



International
Women's
Association

MARCH 1998

IWA NEWSLETTER

Vol. XII No. 10
CHENNAI

MARCH 1998

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Thursday	5th March	BOARD MEETING	10.15 am
Thursday	5th March	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	10.45 am
Friday	6th March	MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS Bhakti Bhava	10.15 am
Tuesday	10th March	COOKING SWAPSHOP Teatime Treats	3.30 pm
Friday	13th March	PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION Bhagavad Gita	10.15 am
Tuesday	17th March	HEALTH & ECOLOGY Waste Management	10.15 am
Friday	20th March	HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS Andaman & Nicobar Islands	10.15 am
Tuesday	24th March	BOOK DISCUSSION IWA Talent	10.15 am
Thursday	26th March	ARTS & HANDICRAFTS Collage Workshop	10.15 am
Monday	30th March	CURRENT EVENTS Election Aftermath	10.15 am

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Presentation of Awards: Our thanks to all of you who made it a memorable function; with your help and by your just being there, we had all the support we needed at this important function. Our Special Mother, the Woman of the Year, and her Special Child, our Girl-child of the Year have proved that with love and understanding and a great deal of patience, the Down's Syndrome children can lead normal lives. This is Rekha's first Award and we hope it will spur her on to reach greater heights in her life's mission. Babli has added one more Award to her list. May she continue along life's way always cheerful and confident.

A Christmas tree for IWA: Every year, members like Megan Utley this year, have been kind enough to lend us their trees to brighten our Christmas parties. These trees (artificial) are now available here and we have decided to buy one to be used year after year. As for decorations, members who wish to do so may please contribute just one decoration each in order to make the tree truly representative of IWA's membership.

One of our members is unhappy that our Newsletter did not carry the announcement of her daughter's wedding. Ever since there was an objection to an announcement in the Newsletter which was not given by the member herself, a policy decision has been taken that an announcement will appear in the Newsletter only if the member gives it in writing. This policy is being followed meticulously.

**RUPA KADHIRESAN
ANNELIESE HAZARI**

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

We have come to the end of the year and would like to convey to you how much we enjoyed bringing out the Newsletter for the benefit of the members. We only hope the membership enjoyed reading it at least half as much as we enjoyed preparing it.

Towards the end of last year, quite a few new members joined IWA. They have seen the wide variety of programmes which our Activity Chairpersons have organised for our benefit this year. We are sure there is a lot of hidden talent in our new members which would benefit IWA greatly. So dear members, do not be shy or embarrassed to let the new Board know, as soon as the Board is announced, of your particular interest and capabilities.

IWA needs your participation and talent.

**MEGAN UTLEY
SHAKUNTHALA JAGANNATHAN**

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 5th - 10.15 am

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, March 5th - 10.45 am

Activity Chairpersons - please
bring your blurbs

Both meetings at:

Nilisha Mehta's
4A, Srīman Srinivasa Road
Alwarpet
Chennai - 18

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO :

**LALITHA KRISHNAN ON HER SON RAMESH KRISHNAN RECEIVING
THE PRESTIGIOUS PADMA SHRI NATIONAL AWARD.**

LETTER FROM A MEMBER

I read Ms. Vasanthi Sankaranarayanan's letter that was published in the December Newsletter with much amazement. IWA is an International Women's Organization. It provides a forum for women of all income levels and all ideological persuasions. The objectives of IWA, as stated in the constitution, are enclosed in a separate annexure.*

Members who want IWA to be an example of humility, to avoid vulgar display of pomp, splendour and riches, and be leaders of a social conscience, can always alter and amplify the objectives of IWA if they find enough support in the association. IWA is a social organisation. It is not an organisation for social reforms. We include women from all backgrounds and this has worked quite well. We have never, since IWA's inception, had any objections to holding our meetings in a five - star hotel or a private home or a location offered by a consulate. Most members enjoy our meetings, wherever they are held. A long waiting list for membership is testimonial to that.

MEENAKSHI MEYYAPPAN

* Articles 1 to 4 of the Constitution

(This letter could not be published in the February Newsletter as requested by Meenakshi Meyyappan due to lack of space).

We use appropriate venues including 5-star hotels depending on the meetings. This year also we have held meetings at 5-star hotels whose cooperation we greatly appreciate. To those of our members who made such meetings possible, our grateful thanks.

THE BOARD

CHANGE OF PHONE NUMBERS

PREMA VEERARAGHAVAN - 4333421

RANI DAS GUPTA - 6700606

SABINE ERLICH SALAM - 8532670

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Friday, 6th March - 10.15 am

At: Gayatri Bewoor's
20, Gilchrist Avenue
Off Harrington Road
Chennai - 31



BHAKTI BHAVA IN DANCE

FOR IWA MEMBERS ONLY

The compositions of dance consist of different emotions and Bhakti or devotion is one of the main features therein.

Our dancer of today, URMILA SATYANARAYANA, who has been trained by two famous gurus, is endowed with a graceful figure, expressive face and command over 'laya' or rhythm. She will present different aspects of Bhakti such as love for a child by the mother, love between adults, and 'Desa Bhakti' or love for one's own country (in India's 50th year of freedom).

Winner of prestigious titles and awards, Urmila will be accompanied by a small live orchestra.

NO GUESTS PLEASE

**SUJAYA MENON
SABINE SALAAM**

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Tuesday, 10th March - 3.30 pm

At: Megan Utley's
7, ABM Avenue
Chennai - 28



TEATIME TREATS

A demonstration of how to make Teatime snacks, all of them very traditional, will be shown to us by NAINA SHAH. Patti Samosas, which we all enjoy, are simplified and demonstrated by a professional cook, so that we can make them ourselves at home.

Please note the change in timings and warn in early, as the number is limited to 40 persons.

**MEYYAMMAI MURUGAPPAN
NILISHA MEHTA**

PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

Friday 13th March - 10.15 am

At: Sheela K. Sarath's
29, Bishops Garden
Off Greenways Road
Chennai - 28



THE ETERNAL MESSAGE OF THE BHAGAVAD GITA

The Bhagavad Gita is a book of scriptures containing the highest esoteric doctrines. It is the essence of the Vedas, and its language is so simple that it can be easily understood after a little study. If the verses are scrutinised with a concentrated mind possessed of faith and reverence, every verse exhibits facets of everyday truths that emerge with a clarity that stuns.

Prof. Narasimhachary, head of the department teaching the philosophy of Vaishnavism, Sanskrit and Indological studies at the University of Madras, will give us an exhilarating talk on the Bhagavad Gita.

Prof. Narasimhachari's talk will concentrate on certain aspects of the Bhagavad Gita - the concept of loving devotion called bhakthi; the concept of work - karma; the concept of active knowledge - gnana; culminating in total self-surrender to the divine will - tyaga.

**LEELA RATNAM
SHEELA K. SARATH**

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO:

SHOBHA MAHTANI on her daughter, Upasana's wedding
BRAHADA KAMESHWARAN on her daughter Kala's wedding
BEENA RAM MOHAN on the birth of a grandson

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO:

INDIRA SATYAMURTI on the loss of her husband
MEERA JAYAKAR on the demise of her mother-in-law
PAMELA FABIAN on the loss of her mother-in-law
NAINA SHAH on the demise of her father-in-law

HEALTH & ECOLOGY

Tuesday, 17th March - 10.15 am

At: Mowbrays Hall
Park Sheraton Hotel
Chennai - 18



WASTE MANAGEMENT: A look towards the tools that help in ensuring an ECO-FRIENDLY future

With the depleting ozone layer attributed to various kinds of pollution - be it poisonous gases, churning out waste or noise pollution, what measures can we take in our day-to-day lives to make our surroundings healthier to live in?

In 1997 Park Sheraton Hotel & Towers was awarded the "Green Hotelier" award by the International Hotel & Restaurant Association, considered to be the highest honour in the hospitality industry.

MRS. ALIAMMA GEORGE, Executive Housekeeper and Chairman of the Environment Committee will brief us on energy conservation, reduction and treatment of waste and waste conservation and how it can be applied to our homes.

PROF. ISMAIL, an eminent scholar and expert in the field of waste management and vermiculture currently associated with New College, Chennai, will cover various aspects of waste management.

**RINI KUMAR
JANIK BAKSHI**

Our thanks to ARUNA GOYAL and VIJAY GOYAL for hosting this meeting.

A banker is a fellow who lends his umbrella when the sun is shining and wants it back the minute it begins to rain.

MARK TWAIN

She got her good looks from her father - he is a plastic surgeon.

GROUCHO MARX

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS

Friday, 20th March - 10.15 am

At: Max Mueller Bhavan
13, Khader Nawaz Khan Road
Chennai - 6



ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

This string of over 300 richly forested tropical islands lies in the middle of the Bay of Bengal, two-thirds of the way between India and Myanmar, and stretches almost to the tip of Sumatra. Ethnically, the islands, until fairly recently, were inhabited only by indigenous tribal people.

These indigenous tribal people are the victims of the spread of civilisation and the continuing policy of colonisation and development. They now constitute a mere 11% of the present population and in most cases their numbers are falling. Of Negroid stock, the Onge, Sentinels, Andamanese and Jarawa are all resident in the Andaman Islands. The second group, on the Nicobar Islands, is of Mongoloid descent and includes the Shompen and Nicobarese.

We are presenting a film about the tribal people titled, "Man in search of Man".

**RITA NORDENGREN
KAMALA PRASAD**

TOUR OF CHINA AND OUTER MONGOLIA

The much-awaited IWA tour of China and Outer Mongolia has at last been worked out.

The tour will commence in the end of April or early in May and will extend to about 14/15 days. The places covered are Shanghai, Guilin, Xian and Beijing in China and Ulaan Bataar in Outer Mongolia.

The cost, including air-fares, sightseeing, hotel charges with full board is Rs. 73,500/- plus US \$ 1350/- per head.

For further details and bookings, please contact KAMALA (6262035)

BOOK DISCUSSION

Tuesday, 24th March - 10.15 am

At: The British Council
737 Mount Road
Chennai - 2



A CURTAIN CALL - IWA TALENT

For our farewell meeting of the IWA year, RITA SALDANHA, PADMINI NATARAJAN and other talented IWA members will present a light-hearted play reading. There is no need for the audience to rehearse - just come prepared to enjoy a morning of dramatic entertainment and good fellowship.

As we close the final chapter on the book discussion programme for 1997-98, we see that it has been very much a celebration of Indian writing in this 50th year since Independence.

We want all of you to know how much we appreciate your interest and support throughout the year. Special thanks are due to all the hostesses for opening their homes to us and to Lakshmi Padmanabhan and Kamala Prasad for distributing the books.

**MALATHI RAMACHANDRAN
PAMELA FABIAN**

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS

Thursday, 26th March - 10.15 am

At: Madras Club,
Chennai - 28



COLLAGE WORKSHOP

Come have fun making your own collage. Let your imagination fly. See the colours and forms taking shape.

NAINA SHAH who learnt this art from TOOFAN RAFAI, a renowned vegetable dye artist, will conduct this workshop.

If you have any old magazines with pictures, please bring them.

**RADHA PARTHASARATHY
MARTINA KLUTH**

PAIN SHARED

There it is again
That familiar pain
Spreading its greedy fingers
Right down my back
Like a torch on fire
Making me easily tire

Slowly but surely
It increases in intensity
And then
It's an ache that lingers
For an hour or two, more likely
Twenty and four

I talk and smile
Answer queries and calls
Despite that ogre
Standing tall
Upon my aching back

"Why Lord?" I ask
"There's many a task
To finish
Please make it vanish
So I can work
With renewed relish

I know you suffered far more
Upon the cross
Will you share
My agony, Lord
Or am I
Sharing yours?*

MAHEMA DEVADOSS

CURRENT EVENTS

Monday, 30th March - 10.15 am

At: The British Council Auditorium
737, Anna Salai
Chennai - 2



AFTERMATH OF THE ELECTIONS

Politics make strange bedfellows and nowhere is it more true than in the present day Indian scenario.

As residents of Chennai, Indian or foreign, what does the future hold for us? Will a stable government at the Centre ensure stability and prosperity for the state?

To give us different points of view, we have with us this morning Mr. V. NARAYANAN of the TAMIL MANILA CONGRESS, an NRI from Texas, who after 11 years in the US, returned home to enter Indian politics.

Our other speaker is Dr. V. MAITREYAN, an oncologist of repute, who is now the State Vice-President of the BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY.

**GITA CHANDRASEKARAN
MADELEINE LEONE**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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RITA NORDENGREN

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		Anneliese Hazari	(R) 4919505
VICE-PRESIDENTS	:	Shakunthala Jagannathan	(R) 459199/4323337
		Megan Utley	(R) 4343348
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		Seema Sait	(R) 8242244
			(O) 8264112
TREASURERS	:	Lalitha Krishnan	(R) 4991853/4992341
		Angelika Mandaker	(R) 611265

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ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS	:	Radha Parthasarathy	(R) 4340448
		Martina Kluth	(R) 4917772
BOOK DISCUSSION	:	Malathi Ramachandran	(R) 8524725/8276995
		Pamela Fabian	(R) 4937684
			(O) 8273040 Ext. 277
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		Madeleine Leone	(R) 4340824
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		Meyyammai Murugappan	(R) 4420520/419680
HEALTH AND ECOLOGY	:	Rini Kumar	(R) 4349319
		Janik Bakshi	(R) 8526699/8553302
HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS	:	Kamala Prasad	(R) 6262035
		Rita Nordengren	(R) 4929408
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