



IWA
CHENNAI

NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2003

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 9.45 a.m. Mary Comm. Mtg. 10.45 a.m. Exec. Comm. Mtg.	2 9.45 a.m. Mary Comm. Mtg. 10.45 a.m. Exec. Comm. Mtg.	3 10.15 a.m. Arts & Handicrafts	4 10.15 a.m. Arts & Handicrafts	5 10.15 a.m. Music & Performing Arts	6
7 10.15 a.m. Book Discussion	8 10.45 a.m. Christmas Celebration	9 10.45 a.m. Christmas Celebration	10 10.00 a.m. Cooking Swapshop	11 10.00 a.m. Cooking Swapshop	12	13
14 9.30 a.m - 1.30 p.m. Current Events and History, Culture & Tours	15 9.30 a.m - 1.30 p.m. Current Events and History, Culture & Tours	16 10.15 a.m. Philosophy and Religion	17 10.15 a.m. Philosophy and Religion	18 10.15 a.m. Philosophy and Religion	19	20
21 ★ ★ ★	22 ★ ★ ★	23 ★ ★ ★	24 ★ ★ ★	25 ★ ★ ★	26 ★ ★ ★	27 ★ ★ ★
28 ★ ★ ★	29 ★ ★ ★	30 ★ ★ ★				

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

IWA NEWSLETTER

Volume XVIII No. 7

Chennai

DECEMBER 2003

MONTH AT A GLANCE

- Tuesday 2nd Dec *Managing Comm. Meeting* 9.45 a.m.
Executive Comm. Meeting 10.45 a.m.
- Thursday 4th Dec *Arts & Handicrafts* 10.15 a.m.
The Touch of the Flame - Enameling!
- Friday 5th Dec *Music & Performing Arts* 10.15 a.m.
A Glimpse into the Future of Bharatha Natyam!
- Monday 8th Dec *Book Discussion* 10.15 a.m.
The No.1 Ladies Detective Agency
- Tuesday 9th Dec *Christmas Celebration* 10.45 a.m.
at Cottingley
- Thursday 11th Dec *Cooking Swapshop* 10.00 a.m.
Table Setting Competition
- Monday 15th Dec *Current Events and History, Culture & Tours* 9.30 a.m.
Trip to Dragoco
- Wednesday 17th Dec *Philosophy & Religion* 10.15 a.m.
Beyond the Philosophy of right or wrong.
- Thursday 18th Dec *Philosophy & Religion* 10.15 a.m.
EID Milan Lunch

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Another month has rolled by, and we are in the last month of this calendar year.

Christmas is in the air and IWA will celebrate as usual - carrying the spirit of sharing and giving into the new year.

December is also the happening month in Chennai. Music and dance are everywhere - the famous Music Season draws everyone into its whirl. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this phenomenon, it is recommended that you take in a concert or two at a *sabha*. The atmosphere and the art are unique.

Mid-December is the beginning of the Tamil month of *Margazhi* - a month when no weddings are performed, but the traditional localities come alive with the strains of the *Thiruppavai* and courtyards are decorated with elaborate kolam patterns. An early morning walk through the older streets around big temples is recommended.

Have a good holiday season!

Sushi Natraj

Elaine Wood

MANAGING COMMITTEE
MEETING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING

Tuesday, 2nd Dec., 9.45 a.m. Tuesday, 2nd Dec., 10.45 a.m.

Both Meetings at:
Urmilla Agarwal's *
7 (Old 3A) Giri Road, 2nd Floor
T.Nagar, Chennai 600 071.

* The house is off GN Chetty road, take the turning at Amma Restaurant.

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS

Thursday, 4th December, 10.15 a.m.

At: **The Terrace Cafe**
Apparao Galleries
7, Wallace Garden
3rd Street, Nungambakkam
Chennai 600 006



The Touch of the Flame...Enameling!!

Veenu Shah paints with fire. She uses enamels as a medium for her abstract paintings of enamel on copper and steel. The touch of flame transforms pigments to liquid colors creating a haunting resonance to her warm rich tones. Come and watch her demonstration as it is said to be refreshing and therapeutic.

Our sincere thanks to **Sharan Apparao** for arranging the meeting and **Koshu Lalchand** for the refreshments.

PLEASE WARN IN TO THE CHAIRPERSONS - 40 MEMBERS ONLY.

Mansha Bhatia

Josie Newman

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO

Lakshmi Padmanabhan who lost her mother.

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Friday, 5th December, 10.15 a.m.

At : **Leela Ratnam's**
"Sri Raj"
10 (New) Cenotaph 2nd Lane
Alwarpet
Chennai 600 018.



A glimpse into the "future" of Bharatha Natyam!

Sudharma Vaithyanathan, acclaimed as this generation's "**Baby Kamala**", will give a short Bharatha Natyam recital. She is a 4th standard student at Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan - an excellent student who has been awarded the **Bharat Kalachar Cultural Scholarship** from the years 2003 to 2006. Trained initially under dancer Sreekala Bharath, she is now under the guidance of teacher and dancer A. Lakshman.

A most gifted dancer, she has the talent and dedication to become a wonderful exponent of Bharatha Natyam in the legendary *Vazhuvoor* tradition. As she is under training as well as undergoing formal education, a brief glimpse at her extraordinary talent and potential will be a rare treat for IWA members and will give them an idea of what to look forward to in some years to come.

Our sincere thanks to **Leela Ratnam** for graciously hosting this meeting. Thanks also to **Eleanor Daruwalla - Nitzche**, **Kashmira Daruwalla**, **Rani Das Gupta** and **Ritika Dhingra** for sponsoring the musicians.

Seema Bhargava

Uma Ganeran

Our sincere thanks to **Isabelle Badrinath** for hosting the **November Health and Ecology meeting** held at the MCC.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Monday, 8th December, 10.15 a.m.

At : **The British Council**
737, Anna Salai
Chennai 600 002



*The Book : The No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency
by Alexander McCall Smith*

The No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency is an amusing, intelligent and heart-warming story set in Botswana in South Africa. The main character, the captivating Precious Ramotswe is the first and only female private detective in her country. This African Miss Marple is the creation of Alexander McCall Smith who was born and educated in Zimbabwe. He became a law professor in Scotland and went to Botswana to set up a law school there. He is currently a Professor of Medical Law at Edinburgh. Director Anthony Minghella (The English Patient) has reportedly brought the film rights for this book.

We are fortunate to have this book reviewed by **Eunice Crook**, First Secretary (Cultural Affairs) British Council, who like the author, is from Scotland and has also lived for three years in Botswana.

We thank **Fakhira Ayer**, **Kala Bhashyam** and **Radha Gopalakrishnan** for hosting this meeting.

Saranya Jayakumar Cecile Malet Peterson

REMINDER

Please hand in your passport photograph as requested, to any Committee Member / Chairperson at any meeting.

*5m - 3'0' Shanti, ...
gta 3'0' - ? Rita*

'Tis the season to be jolly...
tra la la la la la ...

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
at COTTINGLEY

Tuesday, 9th December, 2003, 10.45 a.m.

(Meeting begins - 11 a.m. Brunch follows)

At : **Cottingley***

20 (Old 24) Anderson Road
Nungambakkam
Chennai 600 006

*Parking is limited, please pool cars.

We invite all IWA ladies to dress in their Christmas best to celebrate the spirit of Christmas as we enjoy brunch, have some fun and sing carols together.

If you would like to sing in the choir please contact:

Rita Saldanha Tel : 2836 0083

Premila Jacob Tel : 2661 5617

In keeping with the spirit of Christmas, if you would care to bring a gift for an underprivileged child please wrap something valued at Rs.100 - 200, label it stating whether it is for a boy / girl and the approximate age of the child and place it in the hamper under the Christmas tree. If you would prefer, you can place a similar amount in an envelop and gifts will be bought. /

This event is for members only and it would be appreciated if, for the purpose of organisation, you could please warn in by Friday the 5th December.

Call Princess Naik from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Vidya Singh from 10.30 a.m. - 6.30 p.m. or send Elaine Wood an SMS message anytime on 98411 88673.

NO GUESTS PLEASE



COOKING SWAPSHOP

Thursday, 11th December

Competition: 10 a.m - 10.45 a.m

(Participants to report to the Chairpersons by 9.45 a.m.)

Talk : 10.45 a.m.

At : **Imperial Hall**

Residency Towers

Thyagaraya Road, T.Nagar

Chennai 600 017

Table Setting Competition

A morning of fun and creativity!

IWA members are invited to participate in a competition in table setting.

- ◆ You will be required to set a table for two for an informal meal.
- ◆ There is no particular restriction in style - Indian, European or any other would be acceptable.
- ◆ You will be judged on innovative ideas, convenience, practicality and aesthetic appeal.
- ◆ You will be given a table space of 2'x2½', covered with a white cloth.
- ◆ All required materials will have to be brought by the participant.
- ◆ The time allotted will be 45 minutes.
- ◆ For further details call Urmilla Agarwal - 98410 85533

There will be a talk on 'Formal Table Setting and Etiquette' by Sulochana Alexander.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Urmilla Agarwal

Bilkis Moosa



CURRENT EVENTS & HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS

Monday, 15th December, 9.30 - 1.30 p.m.
Bus departure from Vidya Singh's - 9.30 a.m. sharp



Trip to Dragoco and Clasic Kudumbam

Dragoco India Ltd. is one of the best fragrance and flavour manufacturing units in Asia with a state-of-the-art research and development wing, housed in a magnificent building nestled amidst beautifully landscaped gardens.

We will be taken on a conducted tour and given a talk and a slide presentation on fragrances, which are exclusive perfumes used in personal care and household products and flavours which give variety and refinement to bakery items.

We will proceed to Clasic Kudumbam, Chennai's finest Retirement Home. Situated in Sholinganallur it is set amidst a sprawling 100 acre campus with studio apartments built round a central courtyard. A short talk on the aims of the Retirement Home will be followed by a tour of the facilities and lunch.

Limit 35 members. Warn in to Shobha Hebbar - 2641 1248.

However, your seat on the bus will be confirmed after payment of Rs.100 to Nina Kothari, Amulya Rao or Shobha Hebbar.

*Nina Kothari
Shobha Hebbar*

*Amulya Rao
Libby Meyer*

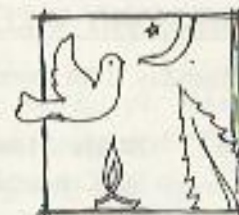
RAJASTHAN TRIP BOOKINGS ON . . .

Booking for the Rajasthan trip will be open from 1st to the 10th of December. Please contact Shobha Hebbar at 26411248 if you wish to join the group that will consist of 25 members.

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

Wednesday, 17th December, 10.15 a.m.

At : **Madras Cricket Club**
Bells Road
Chepauk
Chennai 600 005



Beyond the Philosophy of Right or Wrong: Our Member's Perspective

Throughout life we make decisions - some are routine, others critical and some are momentous. We also observe people making decisions which, privately, we may or may not agree with. Today, we will take up a case study and our members will form into groups to discuss the intricacies of the behaviour involved. Each group will make a presentation of their viewpoint. Our learning lies in our ability to accept and integrate the diversity of thought which will emerge.

We thank Lila J. Shahaney for hosting this meeting.

Anuradha Ulerai

Anita Kapoor

We are grateful to Anjana Sunil for coordinating the meeting with Sunandaji held at the Park.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

IWA thanks Rupa Kadhiresan for her commitment and involvement as a member of the Advisory Committee, as she steps down from this Committee. We will miss you, Rupa.

We welcome Zubeida Asgarali who steps in this month. Zuby's practical wisdom and generous nature will be an asset!

The Advisory Committee members are Zubeida Asgarali, Anneliese Hazari and Sunita Shahaney.

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

Thursday, 18th December, 10.15 a.m.

At: **Bilkis Moosa's**
16, Cenotaph 2nd Lane
Teynampet
Chennai 600 018
(Parking available at Leela Ratnam's)



EID MILAN LUNCH

The Holy month of Ramzan is just past. The month holds great significance for Muslims all over the world - it is a time of fasting and a time to spend a thought for the have-nots.

The culmination of 30 'rozahs' and the sighting of the new moon brings this month to an end. This occasion is celebrated as Eid Milan, when friends and family greet each other, and a feast is shared with the ones you love.

IWA celebrates this event with an Eid Milan lunch. We look forward to having all of you with us to join in the festivities.

We thank the following members for hosting the lunch:

Hayathi Ibrahim Abbott, Zubeida Asgarali, Fakhira Ayer, Bilquis Chida, Rehane Yavar Dhala, Mahmooda Haja Shareef, Sufia Hussain, Zainab Kachwalla, Thayabae Kakar, Sadiya Khaleel, Bela Mistry Khaleeli, Maheen Rabi Khaleeli, Farida Majid, Bilkis Moosa, Fazeela Nurdeen, Seema Sait, Sabine Erlich Salam & Naaz Tyebbhoy.

Anuradha Ulerai

Anita Kapoor

"IWA IN EGYPT"

'TIME' has a different connotation in Egypt. They speak in millennia the way we count centuries! 'Old and ancient' means over 4000 years. Greek and Roman periods are relatively recent history as they are only(!) 2000 years old!

The Giza pyramids were 'awesome' as the Yankes would say. The daring among us ventured into the pyramid of Menkure walking half-bent into a dark, airless, narrow corridor for almost half an hour! 'Big' in Egypt is really 'massive' as in the huge stone blocks (some weighing 14 tons) used to build the pyramids at Giza and the massive columns of Karnak.

The Sphinx was smaller than expected but came alive in the spectacular sound and light show as the lone sentinel of the epochs gone by when caravans and nomads and kings and commoners rested in its shade wondering at the timeless gaze of the mysterious face with a lion's body! We were awestruck by the mummies of Ramses II and Tutmosis II and even mummies of crocodiles! (Mummies are relics-our children would concur!)

Hawking and bargaining reached a crescendo in the colourful and exciting markets. Hawkers never missed an opportunity, even hurling their merchandise to the top deck of the cruise boats striking a deal! The souk in the Khan e Khalifee in Islamic Cairo was an altogether different experience.

Sipping bitter Turkish coffee in between dragging puffs on the seesha in the gullies of the bazaar!

Our guide Mallaiqa or is it Mallika(?) insisted on "accounting" us every time we boarded the bus!

Our girls became adept at identifying Egyptian Gods like Anubis, Isis, Osiris, Hathor (Egyptian equivalent of our Kamadhenu!) It was a revelation to find many of us were better at belly dancing (!) than the dancer herself! The Whirling Dervish was exciting.

After we were sufficiently 'tomed out' and had finished with gawking and gasping at the breathtaking riches of Tutankhamen (including gold Kolhapur-like slippers!) we headed home enriched by our voyage in the 'time-machine' into ancient Egypt! A civilization that could be termed 'the Mother of all Civilizations'!

Geetha Varudevan

'DIWALI MELA' STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

INCOME	Rs.	EXPENSES	Rs.
Sale of tickets 415	1,03,750	Taj Connemara Hotel	87,390
Tickets @ Rs.250/-			
Stalls - 31 Stalls @ Rs.1000/-	31,000	Tips to Hotel Staff	2,500
Khazana & Miscellaneous Income	12,180	Decoration/Photos/Misc	3,391
Net receipts	1,46,930	Ptg Charges for Tickets	540
Excess Income Over Expenditure	53,109	Net Payments	93,821

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2003 - 2004

MANAGING COMMITTEE

PRESIDENTS

Sushila Natraj 2498 2435 / 2467 1796
Elaine Wood 2447 1356

VICE PRESIDENTS

Vidya Singh 2433 8782 / 2435 9035
Sheela K Sharath 2493 8524

SECRETARIES

Princess Naik 2441 8448
Suk Hee Lee 2435 9144

TREASURERS

Gita Chandrasekaran 2442 1035 / 2442 0235
Malini Krishna 2447 4830 / 2447 1046

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS

Mansha Bhatia 2827 3251 / 2827 3189
Josie Newman 2433 4758

BOOK DISCUSSION

Saranya Jayakumar 2826 1942
Cecile Malet-Peterson 2431 5848

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Urmila Agarwal 2820 5327 / 2821 4586
Bilkis Moosa 2434 9934 / 2434 9932

CURRENT EVENTS

Nina Kothari 2827 5859 / 2827 8888
Amulya Mandava Rao 2499 5434

HEALTH & ECOLOGY

Rekha R Rangaraj 2499 4756 / 5211 0761
Isabelle Badrinath 2447 1677

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS

Shobha Hebbar 2641 1248
Libby Meyer 2433 9112

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Seema Bhargava 2435 6707
Uma Ganesan 2491 9276

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

Anupadma Uberoi 2820 2467 / 08623-242170
Anita Kapoor 2825 6484 / 2825 6474