



International  
Women's  
Association

SEPTEMBER 1998

# IWA NEWSLETTER

Vol. XIII No. 4  
CHENNAI

SEPTEMBER 1998

## MONTH AT A GLANCE

Tuesday	1st September	<b>BOARD MEETING</b>	10.15am
Thursday	3rd September	<b>PHILOSOPHY &amp; RELIGION</b> Visit to Theosophical Society	10.00am
Monday	7th September	<b>ARTS &amp; HANDICRAFTS</b> Janur - an Indonesian Art	10.15am
Tuesday	8th September	<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	10.15am
Friday	11th September	<b>HISTORY, CULTURE &amp; TOURS</b> Celebration of "THEEJ"	4.30pm
Tuesday	15th September	<b>HEALTH &amp; ECOLOGY</b> Hourglass figure without exercise	10.15am
Friday	18th September	<b>COOKING SWAPSHOP</b> Malabar Magic	10.15am
Tuesday	22nd September	<b>BOOK DISCUSSION</b> 'News of a Kidnapping' by Gabriel Garcia - Marquez	10.15am
Friday	25th September	<b>MUSIC &amp; PERFORMING ARTS</b> Film - Richard III	10.15am
Monday	28th September	<b>CURRENT EVENTS</b> Talk - The Current Recession -	10.15am

## FROM THE PRESIDENTS

One of the things that has been taxing the brains of your Board Members this month has been the subject of IWA membership. We would like to throw out some of the issues that we feel need to be aired, and hope that you will all give them some thought and put your ideas for their solution in writing, to the Secretary at your earliest convenience.

Some of the matters to think about are the following :

Does IWA really need to be limited to only 275 members, INDUS has 325.

Is the ratio 1:3 (non-Indians to Indians) set in stone for IWA? Indus has a ratio of 1:5.

Is it fair to have a waiting list of 90 names who have very little hope of being given membership even within the next three years at this rate. Only 4 new members will be admitted this year from the Indian side.

All our attempts to spur members to be active; fail rather. You can only take a horse to water, you can't make it drink !

Give these matters some thought and let us read about your ideas on these issues.

**SHYLA K. RAU  
MEGAN UTLEY**

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### **BOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, September 1st -  
10.15am

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

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, September 8th -  
10.15 am

At : Visalakshi Ramaswamy's  
1, South Beach Road,  
M.R.C. Nagar,  
Raja Annamalaipuram  
Chennai - 28.

## FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

Dear Members,

We have decided to re-activate the IWA telephone tree for two reasons -

1. Often, a well - known personality may arrive in Chennai and agree to address our members at short notice.
2. Unforeseen circumstances sometimes compel us to postpone or cancel a scheduled meeting.

An IWA telephone tree comes in very handy in such situations.

We need a quick, efficient team of members who would willingly pass urgent messages to the rest of the IWA membership. Could we count on some of you to volunteer to be a part of this team? Please get in touch with us if you feel you could help. Remember - this is also an opportunity to be a participating member of IWA with so little effort!

All a volunteer needs to do is to convey a telephone message to just ten members as speedily as possible.

We thank you in anticipation of favourable responses.

**GAYATRI BEWOOR  
LALINI GAUTAMADASA**

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## URGENT RSVP REQUIRED FOR DIWALI DANCE PROGRAMME

Those IWA Members and their children (both boys and girls) WHO ARE LEARNING AND HAVE DANCE EXPERIENCE BEHIND THEM, AND WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE in the Dance Medley performance at the Diwali Mela on 15th October, 1998 may please give their names to Mrs. SUREKHA KOTHARI URGENTLY. Tel. 8257198/8257145 - RSVP : Mr. Swaminathan - LATEST BY 10th SEPTEMBER).

## PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

Thursday, 3rd September 10.00 am (sharp)

At : The Theosophical Society  
Adyar,  
Chennai - 28.



### **Visit to Theosophical Society**

The Theosophical Society is a world wide organization dedicated to the promotion of brotherhood and the encouragement of the study of religion, philosophy and science. The Society stands for complete freedom of religion and belief.

A Member has kindly agreed to explain to us the history and belief of the Society showing us the symbols of all the principal religions that are embedded in the beautiful walls of the main building. The Society also houses various places of worship of different religions. It also maintains a library with rare manuscripts and research books.

#### **Please note :**

Wear comfortable walking sandals or slippers(no shoes please), caps and carry a bottle of drinking water. The Society rules do not permit any refreshments to be served on the premises.

The meeting will start at 10am sharp at the main building of the Society.

#### **Directions :**

The main gate of the Theosophical Society is located opposite the Malar hospital in Adyar. Vehicles will have to be parked near the main gate and members are requested to walk along the pathway and take the left fork to the main building.

Special arrangements will be made for those members who have problems walking, but it is important to be at the main gate at 9.45 am sharp if you need to make use of this facility.

**MRIDULA NARASIMHAN  
HENNY DE GROOTE PAAUWE**

## ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS

Monday, September 7th - 10.15 am

At : Shrikanta Jhaver's  
"Jhaver" Nivas  
No.10 Santhome High Road,  
Chennai - 4.



*'JANUR' - an Indonesian decorative art using palm leaves.*

V. Pavithra Mohan will demonstrate this very beautiful art form. PAVITHRA, who is a former Inner Wheel President, decorates professionally for all types of functions - be they family weddings or Rotary get-togethers. She also makes satin and paper flowers, besides teaching small groups of up to ten persons, the art of paper flower-making and JANUR.

VISALAKSHI RAMASWAMY  
EIRA DOSHI

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

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## HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS

Friday, 11th September - 4.30 p.m.

At : Kalpana Sonthalla's  
20, Harrington Road,  
Chetpet, Chennai - 31.



**Celebration of "Theej" - a Rajasthani Festival.**

In the month of Aug. - Sept. when there is a silvery light in the skies and the monsoon is on, peacocks dance, showing their brilliant hues. Rajasthani women and children dress in all their finery, colourful 'Lehngas' - or skirts and 'odanis' and sing and dance together as if to say 'Thank you for the rains'.

Our members - Kalpana Sonthalla, Urmila Agarwal and Anupama Pasari are co-ordinating this special presentation of 'Theej' with tea in a Marwari home for us.

Children are welcome, Do try to dress colourful.

See you there!

SUJAYA MENON  
RITA NORDENGREN

## HEALTH AND ECOLOGY

Tuesday, 15th September - 10.15 am

At : Zubeida Asgarali's  
'El-Qamar'  
19, Sivaganga Road,  
Chennai - 6.



### **Would you like to have an hourglass figure without exercise?**

Here is your chance. Our speaker, AYAZ AKBER of Body Focus - a non-surgical aesthetic clinique - will give us an easy way out for weight loss, muscle toning and skin treatment without the use of exercise, liposuction, facepacks or antibiotics.

Body Focus relies on Science to do the workout for you. The techniques employed have been proved safe and successful all over the world.

All you have to do is, lie down and relax !

**SHARMILA RAMJI  
BODIL FREDERIKSEN**

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'Wrinkles should merely indicate  
Where smiles have been'.

**MARK TWAIN**

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## HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO

Nalini Ramakrishna on the loss of her dear husband.

## COOKING SWAPSHOP

Friday, 18th September - 10.15 am

At : Jayashree Prabhakar's  
12, Archbishop Mathias Avenue,  
R.A. Puram,  
Chennai - 28.



## **MALABAR MAGIC**

From the land of swaying palms, endless lagoons and tranquil backwaters, much advertised as "God's Own Country" comes cuisine that is equally tantalising... come warm the cockles of your heart with Kerala's spicy fare, brought to you by our very own chefs of renown - LEELAMANI JOHN, SHOBANA THOMAS and BEENA RAM MOHAN who will be demonstrating a pungent fish, an aromatic rice and a flavourful vegetable dish.

The range of spices used is varied and is carefully selected for its robustness or its aroma. Learn the art of blending spices, jot down handy hints and sample the delicious fare - you will find out why Kerala's cuisine is called... Malabar Magic.!

**RANI CHADA  
SHEELA K. SARATH**

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'Tis best by far  
When best things are not possible,  
To make the best of those that are'.

**COVENTRY POTMORE**



## BOOK DISCUSSION



Tuesday, 22nd, September - 10.15 am

At : Dorothy Saldanha's  
462, Kilpauk Garden Road,  
Kilpauk,  
Chennai - 10.

### **"NEWS OF A KIDNAPPING" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez**

This account of real life kidnappings reads like a thriller.

The book will be reviewed by our member, Mrs. Vasanthi Narayan. She reviews books / theatre for the newspaper.

I am sure members will enjoy the discussion.

2 copies are available with us - Please contact Mrs. Rita at telephone nos. 8553821 / 8553861. The Madras Gymkhana and the Madras Club have it in their libraries.

**KAMALA MUTHIAH  
GALE MADSEN**

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Noise proves nothing. Often a hen  
Who has merely laid an egg  
Cackles as if she laid an Asteroid!

**MARK TWAIN**

## MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

Friday 25th September - 10.15 am

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

### **FILM - RICHARD III**

There will be a showing of a recent, very modern version of Shakespeare's famous bloodthirsty play, Richard III. It is a tale of power, politics and intrigue. It is set in the 1930's and involves the Princes in the Tower. It also features some very famous actors like Ian Mchellan, Nigel Hawthorn, Annete Bening and Jim Broadbent.

Shakespeare's version of Richard shows him as a deformed, ruthless schemer determined to have the crown for himself. As Richard himself says, "I can smile ..... And murder while I smile!" I believe this version has been challenged by some historians, but then history is not always as interesting as Shakespeare, and besides, even he had to be politically correct for his Tudor benefactors!

Your enjoyment of the film will be much enhanced by a quick read through of the play, to at least become familiar with the plot.

**SUREKHA KOTHARI  
REGINA SCROEDER**

**DURATION OF FILM 100 MINUTES  
SCREENING WILL BEGIN 10.30 AM SHARP**

## CURRENT EVENTS

Monday, 28th September - 10.15 a.m.

At : Megan Utley's  
7, Archbishop Mathias Avenue,  
Chennai - 28.

### **The Current Recession : A Paradox**

During periods of recession the prices of commodities usually fall. But in the current recession, prices are rising.

The ongoing recession in India is affecting us all. The cost of living rises visibly. Various reasons and different solutions are being suggested to overcome this very untimely and unfortunate situation.

Our distinguished speaker, Ms. K.S. Latha, Asst. Resident Editor of the Economic Times will attempt to identify the issues involved, analyse their causes and hopefully suggest solutions to the problems confronting us.

**KANTA GUPTA  
ANJANA DAS - HASPER**

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The Board would like to design an embroidered IWA tablecloth to use at meetings. If you would be interested in taking part in this project, please ring Eira Doshi 4911126.

We will require a designer and embroiderer.

## FESTIVALS AROUND THE WORLD

I spent an unforgettable summer this year in Sweden, where the 'Midsummer Feast' of St. John was celebrated during the weekend closest to June 24.

In the morning of Midsummer Eve, everyone decorated their homes, cars, churches, everywhere - with leafy branches and flower garlands. During the afternoon, a Maypole - a tall cross clad with leaves and flowers - was raised in the village square and dancing began, first around the pole and later in the evening, outdoors.

The typical midsummer menu consisted of different kinds of delicious pickled herring and boiled new potatoes with fresh dill and 'nubbe'. Garden fresh strawberries made a truly sumptuous dessert!

Midsummer Eve is believed to be a night of supernatural happenings. To find out whom you will marry, you have to pick a bouquet of seven or nine different varieties of flowers from as many meadows or ditches, and place it under your pillow - and you will dream of your future partner!

To cure a sick person, you should have gathered a small flask of midsummer dew which is believed to have medicinal powers. And there are many more omens and superstitions.

My summer house is beside a lake. When the excitement of the Midsummer Feast was over, I enjoyed watching the white anemone, the lily-of-valley and the fragile pink *Linnea Borealis* bloom; listening to the migratory birds sing; and taking a fishing trip down the lake in my fishing boat.

**RITA NORDENGREN**

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### CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBER

LALITHA ZACHARIAH

4356032

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### THE BOARD

1998-99

PRESIDENTS	:	Shyla K. Rau	(R) 8594578
	:	Megan Utley	(R) 4343348
VICE - PRESIDENTS	:	Gayatri Bewoor	(R) 8264035
	:	Lalini Gautamadasa	(R) 6412868
SECRETARIES	:	Javanthi Prabhakaran	(R) 6411579
	:	Meyyammal Murugappan	(R) 4420520
TREASURERS	:	Lalitha Krishnan	(R) 4991853
	:	Chandrika Chidambaram	(R) 4917609

### ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS	:	Visalakshi Ramaswamy	(R) 4939829
	:	Eira Doshi	(R) 4911126
BOOK DISCUSSION	:	Kamala Muthiah	(R) 6411142
	:	Gale Madsen	(R) 4901613
COOKING SWAPSHOP	:	Rani Chada	(R) 2344233
	:	Sheela K. Sarath	(R) 4938524
CURRENT EVENTS	:	Kanta Gupta	(R) 4926273
	:	Anjana Das-Hasper	(R) 4320737
HEALTH AND ECOLOGY	:	Sharmila Ramji	(R) 4422414/4918135
	:	Bodil Frederiksen	(R) 4425434
HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS	:	Sujaya Menon	(R) 4917464/4910044
	:	Rita Nordengren	(R) 4929408
MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS	:	Surekha Kothari	(R) 8257145/8257198
	:	Regina Schroeder	(R) 4346599
PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION	:	Mridula Narasimhan	(R) 8269630
	:	Henny de Groot Paauwe	(R) 4970884