baan Mailomruen
Chareumprokiat Ror 9 Road

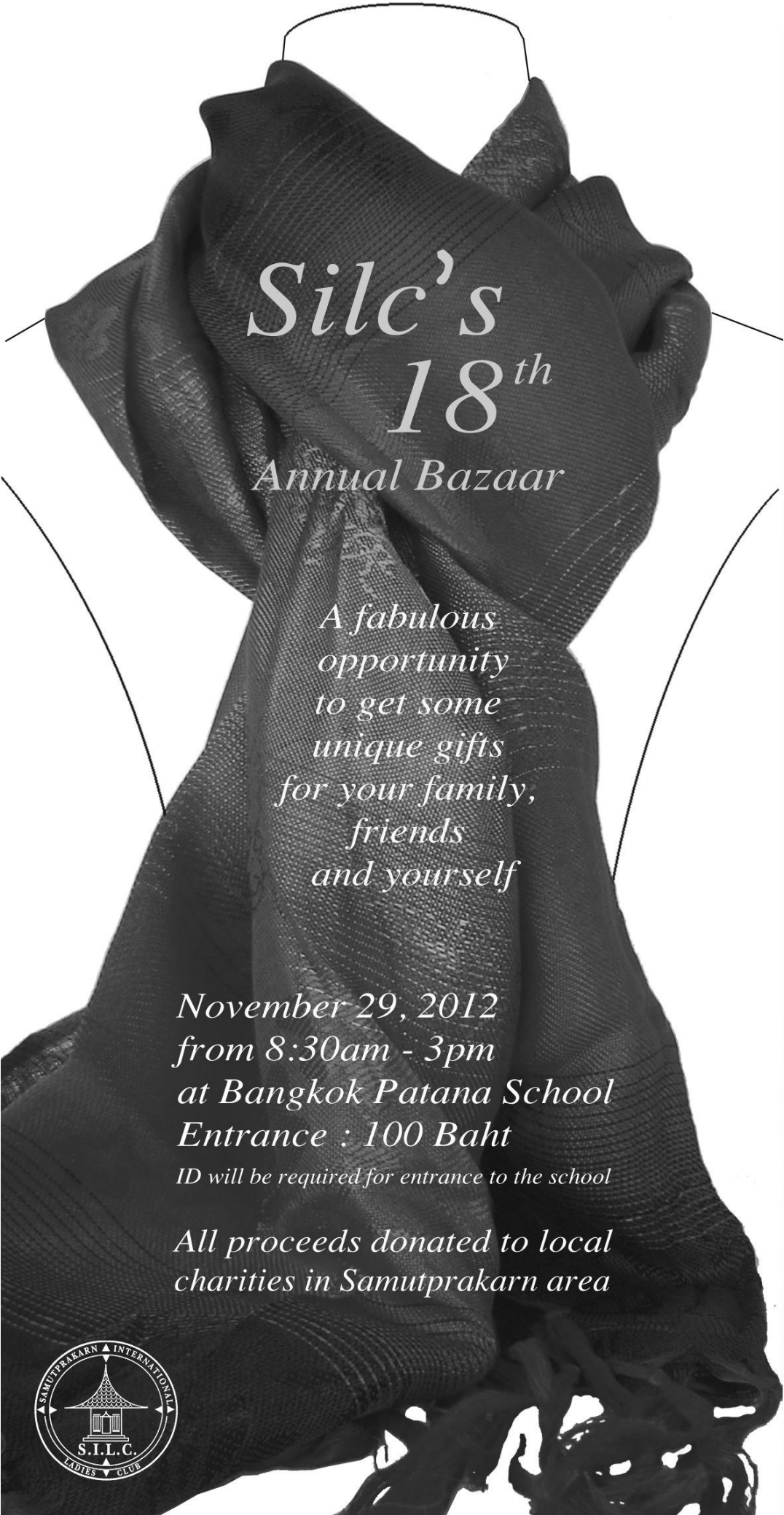
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Brief resume: Alice Howland - Harvard professor, gifted researcher and lecturer, wife, and mother of three grown children - sets out for a run and soon realizes she has no idea how to find her way home. She has taken the route for years, but nothing looks familiar. She is utterly lost. Medical consults reveal early-onset Alzheimer's.

Alice's slowly but inevitably loses memory and connection with reality, told from her perspective. She gradually loses the ability to follow a conversational thread, the story line of a book, or to recall information she heard just moments before. Genova's debut shows the disease progression through the reactions of others, as Alice does, so readers feel what she feels - a slowly building terror.(

+++++





Silc's 18th Annual Bazaar

*A fabulous
opportunity
to get some
unique gifts
for your family,
friends
and yourself*

*November 29, 2012
from 8:30am - 3pm
at Bangkok Patana School
Entrance : 100 Baht*

ID will be required for entrance to the school

*All proceeds donated to local
charities in Samutprakarn area*



SILC Bazaar - we need your help...

SILC BAZAAR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Dear SILC ladies, we need your help to ensure the smooth running of the SILC BAZAAR on Thursday 29 November!

If you have a couple of hours to spare and would like to help, please let me know. Also tell me whether you prefer a morning or afternoon slot and if there is a particular stall you would like to work on. The stalls are: entrance/tombola tickets, cakes, SILC table for membership/welfare/selling cold drinks, books, toys and bric-a-brac.

Look forward to your replies!

Marit van den Oetelaar, e-mail: gertonmarit@yahoo.com

WANTED: SECOND HAND ITEMS



Do you have items which you no longer need? Any books, toys, clothes, household goods?

With your donations we are able to raise money for charities in the Samutprakarn area.

Bring them along to your Link Lady (see page 2) or to me for those living in the Sukhumvit Area.

You can also bring them along on Friday November 29th when you visit the Bazaar.



For any further questions please contact :

Ester van Staaldhuizen (estervanstaaldhuizen@hotmail.com),

Baan Sansiri, Sukhumvit Soi 67, house nr. 32/69, Phra Khanong

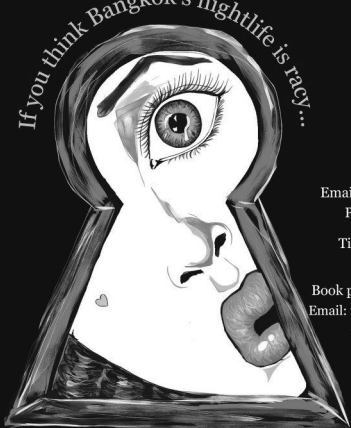
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Continuation



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Bangkok Patana School

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Assumptions...

Wednesday 29th August 2012. 8.30am.

After seeing my partner off in a taxi to Suvarnabhumi Airport, I was 'lucky' enough to get the next taxi to take me to work. It seemed to be very humid already, we hadn't seen any rain the day before and I was feeling it. I was also struggling to walk after the previous days gym workout...

After giving my directions and settling in, I say to the Taxi driver "Ron maak!" (Hot, very! In my best Thai!) to which he replies "Yes, but that is because you do not work very hard or exercise" (In his best English!)

My limited Thai gets me through many situations, but I had no idea how to respond to this! I politely smile in my British way, whilst seething inwardly! How dare he! What does he know! I can hardly walk after my exercise yesterday (ok, this was my first attempt at serious exercise for a long time, but nevertheless, I exercise...) AND I was on my way to work!!

I stopped talking. I was definitely sulking with the taxi driver and although he spoke very good English I really couldn't be bothered to explain that he was wrong...maybe this is indeed what they think of us farang?

As I pondered further on his comment to me, I passed by the many Thai people working out in the heat; people cooking and selling food, cleaning the roads, waiting for passengers to ride their mototaxi and some walking to work, all without a bead of sweat dripping from their brow. Is this indeed what he thinks of as 'hard work' whilst he's sitting in his air-conditioned taxi?

It really made me think how quick we all are to make assumptions about other people and their lives. As ex-pat women our family and friends can often be quick to point out how 'lucky' we are without the worries of working, cleaning and driving whilst shopping, lunching and living in a holiday hot spot that most people dream of visiting one day.

The reality, for us, is far different. Husbands working away, organising schools for children and making sure they are settled, dealing with said cleaners and drivers, building a network of friends whilst also dealing with the daily challenges of living in a country where the language and culture are a constant demand.

If we think about mentioning any of this to family and friends we face concerns that we will be perceived as 'ungrateful' for not fully realising how 'lucky' we are. Ok, yes, we are 'lucky', but we are here in Bangkok supporting our husbands' career and the personal cost can sometimes feel high, which is often not acknowledged by anyone else outside of our situation.

I am a supporting ex-pat partner myself and there was no question of us not coming to Bangkok! I love Bangkok and on my holidays here Thailand always kept a little piece of my heart when I left. Where could be a more perfect place for me to live?

However, the reality has been very different, I'm not on holiday (again this has been questioned!) work beckoned for my partner and I had to fend for myself! I was living in a new house, in a new neighbourhood without a clue of what I was going to do. I missed my friends, my family and of course they knew nothing about how I was feeling.

After conversations with other expat women, I soon realised that I was not alone in facing the difficulties of adjusting to life in Bangkok, whilst also coping with the loss of a valued support network of family and friends. I also became aware that the other issues that bothered us as individuals hadn't gone away simply because we had moved continent; indeed I felt they became more exaggerated.

Just like this taxi driver, we all make assumptions on other peoples' lives as we compare them to our own, but we only get to live our life and not those of the people we often feel have it better, or easier, than us. We cannot know how other people feel about their life, just as they don't know how we are feeling about ours.

On reflection, I don't expect the taxi driver actually meant to offend me and I cannot be sure that I haven't unknowingly done the same to a Thai person whilst attempting to speak their language! But, he did make me pause for thought and more determined to get into a routine at the gym and learn an appropriate response in Thai should I ever get faced with a comment like that again!

Samantha Pryor



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The Menu is all new with a good selection of homemade savoury pies and quiches that include Steak and Kidney, Shepherd's Pie, Spinach Quiche, Mushroom & Tomato Quiche etc.

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We also offer a good selection of delicious homemade cakes

Coffee is Coco's passion and she has invested in the latest Italian Coffee machine and an exclusive coffee blend that delivers great taste.

All food is made by chefs or in the case of the pies by Sally, originally from Ireland, of the Witch-es Tavern on Sukumvit and delivered fresh to the cafe.

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Bangkok Patana School Awarded Second Prime Minister's Export Award

Bangkok Patana School has recently been honoured as a 'Best Service Provider' in the Prime Minister's Export Award 2012. Presented by the Prime Minister, Her Excellency Yingluck Shinawatra, this award is the Royal Thai Government's highest official award, annually granted to outstanding Thai exporters of products and services in recognition of their high quality and standards.

This is the second time Bangkok Patana has received the Prime Minister's Export Award, having also won in 2002. It is the only international school to have achieved this honour twice. Since then it has grown and developed, consolidating its position at the forefront of international education, and the award is a testament to the outstanding learning environment provided by the school.

Dr. Tej Bunnag is the Chairman of the Bangkok Patana School Foundation Board. "It is a great honour to receive this prestigious award. We appreciate being recognised for the efforts we make, and the ensuing success we achieve through our students. The award truly belongs to our teachers and students who, every day, strive for excellence, good character and to fulfil potential," he said. "We are very grateful to the Government of Thailand for this award."

The Prime Minister's Export Award was founded in 1992 and is presented to the country's top exporters, acknowledging the importance of this market to the Thai economy. The award-winning organisations are credited with not only offering products and services of a world-class standard but also for improving the reputation of Thai companies in the global marketplace.

Bangkok Patana School is Thailand's original British International School, founded in 1957 and has a proud record in academic, sporting and artistic achievements. Governed by a not-for-profit Foundation Board, it is accredited by the Council of International Schools and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and is an IB World School. The school currently has an enrolment of 2,185 students from over 60 different nationalities.



Photo 1: Thai Prime Minister, HE Yingluck Shinawatra, poses with Mr Matthew Mills (Head of Bangkok Patana School), Khun Pornpimol Charoen (School Manager), Mrs Laura Stamp (Vice Chairperson of the Foundation Board) and Mr David Humphreys (Foundation Board Member) on the occasion of the school being awarded 'Best Service Provider' at the Prime Minister's Export Award 2012.

Photo 2: Thai Prime Minister, HE Yingluck Shinawatra, congratulates Khun Kulvadee Siribhadra (Director of the Foundation Office at Bangkok Patana School) on their Prime Minister's Export Award 2012, watched by Mr Matthew Mills (Head of School), Mrs Laura Stamp (Vice Chairperson of the Foundation Board) and Mr David Humphreys (Foundation Board Member).



Photo 3: Thai Prime Minister, HE Yingluck Shinawatra, awards Mrs Laura Stamp (Vice Chairperson of the Foundation Board) and Khun Kulvadee Siribhadra (Director of the Foundation Board Office) the Prime Minister's Export Award 2012 for 'Best Service Provider' on behalf of Bangkok Patana School.

For more information please contact:

Ms. Emma Goligher, Development, Alumni & Marketing Manager
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emgo@patana.ac.th
+66 (0) 2398 2000
www.patana.ac.th

Welfare

Notice – Your Help is Needed

The welfare committee is collecting items for our upcoming daycare activities. We are in need of the following items for next school year:

- ♦ plastic disposable bottles with lids (approximately 500 ml. size)
- ♦ stickers you aren't using or any other unneeded craft items that you think that we can make use of (like ribbon, tissue paper, yarn, feathers, etc.)

Your trash might be our treasure! This is also an excellent way to recycle materials.

Please bring these items along if you are assisting at the daycares (see upcoming emails for dates) or contact Julie Nguyen at jnjinjulie@gmail.com and arrangements can be made to pick them up at a SILC event or Bangkok Patana school.

Thank you in advance for your support,

The Welfare Committee



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OF THE BOOK LAUNCH.

Something Fishy is going on at the Preschools...

In the morning of August 24, our group of ladies met as usual at True Café, right in front of Bangkok Patana School. Excitement about catching up after the summer holidays, as most of us had been away, and not seen our friends in a while. Shirley and Julie introduced the ladies who hadn't met - quick coffee or bottle of water - and off we went, chatting away on our short ride to **Mahawong** Preschool. Phin, Palm, Mary, Marianne, and Sabine on board today.

The kids and their teachers were all in the middle of a singing and dancing activity, out in the yard, as we arrived. They were greeting us excitedly, eager to know what kind of activity was going to happen today? Julie had prepared a simple yet lovely handicraft which would be fun for the 180 children to produce within the next two hours. We were going to make a fish out of a paper plate, colour it, give it teeth and an eye, and decorate it with paper shapes and beads.

As you can see in the pictures, the kids truly enjoyed their art work, and proudly presented their fish to the camera. Each and every one finished in their individual style! They thought the teeth were especially hilarious, and one boy said very sweetly to me "look, my fish is smiling!". Actually, here is our reward: the whole group of young children with very big smiles on their faces!

Thank you, Julie, for coming up with great ideas! Thanks, welfare team for organizing these great mornings for the kids!

Sabine Benke



On Friday 31st August **Chanukroh** was the third and last pre-school for this month's activity: making and decorating a fish from a paper plate. When all 8 of us arrived and decided to stop chatting we finished the last bit of preparation (stapling the tail to the fish's body) and got out all other nice stuff needed to make the fish look less boring than just plain white. We had black eyes, beads in all kinds of shapes, a whole array of coloured pencils, round paper cuttings, shiny tape and best of all **TEETH**: big shark like teeth and tiny little fish's teeth.

The children, lovely as always, were divided over 4 groups so we sat down with them and got them to work on their fishes. The first thing they had to do was sticking the teeth to the fish's mouth and giving the fish an eye. It is always so much joy when you are explaining in English what they should do and they just look at you with their big dark eyes. My level of Thai is ok for taxis, restaurants and shops, but at those moments I always wished my Thai was much better so that you actually can have some fun conversation with them. Anyway, they all did their very best; some are very active and take the lead in sticking and colouring while others just wait for you to do the job for them. But in the end every child had a beautifully decorated fish that could swim but most of all that could **BITE**.

After the usual photo sessions with lots of cheering there was one last item on this morning's programme, which was saying goodbye to one of the teachers, Khru Toom. She has been working at Chanukroh for more than 2 years and she was the one who was the best English speaker. We were all very sorry to see her leave. On behalf of the welfare team Shirley had bought her a nice tray with candles as a good bye present and a card on which we all had written our best wishes. Most of us, including the teachers, couldn't keep it dry, but that's all part of it and such is life.

As a final thank you, the children sang the song "If you happy and you know it clap your hands" for us. They did very well with their English, very impressive what they have learned over the year.

So thank you, Shirley, Chris, Anja, Julie, Phin, Mary and Michelle (Shirley's daughter) for another worthwhile morning!

Bianca

September Craft Activity - Bookmark making

When we arrived the students at the **Mahawong** preschool were singing songs and from the looks of it having a very good time doing so. After singing a couple songs the teachers handed them milk which they all happily drank up before returning to their classrooms.

Each class came out and lined up at the first table, collected red and gold strips of paper and proceeded to glue them together to form the base of their bookmark. Then they came to the second table where they were able to pick colored and patterned tape from the table and stick it on to their bookmark in whatever way they pleased. Some children decided to stick tape all the way round the bookmark and some just copied the sample they saw on the table. Either way, all of them seemed very happy after decorating their bookmark so it became unique to them. Next, they were guided to the next table where they could use some glue and a few decorative flowers to attach to their bookmark. Some went for the big and the bold flowers but others used smaller flowers making their bookmarks somewhat subdued. The way the children decorated their bookmarks revealed a part of their personality – some outspoken, some quiet. Finally they were able to pick up a paintbrush and paint using donated glitter paint to make their bookmarks shine even more. By this time, their red and gold papers were now drenched with glue and paint and so they returned to their classrooms once again to allow them to dry and then put their bookmarks to use.

We then cleared up and said goodbye to the children and the teachers. It was a very enjoyable experience for both the students at Mahawong and the ladies from SILC alike.



We had another successful craft activity this month at **Chanukroh**. There was a great turnout of volunteers, as usual. Julie Cragg, Bianca, Phin, Chris, Shirley, and Julie Nguyen all enjoyed making bookmarks with the children. We can assure you that it was enjoyed by all. Even the head teacher made one!

The children were busy gluing their bookmarks together and then sticking stickers on them. The finishing touches involved glitter paint donated by Neo Orient, a stationary company that supports disadvantaged children. We extend a big thank you to them and to Sabine Benke for obtaining this donation.

We found this activity was particularly good at keeping the children focused, while allowing them to show their creativity. The glitter paint was a big hit! This was another great day!

Julie Nguyen



On 20th September, a virtual bus-load of SILC ladies descended on **Prakkasamai** pre-school to do our monthly activity. This month we were making bookmarks. We had a lovely mix of “old hands” and “newbies” to help the children with their masterpieces – it was a great help having more Thai ladies with us for translation purposes!!

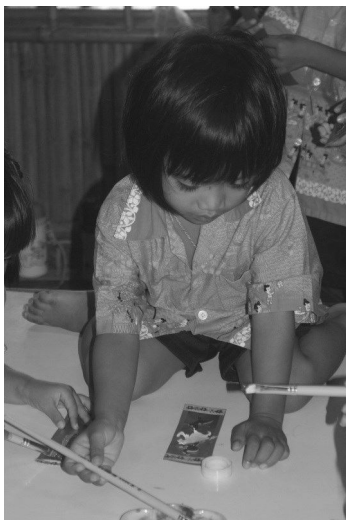
Shortly after arriving, we learned that there were 99 children all squeezed into the pre-school on that day, split into 5 different classes. That is a lot of children in a very small space, but somehow the fantastic staff make it work. The ladies paired off and chose a class to work with. The children each had a red rectangle of card onto which they had to stick a slightly smaller gold rectangle for a two-layer effect, which really stood out. Next, they had to stick on an assortment of small stickers, some pretty sticky tape and a large accent sticker to finish off their bookmarks. The older age groups also got to use some glitter glue and the finished effect was really eye-catching. As usual, the children were so enthusiastic about the activity and pleased with their creations.

I worked with the youngest age group which had a few new children who had only started school in the last couple of days. There was one little girl who was only 2 years and 8 months old and looked totally bewildered by all the “farang” ladies around her. It was great to see her and the other two new children starting to join in more towards the end of the activity once they had got the hang of what they had to do. I am sure when we go back next month they will be totally settled in.

As we were leaving, the headteacher was telling us that they have a big problem with a leaky roof, so we are hoping that we may be able to help them with that project.

Thank you ladies, another successful activity!!

Teresa



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