



International
Women's
Association

SEPTEMBER 1997

IWA NEWSLETTER

Vol. XII No. 4
CHENNAI

SEPTEMBER 1997

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Thursday	4th September	BOARD MEETING	10.15 am
Thursday	4th September	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	10.45 am
Tuesday	9th September	COOKING SWAPSHOP Crepes - A Delicacy	10.15 am
12th to	14th September	HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS Tour of Karnataka	
Tuesday	16th September	MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS Cinema and Politics	10.15 am
Thursday	18th September	CURRENT EVENTS Women in Parliament	10.15 am
Friday	19th September	HEALTH & ECOLOGY Dentistry	10.15 am
Monday	22nd September	PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION Omens & Superstitions	10.15 am
Tuesday	23rd September	BOOK DISCUSSION Snakes & Ladders	10.15 am
Thursday	25th September	ARTS & CRAFTS Song of the Weaves	10.15 am

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

We plan to hold the Extra-ordinary General Meeting during the first half of October. The formal notice and the Agenda will reach you by the middle of this month. In case you need any clarifications, please call any one of us. The meeting has been called to decide on minor changes in the Constitution which become necessary from time to time.

Those of you who came to the Current Events meeting - Free Press vs Privacy - hoping to hear N. Ram, must have been disappointed. We do apologise. In spite of our best efforts and their good intentions, Speakers sometimes are not able to honour their commitments. As it turned out, thanks to Mr. S. Swaminathan, Business Editor of "The Hindu" and Mr. R. Vijayaraghavan of the "Financial Express," the meeting was interesting and the question and answer session lively.

Talent Bank

There are so many talented members in IWA and yet we are unable to tap such talent, because we have no particulars. Please write to us; tell us what programmes you would like to participate in. Let us set up a talent bank - we can then draw on such talent when we plan Special Programmes.

**RUPA KADHIRESAN
ANNELIESE HAZARI**

BOARD MEETING

Thursday September 4th -
10.15 am

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday September 4th -
10.45 am
Activity Chairpersons -
Please bring your blurbs

Both meetings at:

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

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

You will see in the later pages of this Newsletter that Current Events are investigating the possibility of increasing the number of women in the Indian Parliament. This is a subject close to our hearts.

In the UK over the last 18 years of Conservative government, despite having a female Prime Minister for a good part of that time, the number of women in Parliament was very low indeed. Mrs. Thatcher was always known as the best 'man' for the job, not the best woman, an attitude that suggests that good women are the exception rather than the rule, and that if a woman is good and successful, then she is a man really, in female clothing! Similarly in India, Indira Gandhi was known as the only 'man' in the Cabinet.

Neither is a woman politician safe from her own sex. A successful woman is often criticised for being too manly, or too uncaring of her family, or too ruthless. It seems it is difficult for both sexes to adjust to the idea that ability is found equally distributed between the sexes wherever you have had equality of education to base it on.

It was very interesting, therefore, that this summer in the UK saw the ascendancy of the New Labour party to power. This party has seen fit to promote women in Parliament in a big way. The party insisted through positive discrimination, that women should be the elected candidate to stand for the party in some constituencies. From these many new women MPs, five have been selected as Ministers. The new Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is a woman and it will be fascinating to see if this new breed of MPs will be any more successful than its male counterparts. The general feeling, rightly or wrongly, is that more women MPs will mean more common sense and more decency in Parliament. Women are having their chance at long last in Britain.

Is our time also coming in India? Today there are over a million women in Village Panchayats and there are women MPs in both houses of the Indian Parliament.

Please God that women don't let themselves down when and if they get their chance in Government!

**MEGAN UTLEY
SHAKUNTHALA JAGANNATHAN**

FROM THE SECRETARIES

As informed earlier, the Code Numbers have been allotted, and members would have received their numbers by now. If any member has not received it, please contact either of the Secretaries.

Please quote this number while signing the Attendance Register.

The Telephone Directories are complete and will be available at the September meetings. Members are requested to sign and collect their copies.

**JAVANTHI PRABHAKARAN
SEEMA SAIT**

CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS

UMA GANESAN	4430387	SRIKANTHA JHAVER	4981844/ 4980844
GITA JAIN	8236412/8236410	CHANDRA LULLA	4321228

OUR THANKS TO THE HOSTS of "Our Heritage" Tableau:

NALINI ACHARYA	RAMA RAJAGOPAL
PADMA ASHOK	JAYANTY RAJARAM
USHA BAIL	BEENA RAM MOHAN
LATHA CHOCHAN	SHILU RANGANATHAN
ANGELIKA MANDAIKER	SHASHI RAVICHANDRAN
MRIDULA NARASIMHAN	HÉMALATHA SANTHAVADANAN
PADMINI NATARAJAN	MAUREEN THADANI
CHANDRA PADMANABHAN	PREMA VEERARAGHAVAN

OUR THANKS TO GAYATRI BEWOOR through whom our "Photography - Painting with light" meeting was sponsored.

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO:

JATINDER BAHL on the death of her mother

BHARATI SURESH on the death of her father

CONGRATULATIONS to the IWA Cookbook Committee and to our members who contributed recipes.

And to the Nutrition experts on the Cookbook Committee - **THREE CHEERS!**

Excerpts from BUSINESS INDIA of June 30 - July 13, 1997

GOURMET - Taste ain't enough

"Some recent cookbooks have thought it wise to reflect the concern for healthy food by explicitly stating the nutritional value of each recipe.

It is this same stress on nutritional food that strikes you about another interesting recipe book: The International Women's Association (IWA) Cookbook, sponsored by Ashok Leyland Finance Ltd. Simply but elegantly designed, it is a multicuisine book with various IWA contributors offering their choicest recipes. You will find dishes from all parts of India - Sindhi, Bengali, Kashmiri, Keralite, Tamilian, Punjabi, Gujarati, et al. There are even some interesting Sri Lankan recipes. Along with every recipe, the contributors provide a nutritional value count in terms of calories and protein".

**RUPA KADHIRESAN
ANNELIESE HAZARI**

In the end when your life is assessed
you shall not be asked
how much pleasure you had in life
but how much service you rendered to society
not how successful you were in life
but how full it was of sacrifice
not how happy you were
but how helpful you were to others
not how much ambition was gratified
but how much love you showered on others

SWAMI SACHIDANANDA

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Tuesday 9th September - 10.15 am.

At: Irene Pruller Dass'
26 Poes Garden
Chennai-86.



CREPES - A DELICACY!

Tity Sadannand needs no introduction. Well known for her exquisite furniture, there are many more hidden talents to her, one of which is her culinary skill which we are fortunate enough to explore.

She lets us in on her secret of making perfect crepes, sharing with us her imaginative fillings for the vegetarians and the non- vegetarians and of course the dessert crepes and sauces to go with them. She also shows us how to use the puff pastry to make a tea time snack.

RSVP- MEYYAMMAI -4420520/419680, NILISHA - 4990151. Phone before 9 am or after 5 pm. **Number limited to 50.**

**NILISHA MEHTA
MEYYAMMAI MURUGAPPAN**

WHITE KIDNEY BEAN DESSERT - for those who did not attend the
Vietnamese Cooking morning

INGREDIENTS

White kidney beans

(Thatapairu)	-	1 cup	Coconut	-	1
Glutinous white rice	-	1 cup	Vanilla essence	-	1 tsp
Sugar	-	2 cups	Salt	-	a pinch

1st Day

Soak the beans in just enough water to cover. Leave it aside for 5 hrs. Cook the beans till soft in the same water. Add water if necessary. (Do not strain water as the flavour will go). Put the cooked beans into a bowl, add sugar, stir well and leave overnight in the refrigerator. Take the beans out of the fridge 2 hrs before they are required.

2nd Day

Grate the coconut, using 1/2 cup of water, extract milk (preferably in the blender). Cook the rice in 3 cups of water. It should be like porridge. Mix together the beans and the rice thoroughly. Put into individual bowls and top the dessert with a spoonful of coconut milk and serve. This dessert has a very mild flavour.

NILISHA & MEYYAMMAI

HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS



1. TOUR of KARNATAKA (Belur, Halebid etc.) - 12th to 14th September. Please refer to SPECIAL MAILER already sent to members.
 2. TOUR of NEPAL - a fabulous country cradled in the midst of the Himalayas - 15th to 21st October
- 15th October - Dep. Madras. Fly to Kathmandu via Delhi
- 16th October - Full day Sightseeing of Hindu and Buddhist temples of Kathmandu
- 17th October - Half-day tour of Patan, city of arts & crafts, palaces and shrines
- 18th October - Half-day tour of Bhadgaon, a medieval city
- 19th October - Fly to Pokhara and see Himalayan peaks at close range. Boat ride on Phewa Lake
- 20th October - Drive to Nagarkot to see sunset and sunrise over the Himalayas
- 21st October - Return to Madras via Delhi

COST - Rs. 12,375/- per head (for a group of 10 to 15)

THIS INCLUDES accommodation for 6 days, sightseeing, luxury coach and guide fees, boat ride, return air fare to Pokhara, surface to Nagarkot.

DOES NOT INCLUDE air or train fares between Madras and Kathmandu, NOR Meals at hotels in Nepal. Do contact us for a copy of the detailed write-up. Those interested, please pay in a deposit of Rs. 5,000/- before Sept. 9th.

**KAMALA PRASAD
RITA NORDENGREN**

When a man wants to murder a tiger, he calls it sport. When a tiger wants to murder him, he calls it ferocity.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAMMMMMMM...

After a long leave in the U.K. I have returned to Chennai. I was glad to escape the heat of May and June in Chennai, but sad to leave all my friends here. However, for anyone who has never been to the UK, it is lovely in the summer, and before long thoughts of IWA, OWC and the British Council were banished from my mind.

Summer in the UK is wonderful. The trees are green, the cuckoo can be heard heralding summer in, the flowers appear and everyone gets out the lawn mower. The mowing sound is no longer as pleasant as it used to be since the advent of the electric machine, but the smell of newly mown grass is delightfully summery. It conjures up all those long summer days of school holidays in one's youth.

The "Season" in the UK with Glyndebourne and its opera, Stratford, the Globe Theatre, the Test matches, the Chichester Festival and of course, Wimbledon and the Open Golf Tournament, make a heady cocktail of interest for our delight. All are accompanied by a rich plate of strawberries and cream, even when viewed only from the comfort of the television couch. We went to London to see "Guys and Dolls". What a treat.

The real delight for me in summer is my garden and terrace. I have a large lawn and few days go by without playing a game of croquet. This appears to outsiders to be a very gentle game, suitable for the vicar at tea time, but it is in fact, quite vicious when played well, rather along the lines of a mobile game of chess. It is a thinking game also, so quite challenging. This is accompanied by drinks on the terrace where the accompanying sound of ball against mallet is a very comforting and ancient sound.

I hope you will bear with me for all these reminiscences. I hope you will also be aware that the reminiscence is often grander than the actuality. The actuality was that we lost the test matches. Wimbledon was almost rained off and the British boys didn't win, the lawn mower broke down, and the strawberry crop was destroyed by the wettest June for 150 years. Still I can always dream!

So enough dreaming. Back to reality! Time to plan Diwali and Christmas. Forget the strawberries and enjoy the mangoes. On with the motley!

**MEGAN UTLEY
YOUR RETURNING VICE-PRESIDENT**

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Tuesday 16th September - 10.15 am

At: Narada Gana Sabha
Mini Hall



THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CINEMA AND POLITICS IN INDIA

Dr. S. Krishnaswamy a famous producer of documentary films, television serials and commercials will analyse the connection between the powerful medium of films and politics. It is not uncommon to see a film star singing, swinging and dancing to hit tunes eventually becoming a minister wielding enormous power. Dr. Krishnaswamy will explain this phenomenon to us and also show video clippings from the past and of recent times. His topic will cover the trends of the last few decades.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME

**SUJAYA MENON
SABINE SALAAM**

CURRENT EVENTS

Thursday 18th September - 10.15 am

At: Sharmila Ramji's
9, Valliammai Achi St.
Kotturpuram
Chennai - 85



RESERVATION FOR WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT

Over 400 million Indian women are represented in the Lok Sabha by a mere 44 seats. This is only 7.4% of a total of 544 seats. Is Reservation the only way to settle this discrepancy? On the other hand, there is a genuine fear that Reservation may result in women MPs becoming puppets in the hands of their male relatives!

Prof. R.K. Bharatan, who has been in the field of Management Education and Training for the last 20 years and is now Director of the National Institute for Management Studies, will explore these sensitive and critical issues with us.

**GITA CHANDRASEKARAN
MADELEINE LEONE**

HEALTH & ECOLOGY

Friday 19th September - 10.15 am

At: Taj Coromandel
Clive Duplex Hall



RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY AT THE TURNING POINT

A comparatively new technique of anchoring the teeth to the jaw is now being utilised for permanent tooth replacement, be it one tooth, several or all.

This new technique of implants can be applicable to all from the ages 18-80, in case tooth replacement becomes a necessity due to decay, accident, or disease.

Dr. Vijailaxmi Acharya, a specialist in restorative dentistry and root canal treatment will present an audiovisual, on how cosmetic dentistry can help us retain the use of our teeth even in old age.

Our thanks to RITIKA DHINGRA and SUJAYA MENON for hosting this meeting.

**RINI KUMAR
JANIK BAKSHI**

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

Monday 22nd September - 10.15 am

At: Vidya Singh's
10, Satyanarayana Ave.
Off Boat Club Road
Chennai - 28



OMENS AND SUPERSTITIONS THE WORLD OVER

Throughout history people have believed in the powers of omens and superstitions. Many societies still believe in superstitions, and have handed down through generations - "a set of don'ts". Admittedly, we all are a trite superstitious ... IWA members from Australia, England, Sweden, France, Sri Lanka, India and Singapore will treat you to a bonanza of superstitions that will keep you entranced.

Do come prepared to share an omen/superstition with us.

**LEELA RATNAM
SHEELA K. SARATH**

BOOK DISCUSSION

Tuesday 23rd September - 10.15 am

At: Alagu Muthu's
97, Santhome High Road
Chennai - 28



✓ SNAKES AND LADDERS - GITA MEHTA

This series of engrossing sketches, compiled to celebrate the 50th anniversary of India's freedom, concentrates on Indian politics since independence, with an emphasis on the Nehru and Indira Gandhi eras.

This book will be reviewed by MALINI SESHADRI, who is a well-known writer and critic in Chennai.

Readers interested in borrowing the book may contact LAKSHMI PADMANABHAN or KAMALA PRASAD between 8 and 9 am.

**MALATHI RAMACHANDRAN
PAMELA FABIAN**

ARTS & CRAFTS

Thursday 25th September - 10.15 am

At: Umayal Chettiyappan's
9, Adyar Club Gate Road
Raja Annamalaiapuram
Chennai - 28



✓ THE SONG OF THE WEAVES

The rich heritage of countless weaves from all over India - who better to educate us in the vast field than Sabita Radhakrishna - a veteran in textile designing & printing. She pioneered the boutique concept and has held exhibitions in India and Sri Lanka, besides being a correspondent for leading fashion magazines.

She will lead us into the enthralling world of diverse forms of texture and design in textiles - touching on the history of the roots of weaving and visually letting us feast on textures of woven fabrics from all over India. She will also enlighten us on what textiles are available today and where they are found.

**RADHA PARTHASARATHY
MARTINA KLUTH**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE BOARD

PRESIDENTS	:	Rupa Kadhiresan	(R) 4992847
		Anneliese Hazari	(R) 4919505
VICE-PRESIDENTS	:	Shakunthala Jagannathan	(R) 459199/4323337
		Megan Utley	(R) 4343348
SECRETARIES	:	Javanthi Prabhakaran	(R) 6411579
		Seema Sait	(R) 8242244
			(O) 8264112
TREASURERS	:	Lalitha Krishnan	(R) 4991853/4992341
		Angelika Mandaiker	(R) 611265

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

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
CURRENT EVENTS	:	Gita Chandrasekharan	(R) 4420235/4421035
		Madeleine Leone	(R) 4340824
COOKING SWAPSHOP	:	Nilisha Mehta	(R) 4990151
		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
MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS	:	Sujaya Menon	(R) 4917464/4910044
		Sabine Erlich Salam	(R) 832670
PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION	:	Leela Ratnam	(R) 452123
		Sheela K. Sarath	(R) 4938524
			(O) 4938411