



International
Women's
Association

DECEMBER 1988

I.W.A. NEWS LETTER

DECEMBER

Vol. III No. 7
Madras, India

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Thursday	1st	EXECUTIVE MEETING	10.00 a.m.
Friday	16th	CHRISTMAS GALA - Presented jointly by all the Activity Groups.	<u>4.00 p.m.</u>

"I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play
And wild and Sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men"

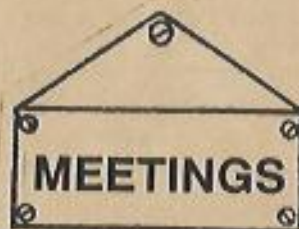
Christmas comes but once a year
But when it comes it brings good cheer !
Echoing these moving words of our poets
We would like to wish you all

A merry Christmas !

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, 1st December, 10.00 a.m.

At : Eira Doshi,
26/3 Arundale Beach Road,
Kalakshetra Colony,
Madras - 600 090.
Tel : 419347



(Activity Chairwomen, please note ! Do bring your blurbs for the January newsletter)

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENTS

Before we mention this month's gala party, we should like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone for making our Diwali party such a grand success, particularly to those who organised the evening and who participated in the dancing and also to everyone who came and made it such an enjoyable evening. As you know, December being such a busy month, we usually have only one meeting. This year we are planning a Christmas Party at the Sindoori Hotel. We are confident that it would be as much fun as our Diwali party; so do warn-in early as its sure to be popular with everyone particularly the children.

Sadly, December is also the time when we bid Audrey Sprague farewell. Audrey has, with Nirmal Mirza, been our IWA Secretary since 1986. In that time she has, like all good Secretaries, helped to guide us and organise us. So a very big 'Thank You' to Audrey for all her assistance over the past years and we would like to wish her and David every happiness in their new posting. Marianne Kelly has very kindly agreed to take over from Audrey. We welcome Marianne to the Executive Committee. Thank you for accepting the post. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

VANITHA MUDALIAR
BARBARA CLARKSON

VALEDICTORY LETTER FROM AUDREY SPRAGUE

During my two and a half years in Madras, I have experienced a most important time in the city's history. I am not referring to national events, but to the birth and growth of the International Women's Association.

I arrived just as the idea of starting up the Association was taking shape in the minds of our two Founder Presidents, Nirmal and Nancy, and soon afterwards we had the memorable opening ceremony at the Music Academy.

Since then the Association has matured quickly and has a range of activities to cater for the artistic, academic and practical interests of every member. For me, with limited free time, the difficult decision has always been which activity meetings not to attend. Of the many occasions I have been to, one or two stand out particularly vividly; our first Christmas Party in Sunita's home, with such beautiful decorations and ladies of so many countries and cultures participating; also our recent splendid second anniversary event, when we were so well entertained by the handicapped children. I think the prize for our most entertaining speaker must go to Mr. Venkateswaran - apologies to our feminists !

Out of the run of our usual activities, the most sparkling evening, in every sense, must have been our "Lore and Lure", and although we were never intended to be a charitable organisation, on this occasion it was lovely to be able to share our success with the less fortunate.

I wish all future happiness and success to IWA, and would like to thank all members, and particularly my fellow Committee members, for their warm friendship during my time in Madras.

AUDREY SPRAGUE

TO ALL MOTHERS WITH CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE

Starting the 17th November 1988
Every Thursday afternoon from 3.30

**OPEN HOUSE AT :- 15 EAST AVENUE
K.P. PURAM
MADRAS - 600 028
TELEPHONE : 838335**

Lots of play with toys, sand, and water. Also the occasional cup of tea. Looking forward to seeing you.

JOY GRICE

Thank you Joy, for a Super idea !

We welcome the following new members :-

1. **NAZNEEN DOWLA** - Bangladeshi
12, Nawab Habibullah Avenue
Nungambakkam
Madras - 600 006. Tel : 869004

2. **BARBARA FINN** - American
4, Turnbulls Road Extension
Madras - 600 035 Tel : 453975

3. **KAMAL KOTHARI** - Indian
"Kothari Bagh"
11, Nungambakkam High Road
Madras - 600 034 Tel : 478888
475859

4. **RAKSHA MEHTA** - Indian
3 B, Temple Tree Apartments
20, Pycrofts Garden Road
Madras - 600 006. Tel : 474137

5. **LAKSHMI VISHWANATHAN** - Indian
33, M.G.R. Road
Kalakshetra Colony
Beasant Nagar
Madras - 600 090 Tel : 416219

Leelamani John, as you are all aware is a sure wizard at cakes and desserts. She will be happy to take orders for party catering (Strictly only cakes and desserts)

So, when you are in dire need call Leela (Tel : 453979) and place your orders.

DIVALI MELA : A report

The Divali mela was a super success, largely due to the bountiful blessings of the "Rain Gods" who shied away from our venue and enabled us to go through the evening's programme without even a drizzle. Undoubtedly the highlight of the evening was the colourful "Ras-garba" dance presented by Surekha Kothari and a few of our talented members and daughters of members. We even had a daughter-in-law performing ! All the sixteen participants danced with a rare verve and grace. We would like to applaud them all for a scintillating performance. The three non-Indian members Eira Doshi, Maureen Thadani and Yukiko Fukase deserve a special mention for mastering a dance form which sure must have been alien to them. All in all, it was a great evening and for making it so, our grateful appreciation go to the following members.

- Meera & K.P. Jayakar** - for the generous use of their lovely home and sprawling grounds and the warmth of their hospitality for the "thirsty".
- Leela Ratnam & Christina Engval**-for the excellent catering arrangements.
- Nalini & Inder Tandon** - for the generous gift of crackers ; the dazzling display of which delighted both the young and the old.
- Surekha Kothari** - for choreographing and producing the Ras-garba.
- Nanditha Krishna** - for the use of the C.P. Art Centre hall for rehearsals.

- Mohinee & Sudarshanam - for the loan of the music system and amplifiers.
- Lily Madhok & Poonam Lalchand - for the stage.
- Renu Dewan - for the transport.

and last but not least our thanks go to the participating artistes of the Ras garba.

Priya Balu	Surekha Kothari
Sherna Danani	Sowmya Krishnaswamy
Eira Doshi	Poonam Lalchand
Namratha Faheem	Ranjani Manian
Yukiko Fukase	Mridula Narasimhan
Sushu Goklaney	Javanthi Prabhakar
Ria Joy	Maureen Thadani
Sonia Joy	Aruna Vijay Kumar

We would like to clarify here that the money collected for the Divali mela went to meet our catering expenses only and even that was not sufficient in the end, for we had an unexpectedly large turn out and we even had people who had not checked in. This naturally threw things out of gear. The costume and jewellery hire for the Rasgarba came out of I.W.A.'s own funds.

The Divali mela was planned as a purely entertainment evening and that is what it was, so if any of you think we made money out of it; perish the thought! Far from making money we dipped into our funds to make the evening a memorable and entertaining one.

VANITHA MUDALIAR
NIRMAL SESHADRI

CHRISTMAS GALA

Friday 16th November, 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

At : The Sindoori Hotel
24, Greams Lane
Madras - 600 006.

Come and join the fun at our Christmas Gala party. Christmas is a family occasion so we want the whole family to come along especially the children. We will be having lots of traditional entertainment, a Christmas Tea and will finish off the evening with some carol singing around the Christmas Tree. Father Christmas will also be making a guest appearance (if he can find a chimney). Please warn-in by the 7th of December. We will have to restrict numbers to members, their husbands, children and their house guests ONLY (no Ayahs please). A charge of Rs 25/- per head (children under 3 - free) will be made to cover all costs. Please complete the warn-in slip and hand in to Anneliese Marwah or Lakshmi Padmanabhan by the 7th of December. No cancellations will be accepted and positively 7th December is your last date to book in.

BARBARA CLARKSON
KATHLEEN MASON

CHRISTMAS PARTY

I will attend the Christmas Party.

No. of people --

Enclosed in Rs. /- towards cover charges

Signature.

HISTORY CULTURE & TOURS

There is something exciting for I.W.A. members, their family and friends !

MARCH/APRIL '89

Join us in a jaunt to the Exotic East !

MADRAS/SINGAPORE/BANGKOK/SINGAPORE/MADRAS

DURATION : 10 DAYS
AIRLINES : SINGAPORE AIRLINES
COST : Rs.7,208/-PLUS 81 US\$
out of the FTS

ITINERARY

SQ41	MAA/SIN	SUN	2350/0610
SQ62	SIN/BKK	MON	0915/1025
SQ61	BKK/SIN	FRI	1125/1435
SQ42	SIN/MAA	TUE	2100/2210

COST INCLUDES, Accommodation on twin sharing basis with continental breakfast, sightseeing and Airport transfer.

BKK : Pattaya Beach, Magialand, Rose Garden city and floating market.

SIN : City tour and Sentosa tour.

Call Jennifer Ramachandran for details.

JENNIFER RAMACHANDRAN
JANET DEPENNING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OFFICERS

PRESIDENTS	:	Vanitha Mudaliar	662626
		Barbara Clarkson	863129
VICE PRESIDENTS	:	Nirmal Seshadri	413820
		Aruna Vijayakumar	472732
SECRETARIES	:	Nirmal Mirza	455834(OFF)
		Marianne Kelly	451162
TREASURERS	:	Lakshmi Padmanabhan	864334
		Anneliese Marwah	478749

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

ART & HANDICRAFTS	:	Nanditha Krishna	451850
		Maureen Hemingway	452273
BOOK DISCUSSION	:	Sarah Chanda	454265
		Nancy Singh	666429
COOKING SWAPSHOP	:	Leelamani John	453169
		Kazuka Uchida	472826
CURRENT EVENTS	:	Sujaya Menon	417464
		Kathleen Mason	418902
HEALTH & ECOLOGY	:	Vijaya Balu	72589
		Eira Doshi	419347
HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS	:	Jennifer Ramachandran	615884
		Janet de Penning	475980
MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS	:	Surekha Kothari	472690
		Margaret Sekharan	611095
PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION	:	Leela Rathnam	452123
		Christina Engvall	454419

**TO ALL OUR
MEMBERS !**

**A VERY HAPPY
NEW YEAR !**