



International
Women's
Association

JANUARY 1991

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MONTH AT A GLANCE

Tuesday	Jan 8th	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:	10.00 a.m.
Friday	Jan 11th	ART & HANDICRAFTS: A Story of Tanjore paintings by SABITA RADHAKRISHNA Slides by USHA KRIS	<u>6.00 p.m.</u>
Thursday	Jan 17th	PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION: A panel discussion on LIFE AFTER DEATH - THE TRANSMIGRATION OF SOULS!	10.00 a.m.
Sunday	Jan 20th	HEALTH & ECOLOGY: World Wild Life Fund takes IWA members on a nature walk through Guindy National Park	<u>6.45 a.m.</u>
Thursday	Jan 24th	HISTORY CULTURE & TOURS AND MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS: As a curtain raiser to the Mahabalipuram Dance Festival, Lakshmi Viswanathan & Dr. Usha Balakrishnan will enlighten us on the festival programme and the Pallava sculpture supported by slides.	10.00 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, 8th January 1991 - 10.00 a.m.

At: RANI CHADA
"ROTHIEMY"
207, Defence colony
Madras-600 097

Tel: 434233

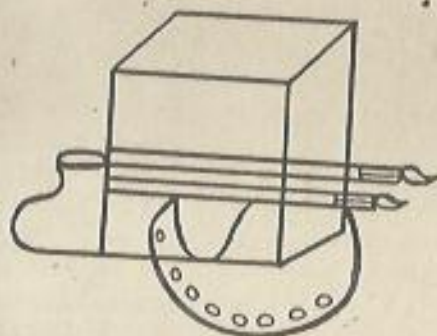


ART & HANDICRAFTS

Friday, 11th January 1991 - 6.00 p.m.

At: Devaki Muthiah
'Adyar Villa'
4, Kotturpuram
Madras - 600 085.

Tel: 414364 & 414944



Bejewelled Masterpieces - A story of Tanjore Painting

There has been a revival of interest in recent years in **Tanjore Painting**. Housewives are now moving old heirlooms from insignificant corners to places of honour in their homes. Collectors from all over the world are rushing in to buy more.

Our audiovisual presentation this month will provide an insight into the history of **Tanjore Painting**, the different schools that survive and a glimpse of some of the outstanding masterpieces.

Sabita Radhakrishna who has scripted a story on **Tanjore Painting** on national television, will be our guest speaker with a talk fully illustrated with slides by our member **Usha Kris** whose photographs are true works of art.

All are welcome.

MALINI VIJAYARAGHAVAN
VIJAYA RANGARAJAN

Thursday, 17th January 1991 - 10.00 a.m.

At: Sangeet Chopra
25/1 Ranjit Road
Kotturpuram
Madras - 600 085

Tel: 410759, 456355



Life After Death - Trans Migration of Souls

All Religions and faiths agree on the subject of transgression of souls: Men casts aside his mortal physical body and continues his "Journey" in his astral body. Some teachings talk of Reincarnation of Earth, others of heavenly pursuits but all refer to a certain and true life after death. Even the men of science cannot explain certain phenomenons that happen at death or at "Near Death" such as "Astral Projections".

We will have a panel of speakers who will express their views on Zen Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam & Modern Science.

SANGEET CHOPRA
CATRINE BROWN

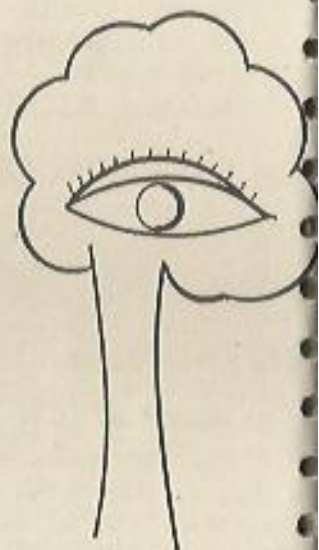
HEALTH & ECOLOGY

Sunday, 20th January, 1991 - 6.45 a.m. to 9.00 a.m.

At: Guindy National Park

World Wide Fund For Nature-India (WWF-India) is organising a Nature Trail for IWA members. The nature trail will take us through the well-known Guindy National Park.

The trail is an introduction to nature, through foot prints, scratch marks, nests, etc. We hope this will lead us to sightings of some local wild life like jackals, monitor lizards, black buck, etc. and a vast variety of birds, who either live in or visit Madras. We will also see the animal life which generally escapes us such as butterflies, forest spiders, beetles, lady birds, etc.



We meet at the entrance of the Snake Park at 6.45 a.m. sharp.

Please bring the following:

A bottle of water

A cap

Dark coloured clothing (no bright colours, please !)

No loose clothing (sarees would be torn in the thorn undergrowth !)

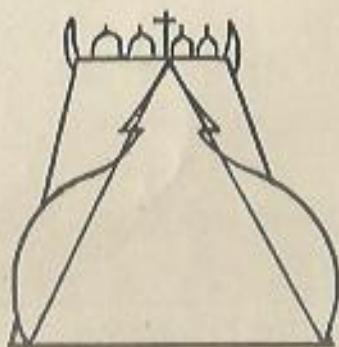
Rubber soled shoes (remember - we are going to walk all the time we are there !)

Those who would like to stay on for a picnic breakfast after the nature trail are welcome to bring along snacks which can be eaten outside the Snake Park.

Husbands, and children above 10 years are welcome.

Please call Mrs. Shantha at 451249 or 458726 by Friday, January 18th, to check in.

NANDITHA KRISHNAN
MAUREEN THADANI



Thursday, January 24th 1991 - 10.00 a.m.

At: The Uis Auditorium
American Centre
Gemini Circle
Madras - 600 006



Curtain raiser for the Mahabalipuram dance festival ushering in the "Visit India 1991" project, ABHAI (Association of Bharathanatyam artistes of India) are presenting the first Mahabalipuram Dance Festival to be held as a major attraction of the above project. The three day festival will take place on February 5th, 16th & 17th 1991. Different styles of classical dance are slated for the festival both in the solo and dance drama traditions. IWA member LAKSHMI VISWANATHAN who is the festival's artistic director will give us a short talk on the festival, with an introduction to the programmes planned and an exposition about Abhai. It is to be noted that for the first time, the direction of the festival is being guided by artistes of international repute and it is planned to create an atmosphere of creativity in a venue which is the most moving example of our rich cultural heritage.

Mahabalipuram - the abode of the first of Pallava art - is part of the World Heritage Series. Art Historian Dr. USHA BALAKRISHNAN will give a short talk supported by slides outlining the Pallava Sculpture and its significance.

Programme details of the festival are given elsewhere in the newsletter. This curtain raiser should be a very comprehensive one giving you glimpses of our history, culture and our performing arts.

All are welcome.

NIRMAL SESHADRI
CHRISTINA ENGVALL

SUJAYA MENON

From the Presidents

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Happy New Year.

Thank you to those who attended the EGM. The proposed constitution was adopted, with a few alterations, by those present. It will now be printed in book form.

It was also announced at the EGM that in a growing organisation, it seemed an appropriate time to increase our membership quota. This has, therefore, been raised by 10%, from 200 to 220 members.

We are now only a few months from the AGM. It has been decided that this year the AGM would be the appropriate time to present the IWA Woman of the Year Award. A sub-committee has been chosen to be responsible for deciding who will receive this Award. Nirmal Mirza, being the member who originally suggested the Woman of the Year Award and who has generously sponsored it over the previous years, has been asked to chair the sub-committee. The other members are Zubeida Asgarali, Rita Saldanha, Sunita Shahaney, Janet Picken. There is a note from Nirmal Mirza in this newsletter giving the details.

SUNITA SHAHANEY
JANET PICKEN

"WOMAN OF THE YEAR"

Nominating Committee

Dear Members,

I invite your suggestions for a "potential" Woman of the Year 1991. Do write as soon as you can, giving us some initial background proceed on.

NIRMAL MIRZA

All suggestions to be mailed/handed over at

Wooltop Weaves
44, C.P. Ramaswamy
Abhiramapuram Road,
Madras - 600 018.

by January 31.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS

The New telephone Directory will be on sale at the EGM on the 10th December; copies are also with the activity chairpersons. Membership committee wishes to remind members to attend the meetings in January and February to make up their attendance of minimum 10 meetings to entitle them for a renewal form in March.

If you wish to sponsor a friend you may bring them as guests and introduce them to members of the board, so that we can admit them as the vacancy arises.

VIJAYA BALU

By MARINA MATHIAS

For the nineteen IWA ladies who boarded the Rameswaram Express on the evening of October 17th, Saturday, the two-day romance with the 'Chettiars' of Chettinad was only about to begin.

We arrived next morning at the Chettinad Station with a friendly welcome from hostess Mrs. Seetha Muthiah (I fail to find words to describe her goodness to us). And we beheld our first wonder - there, directly leading from a paved station platform was the driveway to the gleaming mansion of a guesthouse specially built for the Raja of Chettinad, a privilege for his donating the station land! A short drive took us 'Home' for the next two days - in the three gracious family homes alongside the ancestral family home where we were to experience the ultimate in hospitality and thoroughly enjoy the richly varied Chettinad cuisine. We never tired marvelling at the sheer beauty of the place as we would step into the magnificent carved doorway that led to open courtyards and spacious halls of unparalleled beauty as our feet felt the cool of the famous marbled and mosaic Chettinad tiles. Or, to look up at the high vaulted artistically decorated ceilings with lacework paintings and carvings, and on to the inner courtyard with its columns of gleaming black granite pillars again surrounded by richly carved panelled doors to locked rooms Seetha would soon be opening to give us an insight into life-styles and values of yesteryear and still maintained to this day. The neat endless rows of family photographs beckoned us to find out more.

But wait. Day one was billeted for visits to temples around. We started with a visit to the Ganesha temple built of granite pillars at Pillyarpatti. We were fortunate to participate in the Sunday morning 'Abhishekam' followed by a close 'darshan' of the deity in all its splendour of gold covering and to complete the vibrant temple atmosphere, nearby a group of enthusiastic young 'dhoti' clad aspirants recited the vedas with their aged guru. We moved on to the Vairavan temple where we saw more beautiful carvings. At the age-old Avvadayar temple, massive stone blocks had been sized into excellent cornices simulating wood resaper work.

The visit to Chettinad Palace and its environs left us spellbound as also our encounter of yet more magnificent homes - all shown to us by Seetha Muthiah who never tired of us fascinated members' endless queries! The house of Nagappa Chettiar built in 1932 stands out for its sheer beauty of execution. Stepping into Seetha's childhood home we saw the famous wooden carved ceiling whose grandeur defies description and earlier saw the famous 'Trousseau Rooms' stacked yet as in Allaudin's caves.

To complete the trip for us ladies, there was time for a visit to the local mosaic tile factory at Attungudi and bargain shopping at the antique dealer at Karaikudi which gave us just time to relax, dine and drink in the last of our fantastic holiday as we bid an affectionate farewell to Seetha.

Kudos to the Activity Chairperson, Sujaya Menon who piloted the members of IWA into a 'common happy family' by which we have come to set much store.

BOOK DISCUSSION



No Meeting for January

But we have a Long Book for February: "SONGLINES" by BRUCE CHATWIN. Now you can learn about Australian Mythology.

Please check with Anna or Maureen for Availability.

ANNA ABRAHAM
MAUREEN HUDSON-MURARI

MAHABALIPURAM & THE PROGRAMME DETAILS

OF THE DANCE FESTIVAL

Known also as Mamallapuram, the ancient seashore town owes its existence to the Pallavas of Kanchipuram who ruled from the 3rd to the 8th centuries. The rock cut caves, the monolithic temples, open air bas-reliefs and structural temples in this ancient venue are living testaments to the skills of the ancient Tamil people. The finest examples of Pallava stone sculpture are seen here bringing to life mythology and religious fervour. Referred to by Vaishnavite saints in their hymns, this ancient site which is part of the World Heritage series has invited and inspired the contemporary artists to translate the beauty of its sculpture into choreographed movement. In a specially erected stage, with the monuments forming a natural backdrop, the dance-evenings will be held in the open air. Seating for 1500 visitors is being provided. Special transport services will also be available from Madras City.

To taste the spirit of a new cultural renaissance in the picturesque landscape of an ancient seashore town, to make your hearts dance along with renowned artistes who are choreographing special works for the occasion to re-live a living historical tradition and to relax in the cool southern breeze... COME TO THE FESTIVAL 1991.

PROGRAMME

(Subject to change without notice)

15th February 1991

6.00 p.m. - Inaugural invocation by students
SUDHARANI RAGHUPATHY - solo Bharata Natyam

7.00 p.m. - SEETHA SWAYAMVARAM: Kalakshetra Artistes

16th February 1991

6.00 p.m. - RAJA & RADHA REDDY: Kuchipudi dance

7.00 p.m. - KIRATA ARJUNEEYAM: Dance-drama in Kathakali style
by Kerala Kalamandalam

17th February 1991

6.00 p.m. - SONAL MANSINGH: Odissi dance

7.00 p.m. - PADMA SUBRAMANIAM - solo Bharathanrithyam

TICKETS: Season Rs. 250/-

Daily Rs. 100/- 50/- and 25/-

Advance booking from December 25th 1990 at the Festival director's office only for groups over 10 persons.

All other ticket sales from venues which will be announced in local newspapers on 15th Dec.1990.

NEWS MAKERS

Congratulations to our Members Dr. Sheila Rajarathnam who has received the award of 'The Woman Doctor of the Year 1990' at the MGR University, Madras and Dr. Pritika Chari, who has become the first Woman Neuro - Surgeon in ASIA.

* * *

CONGRATULATIONS to Aseel Mathur who welcomed her bundle of joy - a baby, boy, last month.

Welcome New Members:

Alan B Heflin
1, Turnbolls Road Extension
Madras 600 035.

Dorey Brightwell
47, G Gandhi Mandepam Road
KotturPuram
Madras 85.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE BOARD

PRESIDENTS	:	Sunita Shahaney Janet Picken	45073 45150
VICE-PRESIDENTS	:	Nirmal Mirza Janet De Penning	415672/45583 45652
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TREASURERS	:	Vijaya Balu Seema Sait	7258 61280

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS	:	Malini Vijayaraghavan Vijaya Rangarajan	865798 44433
BOOK DISCUSSION	:	Anna Abraham Maureen Hudson Murari	45848 662627
CAREERS	:	Usha Kris	414250
COOKING SWAPSHOP	:	Rani Chada Sheila Pride	43423 452273
CURRENT EVENTS	:	Sarah Chanda Lulu Cohen	454265 471700
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MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS	:	Nirmal Seshadri Christina Engvall	413820 454419
PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION	:	Sangeet Chopra Citrine Brown	410755 456355

EDITED AND COMPILED BY THE VICE-PRESIDENTS.