

A large, intricate orange paisley graphic is centered on the page. It features a complex, symmetrical design with floral and scrollwork motifs, tapering to a point at the top and bottom.

*Celebrating  
20 years*

IWA  
Chennai

*December 2006*

*Newsletter*

Month at a Glance		DECEMBER 2006				Vol. XXI No.7	CHENNAI
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
31					9.45 a.m. Mtg. Comm. Mtg. 10.30 a.m. Exec. Comm. Mtg.	2	
3	10.15 a.m. History Culture & Tours	10.15 a.m. Music and Performing Arts	6	7	8	9	
10	11 Christmas Meeting	12 Christmas Meeting	10.15 a.m. Cooking Swapshop History. Culture & Tours	13 Cooking Swapshop History. Culture & Tours	14 History. Culture & Tours	15 10.15 a.m. Arts and Handicrafts	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

# TWA Newsletter

Volume XXI No. 7


Chennai

DECEMBER 2006

Month At A Glance

- Fri. 1st Dec. Managing Committee Meeting 09.45 a.m.  
Executive Committee Meeting 10.30 a.m.
- Mon. 4th Dec. History, Culture and Tours 10.15 a.m.  
*Greece and Turkey Revisited*
- Tue. 5th Dec. Music & Performing Arts 10.15 a.m.  
*Bolly Beatz - A Work Out  
With A Difference*
- Tue. 12th Dec. Christmas Meeting **11.00 a.m.**
- Wed. 13th Dec. Cooking Swapshop 10.15 a.m.  
*Understanding Indian Wines*
- Wed. 13th Dec. Philosophy & Religion  
*Trip to Gingee, Arunachala & Tirumalai*
- Fri. 15th Dec. Arts and Handicrafts 10.15 a.m.  
*Art In Living*

## *From the Presidents*



Dear Friends,

It's that time of year. Chestnuts roasting on an open fire, Jack Frost nipping at your heels. In Chennai?!?! Not likely! What we do have is the ever popular IWA Christmas to kick off the holiday season. This year we celebrate surrounded by the elegant decorations of Cottingley. Old favourites like IWA choir will be seen along with a few new twists including an International dessert spread courtesy Lynne Connor.

We welcome back our ladies from Turkey and Greece where they had an enjoyable time and we are glad to say a safe trip. This month we look forward to a spiritual renewal on the trip to Tirumalāi and a workout with a difference.

We bid farewell to Zubeida Asgarali from the advisory committee and welcome on board Lily Madhok.

As usual our dedicated chairpersons have packed in fabulous meetings in the first few weeks of December. After that, IWA takes a break and we will see you in 2007 refreshed, invigorated and roaring to go for our last four months.

We wish all our members a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and joyous Pongal.

**SEEMA BHARGAVA**

**AMULYA RAO**

**MANAGING COMMITTEE**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Friday, 1st December, 9.45 am

Friday, 1st December, 10.30 am

Both Meetings hosted by  
**Raziyeh Sheerazie** at  
16, Harrington Road, Chetpet  
Chennai 600 031

## *Advisory Committee*

The term of a member on the Advisory Committee is 3 years. This year, **Zubeida Asgarali** completes her term. With years of experience in IWA and other organizations, Zuby has been guiding us with wisdom and grace. Thank you, Zuby, for serving IWA yet again in an excellent manner.

We welcome **Lily Madhok** on the Advisory Committee. With her considerable experience in administrative affairs, her very pragmatic approach to life and bubbling enthusiasm, Lily will begin her term this month.

The Advisory Committee members are **Eira Doshi, Nanditha Krishna** and **Lily Madhok**.

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## *From the Vice Presidents*

Members are requested to give in the corrections / change of addresses / cell numbers / phone numbers to Bernadette McEwen before 10th December. This will help us in bringing out the new telephone book.

**NINA KOTHARI**

**BERNADETTE MCEWEN**

## History, Culture & Tours



Monday, 4th December at 10.15 a.m.

At: **SEETHA MUTHIAH'S**  
'Coromandel House'  
14, Boat Club Road  
Chennai - 600 028.

### GREECE AND TURKEY REVISITED

IWA members have just returned from a very enjoyable and exciting trip to Greece and Turkey.

We will meet to get a first hand account of their travels to these exotic destinations.

**Ramani Reddy** will share her experiences of the fabulous treasures of Istanbul, breathtaking Bosphorus Cruise, ancient cities of Troy and Bursa.

**Mridula Srinivasan** will talk about the delights of Greece-Athens with its rich and fascinating attractions like The Acropolis and Parthenon. The Mainland Tour of Olympi, Epidaurus, Mycanae, Arachova, Patras and Delphi not to mention the awesome beauty of Mykonos.

We thank **Seetha Muthiah** for graciously hosting this meeting at her home.

**ANURADHA MAJITHIA UBEROI**

**ANITA KAPOOR**

## Music @ Performing Arts



Tuesday, 5th December at 10.15 a.m.

At: **FITNESS ONE**  
Old No.7, New No.17  
Lakshmi Street  
Kilpauk (Behind Regina Hospital)  
Chennai - 600 010

### BOLLY BEATZ - A WORK OUT WITH A DIFFERENCE

Lose your inhibitions and come join or enjoy viewing Bolly Aerobic moves. **Nidhi Mehta** trained by Shiamak Davar along with her students will show us a fitness routine, popular in U.K. and Australia. Please be attired suitably to participate actively in this fun and energetic work out.

We are grateful to **Tina Malhotra** for sponsoring this meeting.

**SHOBHA MAHTANI**

**SUBHASHREE SEN GUPTA**

## History, Culture & Tours

We thank our members Nina Kothari, Neena Sanghvi, Devyani Shah, Naina Shah and Sheetal Shah for sponsoring the dancers for the Dandiya Meeting in October.

**ANURADHA MAJITHIA UBEROI**

**ANITA KAPOOR**

# Christmas



Tuesday, 12th December at 11.00 a.m.

At: Cottingley, B.D.H.C.  
20, Anderson Road  
Chennai - 600 006

Its Christmas time and IWA is celebrating with a morning filled with traditions like IWA choir, carol singing and games.

Cottingley will be dressed up for the holidays and we ask members to do the same by coming attired in Christmas colours of red and green. There will be prizes for best dressed !

Let your creativity loose because this year we are having a Christmas decoration competition. Please bring your hand made decoration with you and after the contest they will be donated to charity.

For security reasons, please warn-in with **Seema** or **Amulya** between 8 to 10 a.m. before 9th December and also state whether vegetarian / non-vegetarian to facilitate arrangements. Only the physically challenged may drive in.

We thank **Lynne Connor** for graciously opening her home for the Christmas Meeting.

Come . . . . . celebrate the Festive Spirit !

## MEMBERS ONLY

SEEMA BHARGAVA

AMULYA RAO

## BOARD

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We welcome contributions from members towards the Christmas meeting expenses. Please contact Seema or Amulya for the same. Members wishing to contribute cash for charity and gifts for underprivileged children can also contact the Presidents.

# Cooking Swapshop



Wednesday, 13th December at 10.15 a.m.

At : **The Taj Coromandel**  
37, Mahatma Gandhi Road  
Chennai - 600 034.

## UNDERSTANDING INDIAN WINES

Grover Vineyards was established in 1989 and today it produces a million bottles of wine annually from its 300 acres of vineyards situated just outside Bangalore. **Kapil Grover**, Managing Director of Grover Vineyards, and his team of wine experts will talk to us about Indian Wines. We will learn how to taste, differentiate and describe wines like an expert, order wines with confidence, match food and wine and much, much more.

## MEMBERS ONLY PLEASE

SHANTHI THOMAS

MALINI KRISHNA



*Heartfelt condolences to*

**Kanika Parekh** on the loss of her husband.

## Arts @ Handicrafts



Friday, 15th December at 10.15 a.m.

At : **Meenakshi Arunachalam's**  
"Chamundeswari Baugh"  
3(Old 1), Bishop's Garden  
Off Greenways Road  
Chennai 600 028

### ART IN LIVING

#### Growth Of The Art Market In The Last Half Century

A panel discussion with **Sarala Banerjee, Dr. Ashrafi S. Bhagat** and **Asma Menon**. Mr. and Mrs. S. Darcoowala, the founders of Sarala's Art Center - the first art gallery in Madras, will also be honoring us with their presence.

Sarala's Art Center, established in 1965 is one of the oldest art galleries in South India and this year they celebrate their 40th year. Over the past four decades it has been responsible for laying the foundation for the Indian Art Market.

Dr. Asharafi Bhagat is Head, Department of Fine Arts, Stella Maris College, Chennai. She is also the art critic for the *The Hindu*.

Asma Menon is a graduate of the Government College of Arts and Crafts Madras. She has been actively involved in mainstream art since 1993. Asma's work have been widely exhibited all over the world. Her etchings have been shown in international print shows in Japan, Poland and Brazil.

**SANGEET CHOPRA**

**LISA FELDMANN**

## Trip to Turkey and Greece

This year IWA had planned to make its annual international tour to Turkey and Greece. The tour was initially fraught with a few hiccups - bomb blasts in Istanbul and other parts of Turkey forced the brave IWA women to postpone the trip. Again, on the day when we initiated our trip the rains came down heavily - the skies wept, but that did not daunt the brave IWA women. They went on merrily as though they were used to all these temporary disturbances.

Twenty-five women and two men flew to Istanbul via Bombay. Two men facing twenty-five women for ten days - you may say it must have been an ordeal. But, the men rose up to the challenge and won the hearts of all women through their unfailing help, courtesy, caring and joie de vivre.

This report is not going to list out the spots we visited in Turkey and Greece. The elaborate itinerary prepared by the tour operator would do that job well. Instead, it will try to recreate the spirit of friendship and fellowship, which developed between the group members, and give a whiff of the smells and tastes of the places we went to. First of all, both the countries gave us an idea of what a true mixture of the old and the new can be - the tradition preserved while ushering modernity, history preserved through building anew without completely demolishing what was already there.

The mosques of Istanbul, The Blue Mosque and The Hagia Sophia Mosque contained the remnants of the Roman and Christian architectures which preceded the building of the mosques. Parthenon in Greece was to begin with a temple built in honour of Athena, then a Christian and later a Muslim worshipping place. If Delphi claimed to be the "Navel of the Universe", Hagia Sophia claimed to be the central point of the Earth. They seemed to declare that "Men may come and men may go, but we go on for ever". Neither the vagaries of the seasons nor the disasters such as earthquakes and fires

seem to destroy them altogether. They remain architectural marvels, even though some of them are in ruins such as Mycenae, Olympia, Delphi or Troy. As the early morning sun shed its pristine glow or the evening sun blazed in red and orange glory, these remnants of old civilizations shone and came to life, reminding us of the glory that was Turkey and Greece.

Another main feature of these two places was that they were surrounded by the sea - the blue, blue sea which never failed to captivate the eyes and imaginations of human beings and infuse them with the spirit of adventure and the imagination of poesy. There were mountains too, stately and solid, some of them providing the marble with which these monuments were built. In both places we had the benefit of good guides - knowledgeable and fluent.

IWA did well in taking the group on two cruises - one around the Bosphorus in Turkey and the other to the island Mykonos in Greece. The Princess Island tour had to be cancelled on account of inclement weather. In Turkey we arrived the day before the Republic Day of Turkey, October 29 and were able to get a glimpse of the celebrations - parades and fireworks. If in Greece we were reminded of Pericles and the idea of Democracy (Parthenon was built by free citizens and not slaves) in Turkey we were reminded of Kamal Ataturk and how he transformed Turkey into a democratic and modern republic as early as the 1920's. At museums like Topkape Palace and Dolmabahche Palace we saw the opulence and splendour of the Sultanate of Turkey, but we were also reminded that these treasures now belonged only to a museum where the artistic endeavors and workmanship can be appreciated in isolation without a thought on how these were acquired or what they really represented.

All the places we visited reminded us of ancient history. Turkey had its own magic as it has the honor of being the only country, which lies partly in Europe and partly in Asia. Mykonos was a real gift - its narrow cobbled streets, the quaint shops and taverns on both sides of the streets, the flora and fauna in their full glory, the Cycladic architecture containing white walls and blue doors and windows and the night clubs. Epidaurus, the ancient amphitheatre

in Greece was another marvel. The acoustics in the theatre is unbelievable. IWA women rose up to the occasion and sang from the pit - Surekha Kothari and Prema Kumar - when they sang the "Vande Mataram", all the visitors clapped and there was magic in the air.

One should not forget about the food and drinks and the entertainment that formed an important part of this tour. We had our fill of the Turkish and Greek cuisine, but in the end it was the Asli Indian food provided by Jeypore Palace in Athens that gladdened the gourmet spirit of the IWA women. We tasted Rake and Ouzo the Turkish and Greek equivalents of Scotch Whiskey. In Istanbul we saw some good belly dancing and folk dances at the Orient House. In Greece too we had an evening of folk dances and folk singing. The singers sang and played Antakshari, the card players played to their heart's content, the shoppers shopped till they could not move under the weight of their shopping, the drinkers drank and felt happy, the camera persons clicked on, trying to capture the eternal beauty of the sights they saw, the old and the slightly disabled ambled along, assisted and helped ably by the younger and the more vital and vigorous members of the group. There was happiness, fellowship, friendship, good will and cheer in spite of the lack of air conditioning even in five star hotel rooms, the pelting rain which disrupted one day's programme in Turkey and the inevitable aches and pains from the constant walking, climbing and onward movement.

The tour leaders - IWA President Seema and Travel Exchange representative Kausalya - wore themselves out taking care of the group, looking into all the members' physical and spiritual needs. So did the two men, Alok and Sreedhar. For once we felt that marriage was a good institution and men could be so nice and charming if they made an effort!

**VASANTHI SANKARANARAYAN**

## TURKEY



The Group outside the Blue Mosque



The imposing Hagia Sophia in the background

## GREECE



In Olympia, the site of the ancient Olympics



Fighting the chill at the Acropolis



# History, Culture & Tours



*Punjab - 14th February to 21st February, 2007*

IWA is off on a trip to *Punjab* !

We will be visiting

**KURUKSHETRA**, the battlefield of the Mahabharata.

**CHANDIGARH**, a charming city with its famous Rock Garden, Sukhna Lake and Rose Garden.

We will be going to **Timber Trail Resort** nestled at the foothills of the Himalayas as also the famed Pinjore Gardens of the Mughal era.

We will visit **AMRITSAR**, where we will see the Golden Temple, **Jallianwalla Bagh** and **Durgiana Mandir**.

We will witness **THE RETREAT** at the **WAGAH BORDER**.

This is a trip not to be missed!

Cost- **Rs. 35,000 approx. (Includes Chennai-Delhi-Chennai airfare)**

The trip is limited to **25** persons.

Warn-in by December 10 with **Anita Kapoor** at 9884030566 / **Seema** 9840082518 / **Amulya** at 9840925434.

Non refundable advance of Rs. 10,000 to be paid by January 15.  
Balance amount by January 25.

**ANURADHA MAJITHIA UBEROI**

**ANITA KAPOOR**

## DIWALI MELA - STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

INCOME	AMOUNT (RS.)
Sale of tickets	
429 Tickets @ Rs.350	150150.00
Stalls - 35 Stalls @ Rs.1750 each	61250.00
Khazana Stall	13000.00
<b>Net Receipts</b>	<b>224400.00</b>
EXPENSES	
Taj Coromandel	132701.73
Radhika Shurajit's Troupe	15000.00
Flowers	2800.00
Photographs & Video	2500.00
<b>Net Payments</b>	<b>153001.73</b>
<b>Excess Income Over Expenditure</b>	<b>71398.27</b>

## *Executive Committee 2006 - 2007*

### MANAGING COMMITTEE

#### **PRESIDENTS**

Seema Bhargava 2434 7062 / 98400 82518  
Amulya Mandava Rao 2499 1272 / 2499 5434

#### **VICE PRESIDENTS**

Nina Kothari 2827 5859  
Bernadette McEwen 6549 7307 / 98840 21048

#### **SECRETARIES**

Rani Ananth 2449 0854  
Susan Hopper 2433 3565

#### **TREASURERS**

Urmilla Agarwal 2834 5327 / 98410 85533  
Raziyeh Sheerazle 2836 3161 / 2836 3687

### ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

#### **ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS**

Sangeet Chopra 2447 0759  
Lisa Feldmann 98415 98056

#### **BOOK DISCUSSION**

Shoba Hebbar 2641 1248  
Bilquis Moosa 2434 9934 / 2434 9932

#### **COOKING SWAPSHOP**

Shanthi Thomas 2815 0865 / 98410 76641  
Malini Krishna 2447 4830 / 2447 1046

#### **CURRENT EVENTS**

Mridula Srinivasan 2432 1028  
Jyoti Somani 2432 0797

#### **HEALTH & ECOLOGY**

Shirley Verghese 2449 1474  
Lynne Connor 98409 75740

#### **HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS**

Anuradha M. Uberoi 2432 8728  
Anita Kapoor 2625 6484

#### **MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS**

Shobha G. Mahtani 2835 3303 / 2835 2308  
Subhashree SenGupta 2431 1345

#### **PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION**

Asha Hemdev 2827 8165  
Annette Mollebro 98409 42843



*TWA wishes  
members and their families  
Merry Christmas  
and  
A Very Happy New Year*

