



International
Women's
Association

FEBRUARY 2000

IWA NEWSLETTER

Vol. XIV No. 9
CHENNAI

FEBRUARY 2000 MONTH AT A GLANCE

Tuesday	1st Feb	Board Meeting Executive Meeting	9.30 a.m. 11.00 a.m.
Thursday	3rd Feb	Philosophy and Religion Women's Rights in Islam and Id Lunch	11.00 a.m.
Friday	11th Feb	Arts and Handicrafts Vegetable Carving	10.15 a.m.
Tuesday	15th Feb	Health and Ecology Aromatherapy - a session with Blossom Kochhar	10.15 a.m.
Thursday	17th Feb	Current Events Hijacking - the Fears and Implications	10.15 a.m.
Tuesday	22nd Feb	Book Discussion Poetry Reading	10.15 a.m.
Thursday	24th Feb	History, Culture and Tours INTACH's Maratha Tour	
Monday	28th Feb		
Tuesday	29th Feb	Music and Performing Arts Spring	10.15 a.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear Members

The joyful festival season has come to a close. Hope you all enjoyed the Ramzan and Pongal holidays.

It is time once again to decide on next year's Board. Even though the final selection rests with the Nominating Committee, your help is necessary for the Nominating Committee to choose the right people. So, please do make it a point to send in your nominations, using the slip attached to this Newsletter, to the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

The next most important event for IWA will be the presentation of awards to the "Woman of the Year" and the "Girl Child of the year". This will be held on 13th March, 2000. Please keep that day free as we would like everyone of you to participate in this special event.

Activity Chairpersons are continuing with their efforts in putting together interesting programmes for you. So, please come and enjoy these programmes.

**GAYATRI BEWOOR
CHANDRIKA CHIDAMBARAM**

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, 1st February, 9.30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

Tuesday, 1st February, 11.00 .am.

Both Meetings at :

Kusum Chadda's
19B, Tank Bund Road
Opp. Loyola College
Nungambakkam
Chennai 34

1999 - 2000 IWA AWARDS

WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Woman of the Year Award, 1999-2000, will be presented to Ms. Sivasankari in the category of a writer who has created awareness through her writings in the vernacular medium. This award instituted by Past President, Nirmal Minza has been awarded to women outstanding in a chosen category. Music, Medicine, Social Service, Education and Science and Technology have been the chosen categories in earlier years.

Sivasankari has kindled an awareness of social issues through her writings in Tamil, with her sensitivity to social problems like drug abuse, alcoholism and old age and also a deep commitment to help solve them. Many of her writings have been translated and serialised for the small screen. Notable amongst which is *Subha* - serialised in 1987 - that portrayed with stark reality the nightmare of drug addiction in our society.

She has written innumerable short stories, novelettes, novels (of which 6 have been filmed), travelogues and biographies of famous personalities. Her article on Eye Donation inspired thousands of people to pledge their eyes to the blind after their death.

Sivasankari has won public acclaim for the integrity and social commitment of her writings. She is at present working on a project titled *Knit India through Literature*, meeting and interacting with writers in the 18 approved languages of India.

GIRL CHILD OF THE YEAR

The Girl Child of the Year Award, 1999 - 2000 will be presented to S. Suthasini, who despite a congenital heart problem and deafness struggled on bravely and is now studying for the X Standard. The award instituted three years ago by Dr. Prithika Chari is awarded to a girl child in the age group 12-18 years, who despite a major illness has proved to be an achiever. Down's Syndrome and renal failure have been the category of choice previously.

When she was barely 10 months old, she had a bad attack of cold and fever. During her treatment, a heart problem was suspected and later confirmed by a cardiologist. However, surgery was advised only at the age of 10 years. At the same time, the child's responses to sound being absent, an ENT surgeon was consulted and congenital deafness was also confirmed.

Suthasini has since undergone surgery for her heart condition and thanks to the wonderful training and support of Bala Vidyalaya School, Chennai, today she looks and behaves as a normal child of her age, is conversant in English and is preparing for her X Standard.

**GAYATRI BEWOOR
CHANDRIKA CHIDAMBARAM**

PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

Thursday, 3rd February, 11.00 a.m.

At: YWCA
International Guest House
Poonamallee High Road
Chennai.



WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN ISLAM FOLLOWED BY ID LUNCH

Religion is a way of life. Every religion lays down guidelines and a code of conduct for its followers, which finds its interpretation in the changing needs and the evolution of society. With women marching ahead into acquiring a mantle of multifarious activities, there is an increasing awareness regarding their rights.

Mrs. Badar Sayeed, an eminent lawyer, will speak to us on women's rights in Islam. This will be followed by the ever popular Id Lunch with delicious implications!

PLEASE NOTE:

- the talk will start at 11.15 a.m.
- lunch will be served at 12.15 p.m.
- NO GUESTS ARE PERMITTED for this meeting.

**SUREKHA KOTHARI
MEYYAMMAI MURUGAPPAN**

Our thanks to the following members for hosting this meeting :

Zubeida Asgarali, Bilquis Chida, Rehane Yavar Dhala, Valerie Faheem, Sufia Hussain, Fakira Iyer, Mahmooda Haja Shareef, Zainab Kachwalla, Tayabe Kakkar, Sadiya Khaleel, Mahin Rabi Khaleeli, Bela Mistry Khaleeli, Malik Begum Lalji, Farida Majid, Bilkis Moosa, Fazeela Nurdeen, Shamim Padamsee, Seema Sait, Sabine Erlich Salaam.

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS

Friday, 11th February, 10.15 a.m.

At: YWCA
International Guest House
Poonamallee High Road
Chennai



VEGETABLE CARVING

Learn the art of vegetable, fruit, butter and ice carving.

Anitha from Anitha Caterers will demonstrate the art of carving birds and flowers from vegetables and interesting shapes in ice. Anitha learned this art from her father Mr. M.G. Kittu, who has been in the catering field for a long time. Anitha has won a lot of competitions and she conducts classes in the art of carving.

**KUSUM CHADDA
ELIZABETH HERRIDGE**

HEALTH AND ECOLOGY

Tuesday, 15th February, 10.15 a.m.

At: Sangeeth Chopra's
25/1, Ranjith Road
Kotturpuram
Chennai 85

AROMATHERAPY - A SESSION WITH BLOSSOM KOCHHAR

A pioneer in the field of Aromatherapy, Blossom Kochhar, head of Pivot Point India, an international beauty training institute, will talk to us on this special day. She will also demonstrate this wonderful line of beauty treatment with her own products called 'Aroma Magic'. Members are invited to see how Aromatherapy can bring out one's inner beauty and also enhance one's personal well-being.

THE TALK COMMENCES AT 10.30 A.M.

**FAZEELA NURDEEN
SUSHI GOKLANEY**

CURRENT EVENTS

Thursday, 17th February, 10.15 am

At: Mowbrays Hall,
Park Sheraton Hotel & Towers,
132 TTK Road
Chennai 18



HIJACKING - THE FEARS AND IMPLICATIONS

We are very fortunate to have with us **Mr. M.R. Sivaraman**, former Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Revenue Department, Government of India. Mr. Sivaraman was also the Director General, Civil Aviation. Until recently he was Executive Director, International Monetary Fund and is presently an Advisor, Finance, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Mr. Sivaraman was involved in the resolving of the hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane in 1993. He will talk to us on this very sensitive subject. His elaboration on this subject will be extremely interesting in view of the recent hijacking and the controversies surrounding this incident.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

**RANI CHADA
BERNADETTE MACDONALD RAGGETT**

We thank Aruna Goyal and Vijay Goyal for sponsoring the meeting.

*There are two ways of spreading light : to be the candle,
or the mirror that reflects it*

Edith Wharton

BOOK DISCUSSION

Tuesday, 22nd February, 10.15 a.m.

At : Ingrid Charlton - Briggs
Apt. E/9 Cambrae Hall
72, Dr. P.V. Cherian Crescent
Egmore
Chennai 28



POETRY READING

*"Then reach from the treasured volumes
The poem of thy choice
And lend to the rhyme of the poet
The beauty of thy voice"*

- John Greenleaf Whittier

We have had interesting and stimulating discussions about books. This month let us instead share our favourite poems with one another - words by well known poets, members themselves or family members.

Come let us leave our cares behind; let beautiful verse carry us to sublime heights.

SHALINI VIRMANI
NALINI PANDAY

HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS

INTACH'S MARATHA TOUR

Departure : Thursday, 24th February

Arrival : Monday, 28th February

For details refer to the January Newsletter



MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

Tuesday, 29th February, 10.15 am.

At Sir. Sivaswami Kalalaya Sr.Sec. School
5, Sundereswarar Street (near Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan)
Mylapore
Chennai 4



SPRING

Spring is heralded with joy and rejoicing. We also celebrate Pongal and Holi in this season. After the harvest, both young and old celebrate the advent of Spring with special songs and dances. The school girls of Sivaswami Kalalaya will present a programme of folk dances, typical to Tamilnadu, during this festive period. It is heartening to note that this rich tradition is still followed with much gaiety and colour.

SAROJA RAMAMRUTHAM
ELEANOR DARUWALLA-NITZCHE



*Mediocrity knows nothing higher than itself,
but talent instantly recognises genius*

Arthur Conan Doyle

*Too often we enjoy the comfort of opinion
without the discomfort of thought*

John F. Kennedy





CONGRATULATIONS TO

- Mano Bakhavatsalam, on being awarded the Seva Ratna Award by the Centenarian Trust, Chennai, for voluntary social service.
- Lalini Gautamadasa, on the release of her book, *Beyond those Walls of Silence*.
- Nanditha Krishna, on being awarded the Seva Ratna Award by the Centenarian Trust, Chennai.



- The OWC invites Members of the IWA to an International Tea at Cottingley on 2nd February 2000 at 3.30 p.m. Donation Cards at Rs.200/- per head are available with Aruna Vijaykumar, Tel : 8271284, 8272732.
- We wish a speedy recovery to Jennifer Ramachandran who underwent surgery.
- A pair of black shoes and a story book were found at the Taj Coromandel Hotel after the Millennium Extravaganza. The owner of these items is requested to contact Chandrika Chidambaram.





WE WELCOME

Eva Pyttlik
12/1 New Beach Road,
Thiruvanmiyur,
Chennai 600 041
Tel:

German

491 6596

Connie Shang
2A, George Avenue
Alwarpet
Chennai 600 018
Tel:

Taiwanese

467 2739



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Rani Ananth
'Sai Villa', Plot 500
4th South Main Road
Kapaleeswara Nagar
Neelangerai
Chennai 600 041

Sarah Chanda
31, (Old 16) New Secretariat Colony
Kilpauk
Chennai 600 010



CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBER

Rani Ananth	4490854
Lily Madhok	2200222

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Board at their meeting held on Friday, 7th January, 2000, have appointed the following members to serve on the Nominating Committee for this year.

RUPA KADHIRESAN

CHAIRPERSON

USHA CHANDRAKUMAR

BELA MISTRY KHALEELI

JANET DE PENNING

VALERIE FAHEEM

We invite recommendations from the members for the various posts on the Board. As you are aware, according to the revised Constitution it is now not necessary to obtain the consent of the concerned member while recommending her to a post on the Board. The Nominating Committee will obtain her consent before selecting her. Your recommendations are valuable and will help the Nominating Committee in the selection of a Board consisting of members who are efficient and have a sense of commitment.

GUIDELINES FOR YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Nominees for Presidents should have served on at least one earlier Board. This may be relaxed in the case of Non-Indians.
- Nominees for other members on the Board, should have served as Activity Chairpersons for at least two years. This may be relaxed in the case of Non-Indians.
- The last page in this Newsletter carries the tear-off Nomination Form. Please fill up the form and send it to Rupa Kadhiresan, the Chairperson, so as to reach her by 25th February, 2000.

**GAYATRI BEWOOR
CHANDRIKA CHIDAMBARAM**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE BOARD

1999-2000

PRESIDENTS	: Gayatri Bewoor	(R) 8264035
	: Chandrika Chidambaram	(R) 4611253
VICE - PRESIDENTS	: Javanthi Prabhakaran	(R) 6411579
SECRETARIES	: Kamala Muthiah	(R) 6411141/6411142
	: Sue Williams	(R) 4341595
TREASURERS	: Kamala Prasad	(R) 6262035
	: Rathi Nilakantan	(R) 8260744/8265250

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS	: Kusum Chadda	(R) 8254217/8233751
	: Elizabeth Herridge	(O) 8261124
BOOK DISCUSSION	: Shalini Virmani	(R) 4341047
	: Nalini Panday	(R) 4933773/4935338
COOKING SWAPSHOP	: Naina Shah	(R) 4320706/4320564
	: Francoise Drown	(R) 8230412
CURRENT EVENTS	: Rani Chada	(R) 2344233
	: Bernadette Macdonald Raggett	(R) 2300715
HEALTH AND ECOLOGY	: Fazeela Nurdeen	(R) 6260674/6216561
	: Sushi Goklaney	(R) 4353714
HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS	: Radha Seshadri	(R) 4913820
	: Lalini Gautamadasa	(R) 6412868/6411654
MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS	: Saroja Ramamrutham	(R) 4915549
	: Eleanor Daruwalla-Nitzche	(R) 4970127
PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION	: Surekha Kothari	(R) 8257145/8257198
	: Meyyammai Murugappan	(R) 4348207