



International
Women's
Association

JANUARY 1993

IWA NEWS LETTER

Vol. VII- No. 1 8
Madras

JANUARY 1993

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Monday, 4th January	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	10-30 a.m.
Tuesday, 5th January	ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS A demonstration of Soap Carving and Fabric Painting by Indra Priya	10-15 a.m.
Friday, 8th January	HEALTH AND ECOLOGY A talk on the futuristic, exciting science, Magnetobiology, dealing with the effects of magnetic fields on living objects	10-15 a.m.
Monday, 11th January	HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS Pongalo-Pongal ! Come celebrate with us this harvest festival of Tamil Nadu	10-15 a.m.
Tuesday, 19th January	MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS A 'Pancha Ghata Mala' (a five-ghatam ensemble) by the Ghatam Maestro T. H. Vinayakram — a unique musical experience !	10-15 a.m.
Thursday, 21st January	FELLOWSHIP GET-TOGETHER MEETING A must for all I.W.A. members	10-15 a.m.
Monday, 25th January	BOOK DISCUSSION A daughter narrates the moving tale of her mother—'The Kitchen God's Wife' by Amy Tan, set in China and America	10-15 a.m.
Thursday, 28th January	COOKING SWAPSHOP The exotic Japanese Food Festival — demonstration and tasting, too	10-30 a.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Welcome to 1993 and we extend Best Wishes for a very Happy and Prosperous New Year to you all.

The calendar year changes but IWA's year continues with yet another host of activities for the month, including a fellowship get-together on Thursday, January 21st at the Madras Club.

Two special events have to be anticipated and your participation is imperative to their success. Please note the biodate and voting for our "Women of the Year" award on Page 15 and we would like to draw your attention to the attached nomination form for your suggestions for the IWA board for 1993-94.

**MALINI VIJAYARAGHAVAN
MAUREEN HUDSON MURARI**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, 4th January, 1993 — 10-30 a.m.

At : The Gymkhana Club
The Island
Mount Road
Madras



Hosted by : **Malini Vijayaraghavan
Javanti Prabhakaran**

Thought for the Month

Trifles make perfection, but perfection itself is no trifle.

— Michael Angelo

ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS

Tuesday, 5th January, 1993 — 10-15 a.m.

At : Kausalya Jaganmohan's
'Shri Vaishnavi'
16, Kasturi Rangan Road
Alwarpet
Madras-600 018



A Demonstration of : **SOAP CARVING AND FABRIC PAINTING**
BY **INDRA PRIYA**

Indra Priya is a graduate in Fine Arts from Stella Maris College, Madras.

She was a prize winning student in Fine Arts. She will be demonstrating the fine art of soap carving and fabric painting.

Those who are interested can enroll as her students as she conducts classes too.

KAUSALYA JAGANMOHAN
ANNIE RAFFIER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to :

- * Beena Ram Mohan who celebrated the weddings of her sons Sriram and Manoj.
- * Srikanta Jhaver whose son Parikshith got engaged.
- * Sulochana Alexander whose daughter had a baby girl.

Farewell to :

- * Angela Aggler and thanks for her contribution and co-operation during her term as Vice-President.

Condolences :

- * To Aubrey Brightwell for the recent demise of her mother.

HEALTH AND ECOLOGY

Friday, 8th January, 1993 — 10-15 a.m.

At : Meera Jayakar's
17, Shafee Mohammed Road
Madras-600 006
Phone : 476421, 863751
(Urmila Reddy's Residence)



MAGNETISM AND LIFE

Speaker : **Dr. P. V. Sanker Narayan**
M.S., Ph.D. (Wisconsin), C.Eng. (I), F.I.E.
Director (Tech.), Madras Institute of Magnetobiology

Magnetobiology, dealing with effects of magnetic fields on living objects, has emerged as an exciting science in the wake of the space age. The talk will cover application of pulsed magnetic fields as a tool of medical diagnostics and therapy and also as a technology for a variety of culturing techniques in agriculture, silk industry etc.

URMILA REDDY
PAULINE HAHN

Our Christmas Party on Saturday, December 12th was a great success, thanks to the beautiful ambience of 'Adyar Villa' and the support and generosity of our committee Padma Ashok, Zubeida Asgarali, Bela Khaleeli, Alagu Muthu, Devaki Muthiah and Rathi Nilakantan.

MALINI and MAUREEN

HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS

Monday, 11th January, 1993 — 10-15 a.m.

At : The C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation
1-A, Eldams Road
Alwarpet
Madras-600 018



PONGALO - PONGAL I

Pongal is the harvest festival of Tamil Nadu, when a tasty dish of rice and jaggery, **pongal**, is cooked and offered as thanksgiving to the Sun.

This day is also celebrated as 'Makara Sankranthi' all over India, as it marks the commencement of 'Uttarayan', the northern journey of the Sun.

Today with stories, folk dances and music by members and their children, we will enact some aspects of the Pongal festival and partake sweet **pongal** at the end of the morning.

So do rejoice and join us in shouting in unison — PONGALO-PONGAL I

**SHAKUNTHALA JAGANNATHAN
SEEMA SAIT**

Change of Telephone No.

Ruth Lockwood — 2355783

MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

Tuesday, 19th January, 1993 — 10-15 a.m.

At : The Connemara Hotel
Binny Road
Madras-600 002



PANCHA GHATA MALA — A unique musical experience !

A New Year — a new musical experience through percussion ensemble will be presented by the renowned maestro, T. H. VINAYAKRAM. Creating a new wave of music through percusslon, Ghatam Virtuos Vinayakram has conceived the PANCHA GHATAMALA (which literally means a five ghatam ensemble). With Incredible artistry and innovative rhythms — this ensemble will weave a unique "melody in rhythm".

The Ghatam, one of the most ancient percussion instruments of South India, is a mild pot with a narrow mouth. Made mainly of clay baked with brass or copper fillings with a small amount of iron fillings, the size of the Ghatam varies with the pitch. The Ghatam is capable of very fast tempo in rhythmic patterns. It is usually a secondary percussion with the mridangam.

Vinayakram is undoubtedly the foremost maestro of the Ghatam. His innovative and creative work on rhythm patterns has been recognised by Western musicians, and he has performed with the best of them in jazzfusion concerts all over the world. He was associated with "Shakthi" group, where he collaborated with Charles Melaughlin, eminent guitarist and Zakir Hussain, India's own Table wizard. More recently, Vinayakram joined heads with "Planets" — which took the western music world by storm. For his invaluable contribution Vinayakram was the recipient of this year's Grammy award.

In this morning's programme, Vinayakram will present the 'Pancha Ghata Mala' with the support of a keyboard and violin.

Do come to this exciting programme.

Hosted by : Aruna Prasad

**GAYATRI BEWOOR
SABINE SALAM**

FELLOWSHIP GET-TOGETHER MEETING

Thursday, 21st January, 1993 — 10-15 a.m.

At : The Madras Club
Adyar Club Gate Road
Madras-600 028

In the hustle of our busy day-to-day activities, we tend to lose sight of the IWA tradition of fellowship, and meeting friends, as well as making new ones. We would like to welcome in THE NEW YEAR with a Get-together Meeting and revitalise this IWA tradition of fellowship.

The meeting could also be a time for you to come forward with your thoughts and contributions, both positive and negative. With THE WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD and THE IWA BOARD NOMINATIONS to be considered, the get-together is a good time for you to hand in your selections for the WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD and even bring your nomination form for the IWA BOARD.

We look forward to seeing you all and having a very special time together.

ALAGU MUTHU

Membership Treasurer

Hosted by :

✓ Padma Ashok ✓
Gita Banker
Christina Engvall
Joyce Gopalan
✓ Bela Khaleeli
Sharda Khemka
Surekha Kothari
Urmila Krishnamurthi
Farida Majid

✓ Dewaki - Pd ✓

Bilkis Moosa
Alagu Muthu
Radha Parthasarathy
✓ Sharada Rajamani
Visalakshi Ramasamy
✓ Anita Reddi Pd
Ramila Sreedhar
Nandini Srikanth
✓ Malini Vijayaraghavan

R.S.V.P. : Mr. Swaminathan 8257145
(8 a.m. — 12 noon & 3 — 5 p.m. week days only)

Mrs. D'Souza (Rallis) 428304
(10 a.m. — 1 & 2 — 5 p.m. week days only)

BOOK DISCUSSION

Monday, 25th January, 1993 — 10-15 a.m.

At: Kanika Parekh's
No. 26, Anderson Road
Madras-600 006



'THE KITCHEN GOD'S WIFE' — by Amy Tan

A daughter narrates the moving tale of her mother set both in China and America. Pearl writes about her mother Winnie's unhappy first marriage, her flight from China and her remarriage in America.

Set in the first half of the century, the travails of the Chinese women and the terrible things that happened to them in their homeland have moved Amy Tan to write this amazing tale.

**JAVANTHI PRABHAKARAN
MARIE WILLIAMS**

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Thursday, 28th January, 1993 — 10-30 a.m.

At : Kyoko Ishizaki's
(Official residence of Consul-General of
Japan)
5-B, Chittaranjan Road
Teynampet, Madras-600 018



THE JAPANESE FOOD FESTIVAL

Japanese cuisine is one of the most exotic from the Far East and is interwoven with tradition and culture. The epitome of Japanese cuisine is an unflinching presentation of taste and colour in the raw, which appeals to the eye as much as to the palate. So, come and flavour the spirit of Japanese cooking in a demonstration-cum-display session that, of course, also lets you taste the entire fare.

This Japanese food festival is brought to you by Kyoko Ishizaki and other Japanese IWA members in co-operation with the Cultural affairs section, Consulate-General of Japan and Ladies Committee, Japanese Association of Madras.

Some of the popular dishes, the preparation of which will be demonstrated are :

1. Vegetable Tempura (batter fried vegetables)
2. Yakitori (Japanese barbecued chicken)
3. Ohagi (sweet rice cakes)
4. Norimaki (rolled rice)
5. Okonomiyaki (Japanese pancakes)

Other dishes on display will be :

1. Oshiruko (sweetbeans dessert)
2. Mizuyokan (Japanese red beans jelly)
3. Higashi (Rice powder cakes)
4. Chirashi Sushi (Vinegared rice with some vegetables)

Demonstration and display dishes will both be available for tasting !

The Japanese food festival is the highlight of the cooking swapshop for this year. It will be a visual and gourmet treat on Japan. Your participation will make it a success. Guests are welcome. A nominal charge of Rs. 10/- will be your contribution. Guests Rs. 20/-

**LILY MADHOK
KYOKO ISHIZAKI**

SHEELA RANI CHUNKATH & QUDSIA GANDHI

One of the greatest lacunae in India's development since Independence has been the extent of illiteracy which continues to plague us. Two women pioneers who broke the illiteracy syndrome in Tamil Nadu and achieved total literacy in their districts are **Sheela Rani Chunkath** and **Qudsia Gandhi**. They should be considered **jointly** for the **Woman of the Year Award** this year for their outstanding work in the field of education and the never-before-achieved results.

Organising several Committees involving the entire population of their districts of which they were Collectors, these ladies trained and motivated thousands of volunteer instructors. They also produced several song-dance-drama programmes carrying the message of literacy to the masses.

Sheela Rani Chunkath, I.A.S., as Collector of Pudukottal, known to be a backward district, launched the Total Literacy Campaign covering 3 million persons between the ages of 9 and 45 who had to be motivated — a mind boggling effort! Even more amazing is her having motivated 26,000 volunteers to teach without payment, and all this within one year. The initial enrolment of 2,60,000 persons was the highest ever achieved in the whole country. Simultaneously 60,000 women were taught cycling, a great benefit for rural women.

Qudsia Gandhi, I.A.S., as Collector of Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar District was the first Collector to launch the Total Literacy Campaign in Tamil Nadu. She was the President of Arivoli Iyakkam, as the campaign was popularly named. She personally involved herself in all her motivation programmes joining the street singers and dancers after office hours.

She insisted that, at all the meetings and rallies addressed by her, she should be garlanded with letter-garlands written by the neo literates and not by flowers. She also had 425 rural girl volunteers trained in karate for self defence.

1,500 volunteers taught nearly 90,000 learners. At the end of the year 69,000 people achieved 100% literacy as per norms set by National Literacy Mission in the 15-35 age group in Qudsia Gandhi's district.

At the end of the course the neo literates of both the districts were tested in reading, writing letters, filling money-order forms and in simple arithmetic.

Sheela Rani and **Qudsia** have shown how our abundant human resources can be developed by dedicated and dynamic leadership.

Dr. RAJAMMAL P. DEVADASS, M.A., M.Sc., Ph.D. (Ohio State),

D.Sc., Madras

Vice Chancellor, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore,

Eminent educationist, Educational administrator, Nutritionist and Community Development Worker. Receptient of many awards — National and International. Notable among her achievements in the field of Education as Member of the Syndicate of the University of Madras ; has been responsible for National Education Programme, Community Social Service, Women's Education.

Has integrated Nutrition Education in the Primary School level in Tamilnadu. This programme was taken up by the National Council for Education Research and Training for implementation all over India. As Chairman of the Committee of Nutrition, of the task force in Education Health & Welfare, evolved a blue print for action towards Nutritional improvement through the next decade

Has helped the Govt. of Tamil Nadu in training thousands of Personnel for the Tamil Nadu Integrated Nutrition Project. **DANIDA** — Primary Health Care Project.

As Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education of Women appointed by the University of Madras, submitted a report with 31 recommendations.

Was a Member of the Committee for starting a Women's University in Tamil Nadu.

Directs the Adult Education and Functional Literacy Programme in 300 centres in selected villages in Coimbatore District and in 100 centres in the slums of Coimbatore city.

In order to make available suitable literature to the workers at the micro level and the neo literates, has published primers in Tamil.

In recognition of her pioneering and dedicated work in the field of Education she has won many national honours. To name a few

1. The "Best Teacher" award for 79-80 by the Govt. of Tamil Nadu.

2. The Tagore Literacy Award 1989 by the Indian Adult Education Association, New Delhi.
3. The National Fellowship of the National Institute of Education.

The Biodata and her achievements in academic and field work as Eminent educationist, Educational Administrator, Nutritionist and Community Development worker runs into several pages.

She has pioneered the adult literacy programme and integrated child health long before the Govt. started the movement.

Mrs. TARA SATHYANARAYANA

Mrs. Sathyanarayana joined Vidya Mandir as a teacher in 1958 and became its principal in 1964. She retired and became Correspondent in 1984. Apart from the main school at Royapettah she also started a branch at Adyar and is the Correspondent of both schools.

What distinguishes her from other school principals and correspondents is her belief in an all round education. She stopped examinations till the sixth standard and emphasised sports and other activities as a result of which Vidya Mandir produced several national and international sportsmen. But her biggest contribution has been in integrating children with learning problems, disabilities and other handicaps into the mainstream of school education. By not emphasising marks but rather the social integration of the child, she has been responsible for many such children finishing school and coming out successful in life.

For her it has been a challenge to integrate the child with a problem or handicap into the main stream education.

IDA SINGH

Ida Singh is a field worker with 20 years' experience. Her field — Adult Literacy. Her aim — to impart literacy to the illiterate grass roots level of women — and she has succeeded.

Today these women need no longer give their thumb impression. Not only do they sign their names, but they have been motivated to start income generating programmes and organise themselves into Mahila Mandals.

For the field work that **Ida Singh** and her team of animators have carried out through the YWCA Adult Literacy Programme, sponsored by the Govt. of India, Tamil Nadu, was awarded the UNESCO award for the State with the best literacy programme. Ida herself became the recipient of the J. Robby Kidd Special Citation, instituted by the International Council of Adult Education — Toronto, for her significant and innovative contribution to Adult Education. She was also invited to be the Guest Speaker at the Australian Council for Adult Education held at Sydney '85.

In the International Literacy year 1990 — Ida was invited to serve as Hon. Secretary, and served as Hon. Secretary, Tamil Nadu Board of Continuing Education in '91-'92.

Much travelled in India and abroad — **Ida Singh** is currently Programme Co-ordinator for the Dept. of Materials & Media, State Resource Centre.

Ida Singh is a single parent having brought up her two sons from an early age — and now enjoys her free hours playing grandmother to her new-born grandson.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE BOARD

PRESIDENTS	:	Malini Vijayaraghavan	865798
		Maureen Hudson-Murari	6413027
VICE-PRESIDENT	:	Surekha Kothari	8257145/8257198
SECRETARIES	:	Vijaya Balasubramaniam	72589
		Padma Ashok	867801/476591
TREASURERS	:	Alagu Muthu	838683/837050
		Christina Engvall	454419

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS	:	Kausalya Jaganmohan	454201
		Annie Raffler	614912
BOOK DISCUSSION	:	Javanthi Prebhakaran	6411659
		Marie Williams	471700
CURRENT EVENTS & CAREERS	:	Zubeida Asgarali	471614
		Poonam Lalechand	472947/8257157
COOKING SWAPSHOP	:	Lily Madhok	454661/452525
		Kyoko Ishizaki	453855
HEALTH & ECOLOGY	:	Urmila Reddy	476421
		Pauline Hahn	8253102/8250738
HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS	:	Shakunthala Jagannathan	459199
		Seema Sait	612800
MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS	:	Gayatri Bewoor	864035
		Sabine Salam	830126/832670
PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION	:	Devaki Muthiah	414364/414944
		Rathi Nilakantan	865250

WOMAN OF THE YEAR 1992 - 93

IWA's 'Woman of the Year' Award was started by our Past President Nirmal Mirza. Through this award IWA honours women who are outstanding in their special fields of service to humanity. Important women in social work, medicine and performing arts have won this award in the past. This year the category chosen is EDUCATION. Our Executive Committee served as the Woman of the Year Committee this year and short-listed the following names from the members' suggestions. Resume given for your guidance will help you pick your candidate for 'Woman of the Year'. Please hand in the tear-off slips to Malini or Maureen. They could also be brought to the Fellowship Meeting on the 21 Jan, 1993. The slips are not transferrable. SLIPS HANDED IN AFTER 30 JAN, '93 ARE NOT VALID.

(Candidates' biodata on pages 10 - 13)