



**International
Women's
Association**

AUGUST 1994

IWA NEWS LETTER

Vol. IX No. : 3
Madras

AUGUST 1994

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Thursday, 4th August	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	10-15 a.m.
Tuesday, 9th August	COOKING SWAPSHOP Mahmooda Haja Shareef will show how to make fish curry, bagara baingan and flaky parathas	10-15 a.m.
Friday, 19th August	HEALTH AND ECOLOGY 'Know Your Eye' — Talk by Dr. S. S. Badrinath, Medical Director of Sankara Netralaya	5-45 p.m.
Monday, 22nd August	MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS Film, 'The Remains of the Day'	2-00 p.m.
Wednesday, 24th August	ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS, HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS, MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS 'The Kothwara Collection' — Living Traditions of India	10-15 a.m.
Friday, 26th August	HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS 'What's in a Hindu Wedding' ? Dr. Gita Pattabhiraman will elucidate the significance of the mantras and rituals performed at a Hindu wedding	10-15 a.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

There is one custom of Northern India that is celebrated on the full moon of the month of **SHRAVAN**, when brothers and sisters affirm their bonds to each other — **RAKHI**.

As we shall not be sharing this day with our members in August we are sharing a poem written by Nirmal's (Seshadri) father-in-law on **RAKSHA BANDHAN** to remind you of this delightful custom.

"A piece of silken tassel tipped with gold,
Tied round the wrist by loving sister's hands,
A sacred day in **Shraavan**, when the lands
Are bathed in welcome rain, is said to hold
A potent charm for good. From days of old
This pretty faith has come and happy bands
Of brothers still pay heed to its commands
One day each year. Who will be rashly bold
And flout this festival as void of worth,
An ancient mummery — to which man shows
His slavish piety? Let him, who knows
Of beings more devoted than the fair,
Of wishes purer than a sister's care,
And stronger powers than woman's love on earth."

— P. SESHADRI
(1887-1942)

August or Shraavan is the third month of the IWA year and we are still trying hard to be a 'Woman of To-day' though some of us have relaxed a little.

We wish to remind you that the 'Woman of To-day' is punctual at all times and that she stays until the meeting is over — otherwise she is being discourteous to the speaker or speakers.

LILY MADHOK
MARGARET SEKHRAN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, 4th August, 1994 — 10-15 a.m.

At : Shakunthala Jagannathan's
'Ram Sharan'
222, T. T. K. Road
Madras-600 018



For ample parking facilities, please enter through the C. P. Art Centre gate and use the back gate of her house to go in.

Activity Chairpersons, please give in your blurbs at this meeting.

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

SONIA CARTER 4, Turnbolls Road Madras-600 035	U.S.A.	Phone : 453975
NORAINI MOHD JAAFAR 1, Kothari Road Madras-600 034	Malaysia	Phone : 8259854 (R) 443048 (O)
TERESA MARY KING 3-A, Sathyanarayana Avenue Madras-600 028	Ireland	Phone : 450677

CHANGES IN ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

DAKSHA SHETH 15, Duraiswamy Colony Plot 19, Mangali Nagar Panchali Amman Koil Street Arumbakkam Madras-600 106	Phone : 423623
MALATHI SRINIVASAN 1-B, 'Kurinji' 11-A, M. G. Road Shastri Nagar Madras-600 041	Phone : 4913482
Lily Madhok	Phone : 4993125 (R) 4994101 (O)
Sharada Rajamani	Phone : 8525228
Shyla K. Rau	Phone : 8276676 (R) 8276893 (O)
Nandini Srikanth	Phone : 4995400

Speedy Recovery to :

Katy Madan, recovering from a heart attack in Bombay.

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Tuesday, 9th August, 1994 — 10-15 a.m.

At : Mahmooda Haja Shareef's
'Nihal'
17, Haddow's Road, 1st Street
Madras-600 006



One of our very own members, Mahmooda Haja Shareef, will demonstrate how to cook fish, the delicious way.

Vegetarians, please do not be put off — she will also demonstrate the famous Hyderabad bagara baingan and show us how to make lovely and flaky parathas.

All are welcome

USHA BAIL
IRENE PRULLER DASS

HEALTH AND ECOLOGY

Friday, 19th August, 1994 — 5-45 p.m.

At : Turner Hall (in the basement next to
Heritage Showroom)
Khader Nawaz Khan Road
Madras-600 006



KNOW YOUR EYE

How many of us really know our eye? Perhaps only what we have learnt in School & College text books — and a few more facts picked up while tackling problems connected with the eye.

The Eye is the most important and the most delicate organ in our body. It is the sense of vision rather than those of hearing, smell, taste & touch that is responsible for almost 90% of our contact with the external world. So how do we care for it? Let us find out all the answers from **Dr. S. S. BADRINATH, Medical Director, Sankara Netralaya**. He will illustrate his speech with slides.

While apologising for the timing of this meeting which was the best that Dr. Badrinath could do for us, we hope many of you will take this opportunity to benefit from his knowledge and experience.

Husbands are welcome.

Hosted by :
VIJAYA RANGARAJAN
RUPA KADHIRESAN

RUPA KADHIRESAN
VIJAYA RANGARAJAN

MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

Monday, 22nd August, 1994 — 2-00 p.m.

At : The USIS Auditorium
220, Anna Salai
Gemini Circle
Madras-600 006



“THE REMAINS OF THE DAY” — An outstanding film !

Adapted from Kazuo Ishiguro's 1989 Booker Prize Winner, “THE REMAINS OF THE DAY” is an outstanding film of Merchant — Ivory Productions. The film had powerhouse performances from Emma Thompson and Sir Anthony Hopkins as house-keeper and butler respectively in an English stately home.

If you wish to park your car, limited parking could be arranged. Please call NIRMAL (413820) between 8 and 9 a.m. and give your name and Car Number before the 18th of August.

All are welcome.

**NIRMAL SESHADRI
ISSY SANDERSON**

CURRENT EVENTS

Mark Tully, author and BBC's former representative in India, will speak to us. Sujaya Menon will let you know the details of day, time and venue through a special mailing.

Congratulations to :

Ponchie Kanwar's daughter Gitanjali and Jayashree Prabhakar's son Prashant, whose engagement took place recently.

ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS
HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS
MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS



Wednesday, 24th August, 1994 — 10-15 a.m.

At : The Mowbrays Hall
Park Sheraton Hotel
132, T. T. K. Road, Madras-600 018

'THE KOTHWARA COLLECTION' — LIVING TRADITIONS OF INDIA

The famous designer couple, MEERA and MUZAFFAR ALI will be in town this month to present their prestigious show "THE KOTHWARA COLLECTION" and introduce Couture and Culture of Avadh to Madras. This morning they will speak to us on the living traditions of India tracing the history of Avadh and delving deep into the fascinating culture of Lucknow which has remained truly Indian even to this day. From the days of yore the dynamic manifestations of creative arts and crafts of Lucknow have made an indelible impact. Under the patronage of the Nawabs of Avadh, Lucknow became the leading centre of arts, crafts, music, poetry and dance — particularly the classical dance form of Kathak. Everything was done with impeccable artistry, grace and elegance.

IWA is privileged to present this multi-talented couple — whose face to face encounter with us will deal with all this and even more. Their talk will be supported by slide projections of their show. The Lucknowi musicians will be in attendance to enhance the atmosphere. (Most of you will perhaps remember Muzaffar Ali as the renowned film maker of "Umrao Jan"). Guests are WELCOME.

SHAKUNTHALA JAGANNATHAN	SUSHILA NATRAJ	NIRMAL SESHADRI
SANDRA ROWLAND	SABINE SALAM	ISSY SANDERSON

Our grateful thanks to the hostesses of this occasion

Rukmani Alagappan	Geetha Iyengar	Lakshmi Padmanabhan
Rani Ananth	Shakunthala Jagannathan	Saroj Ramamrutham
Vijaya Bajaj	Zainab Kachwala	Urmila Reddy
Mano Bakthavatsalam	Poonam Lalchand	Sandra Rowland
Pushpa Chary	Alagu Muthu	Shereen Ryan
Rani Chada	Lalitha Natarajan	Nirmal Seshadri
Leila Diraviam	Sushila Natraj	Rupa Sood
Aloka Guha	Chandra Padmanabhan	Kamalini Vincent

HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS

Friday, 26th August, 1994 — 10-15 a.m.

At : Lalitha Natarajan's
'Lavunya'
Turnbull's Road Extn.
Madras-600 035



WHAT'S IN A HINDU WEDDING ?

Many of us go through the motions of a 'Saptapadi' or the 'Saatphere', without the faintest clue of why we are doing what we are doing or what commitments and promises we are thereby making. Hindu wedding rituals are very meaningful, but have, with each succeeding generation, lost their ability to impress us with their solemnity, since their language is not one that is in current use.

Dr. Gita Pattabhiraman, with a doctorate in Sanskrit, will enlighten us regarding the significance of 'mantras' recited during a Hindu wedding, as also the rituals performed.

This should be a meeting of interest to every one of our members, making us relive one of the most memorable days of our lives.

SUSHILA NATRAJ
SABINE SALAM

DID YOU KNOW ?

The service a tree renders to society is worth Rupees 15.90 lakhs. The shade of only **one tree** is equal to the coolness provided by **ten air-conditioners** working twenty-four hours continuously. Trees provide enough oxygen for **eighteen** people to breathe for a whole year. These facts have been found by Mr. T. M. Das of the Calcutta University after much research.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE BOARD

PRESIDENTS	: Lily Madhok	4993125(R) 4994101(O)
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