

March 2009

Newsletter



Chennai

F-1



REACHING OUT IN FRIENDSHIP



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2008- 2009

MANAGING COMMITTEE

PRESIDENTS

Rani Ananth	24490854	98407 61624
Lynne Connor		98409 75740

VICE PRESIDENTS

Shobha Hebbar	26411248	98403 38258
Vijaya Rangarajan	28156588	98410 99363
	(O)28288844	

SECRETARIES

Mridula Srinivasan	24321028	98409 31812
Ruth Lauge	24495199	98402 35222

TREASURERS

Asha Hemdev	28278165	98403 43528
Jo Frogbrook	42110112	98408 91824

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS

Nabila Avais		9840026665
Ninna Hogedal	65714286	9952965170

BOOK DISCUSSION

Nalini Acharya	26449731	9381174164
Bharathi Nair Gopinath	42120726	9884495778

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Achu Kurian	28365083	9841144072
Balveer Singh	24984989	9940183839

CURRENT EVENTS

Anuradha M. Uberoi	24329728	9841042520
Tineke Sysmans	45066148	9940135888

HEALTH & ECOLOGY

Zainab Kachwalla	28292274	9840853652
Helen De Clercq	24510180	9940688738

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS

Leena Suryaprakash	28213067	9840937366
Cherry Venkatesan	28293436	9841023740

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Ramani Reddy	28353348	9840086858
Angelika Schwering	24490382	9840379471

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

Archana K Melyappan	28473932	9840998800
Lena Heyman	24493222	9444076800

IWA NEWSLETTER

Volume XXIII No.10

Chennai

MARCH 2009

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Mon. 2nd Mar.	Managing Committee Meeting Executive Committee Meeting	09.30 a.m. 10.30 a.m.
Fri. 6th Mar.	History, Culture & Tours <i>Tranquebar - Place of the Singing Waves</i>	10.15 a.m.
Sat. 7th Mar.	GRAND FINALE	07.30 p.m.
Mon. 9th Mar.	Book Discussion <i>Meeting Lives - Tulsi Badrinath</i>	10.15 a.m.
Tue. 10th Mar.	Arts & Handicrafts <i>Visit to Cholamandalam Artists Village</i>	10.30 a.m.
Thu. 12th Mar.	Health & Ecology <i>Anti-aging</i>	10.15 a.m.
Thu. 19th Mar.	Philosophy & Religion <i>Israel & Judaism</i>	10.15 a.m.
Tue. 24th Mar.	Current Events <i>Satyam Scam & Corporate Governance</i>	10.15 a.m.
Thu. 26th Mar.	Music & Performing Arts <i>Ummikrishnan - Classical Music in Films</i>	10.15 a.m.

- EQM

IWA Blog Site : www.iwachennai.blogspot.com

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear friends,



We are coming to the end of our term. We begin the month with a talk on Tranquebar, a Danish settlement. March 8th is International Women's day and what better way to celebrate than the IWA Grand Finale on March 7th, in the beautiful ambience of the Madras Club. More on this you will find in the following pages. We also have the author herself talk to us about "Meeting Lives".

How we wish we could look young forever. Hear the expert talk on the secrets of anti-aging. Philosophy and religion takes us to Israel and Judaism. We have a talk on the scam of the year, the Satyam scam. We round off the month with classical music in films by none other than Unnikrishnan. By the time this newsletter reaches you some of our IWA members will be full of their trip to Gujarat.

The nomination form for nominating the office-bearers for 2009-2010 is included in the newsletter. Make your choice and respond.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Grand Finale and the meetings.

RANI ANANTH

LYNNE CONNOR

MANAGING COMMITTEE
Mon. 2nd Mar. at 9.30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Mon. 2nd Mar. at 10.30 a.m.

Meetings hosted by
Zainab Kachwalla & Helen De Clercq
At:
Bowside, Madras Boat Club
Boat Club Road, Chennai - 600028

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS

On Friday, March 6th at 10.15 a.m.



At: Strokeside, Madras Boat Club
Boat Club Road, Chennai - 600028

Place of the Singing Waves

On March 17th, 1616, the Dutch East India Company was established for trade with Asia when King Christian of Denmark granted a charter to some Danish traders. The Danes landed on the beautiful beaches of the Coromandel Coast in 1620 where they established a colony at Tranquebar or Trankebar, as the Danes called it. This name is derived from the Tamil name for the place, Taragambadi, meaning, "place of the singing waves". It was a Danish colony from 1620 - 1845 and here they built Fort Dansborg, an architectural gem.

Karin Knudsen, Chairperson of the Tranquebar Association and her husband, Viggo, have visited India every year since 1989. Whenever they visited Tranquebar they thought of restoring the fort. Eventually, in 2001, they formed an association with the aim of restoring the fort, started fund raising and got into negotiations with the Indian authorities who have helped them all the way. The southern part of the fort was restored and inaugurated on July 14th, 2002. They have now been allowed to start restoring the Danish Governor's house as well. Karin will talk to us about the Danish presence in India, about Tranquebar and the restoration attempts.

We thank Meenakshi Dhamija, Valli Murugappan and Francoise Queval for sponsoring this meeting

LEENA SURYAPRAKASH

CHERRY VENKATESAN

THE GRAND FINALE

The Grand Finale will take place on Saturday, 7th March. Mark the date on your calendar for an evening of *Retro-licious* fun and music. Yes, we'll take you back in time to the 60's and 70's. An evening of sheer nostalgia!!

We have planned an exciting evening for you all.

- There will be humorous skits by the ASAP play group
- Music of the 60's and 70's
- A line dance by our own members

We round it off with some lip smacking food. All this for Rs.500 per head.

Venue : The Madras Club

Time : 7.30 pm onwards

Dress : Club rules

We look forward to seeing you with your spouse. Cards are available with all Activity Chairpersons and the members of the Managing Committee.

RANI ANANTH

LYNNE CONNOR

THE BOARD

Say no to plastics:

Plastic bags are non-biodegradable. Over time they break down into smaller, more toxic petro-polymers that leach into the ground and get into the food chain. The effect on wildlife is catastrophic. Birds become entangled, almost 200 species of sea life choke to death ingesting plastic bags.

BOOK DISCUSSION

On Monday, 9th March at 10.15 a.m.

At: Bilkis Moosa's
16, Cenotaph, 2nd Lane
Teynampet, Chennai - 600 018.

Meeting Lives – a Process of Self-discovery

Meeting Lives is a book that traverses the lives of three generations of Aditi's family. Aditi's various personas – such as that of a daughter, a mother, a student and a friend, and her process of self-discovery, form the essence of this book.

This is the first novel of Tulsi Badrinath, which was on the 2007 Man Asian Literary Prize long list as "The Living God". She acquired her Bachelor's Degree in English Literature from Chennai, and her Master's in Business Administration from Ohio University. She is an experienced *Bharatnatyam* dancer. After working in a corporate environment for four years, she quit to devote herself to her writing and her dance. The author will be present to discuss her novel.

We thank Bilkis Moosa for hosting the meeting.

NALINI ACHARYA

BHARATI NAIR GOPINATH

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP TREASURER

As you are aware, the current IWA membership year is drawing to a close on 31st March, 2009 and every member (except for those in the Senior Member category) is expected to have completed the minimum of 10 meetings by this date.

If you are unable to make the minimum attendance, then please send a letter to me as soon as possible, as failure to make the 10 meeting requirement without a valid reason will result in non-renewal of your IWA membership for the year 2009 – 2010.

As our Activity Chairpersons have an exciting programme of events planned for this month, I would encourage everyone to show their continued support of IWA by making the last month of this IWA year the best yet for attendance.

JO FROGBROOK



ARTS & HANDICRAFTS

On Tuesday, 10th March, 2009 at 10.30 a. m.

At: Cholamandal Artists Village
Injambakkam, Left at Spencers Daily
East Coast Road, Chennai - 600 041



Cholamandal - "Indian in Spirit and Contemporary Worldwide"

Cholamandal Artists Village, on a 10 acre stretch of land on the East Coast Road, is a unique creative space. It is a colony for contemporary artists managed by the artists, to enable them to pursue their art in a peaceful and tranquil environment and for developing and utilizing their artistic talents. It was established in 1966 by the late Mr. K.C.S. Paniker, former Principal, Government College of Arts & Crafts, Chennai, who envisioned an art that was "Indian in spirit and contemporary worldwide".

The 30 artists of Cholamandal Artist's Village who are nationally and internationally recognized, have formed an association, "The Madras Movement in Indian Contemporary Art". They live in this small colony, where many of them have constructed houses in which they live and work. Their personal contributions and works of art are displayed in the K.C.S. Paniker Museum. An international sculpture garden surrounds the main Centre. "Laburnum" and "Indigo" are the two commercial art galleries in addition to an art book shop, a craft shop and a cafeteria.

Mr. S. Nandagopal, the Honorary Secretary of Cholamandal, who was elected recently, as one of nine eminent Indian artists by the National Academy of India, has held several shows both in India and abroad and won several national and international awards. He is a sculptor whose medium is welded metal. He will give us a guided tour of Cholamandal and speak to us on "The significance of Cholamandal in the context of contemporary art in India". Fellowship will be at 10.30 a.m. followed by the lecture and tour of Cholamandal village at 11.00 a.m.

We are very thankful to Sheela Shetty for hosting the tea.

NABILA AVAIS

NINNA HOGEDAL

Many thanks to Dolly Prasad and Usha Umamathy for co-hosting "Films 'n' Fashion" in January and Latha Chohan for sponsoring the audio visual equipment for Jan/Feb.

HEALTH & ECOLOGY



On Thursday, March 12th at 10.15 a.m.

At: Alagammai Alagappan's
10 (old 17), Chittaranjan Road
Off Cenotaph Road
Teynampet
Chennai 600 018

Anti - Aging

Age Management is a proactive, preventive approach focused on preservation of optimum human function and quality of life. Its endeavor is to modulate the process of ageing prior to the onset of degenerative ageing. The basics of anti-aging medicine are patient evaluation through extensive medical history, lifestyle assessment, physical examination, lab evaluation, hormonal assessment, etc

Our speaker, Dr.Kousalya.V.Nathan, is probably the first Indian to have the American Board Certification in Anti-Aging and Regenerative Medicine (ABAARM), USA and runs the country's first Anti-Aging Clinic in Chennai at HUMA Hospitals. A wellness consultant and a specialist in personalized lifestyle management and age management medicine (reversing the functional age of a person), she will talk to us on the key to graceful aging.

We would like to thank Alagammai Alagappan for hosting this meeting.

ZAINAB KACHWALLA

HELEN DE CLERCQ

Say no to paper bags:

Paper may degrade faster than plastics, but the trees cut down and the pollution engendered in processing paper bags make them a far from automatic choice.

PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

On Thursday, 19th March at 10.15 am

At: Madras Boat Club
Boat Club Road
R.A. Puram
Chennai 600028



Israel and Judaism

Judaism evolved in Egypt about 3,700 years ago. One of the oldest organised religions of the world, it believes in the unity and oneness of the universal Creator. Jews believe that there is a single God who not only created the universe, but with whom every Jew can have an individual and personal relationship.

Yifat Agam, a secular Jew from Negev, Israel, has been in Chennai for a few years. Yifat, mother of three, is behind the creation and ongoing development of Vanilla which is an all-in-one centre catering to the needs of parents, parents-to-be, babies, toddlers and children. She will talk to us about Judaism and her life in a kibbutz. She will also talk to us about their different festivals.

We thank Anupama Pasari and Geeta Rajagopal for sponsoring this meeting.

ARCHANA MEIYAPPAN

LENA HEYMAN

What is the best alternative to plastic and paper?

Use cloth bags. Take your own durable, reusable cloth bags to the store. By using them you save on an average 6 plastic bags a week, 24 bags a month and 288 bags a year. That's 22,176 bags in an average lifetime!

CURRENT EVENTS

On Tuesday, 24th March at 10.15 a.m

At: "Cricketer",
Madras Cricket Club
Bells Road,
Chennai



The Satyam Scam and Good Corporate Governance

The Satyam scam has left the Indian public dazed. How a fraud of such gigantic proportions went undetected for so many years is incomprehensible to most people. It is a failure of Corporate Governance and raises many issues. While throwing light on the Satyam fraud, our speaker will also touch upon the role of Independent Directors serving on the Board of Companies as well as suggestions to ensure Satyam does not get repeated in future.

N. Vittal, our speaker, is a former Central Vigilance Commissioner. He has also played a very prominent role in India's growth in both the Telecom and Information Technology sectors. He finds a place in Business Today's Golden Jubilee Issue (1997) list of 50 Indians who have played a vital role in contributing to India's growth.

We thank Vidya Srinivasan for hosting this meeting.

ANURADHA M. UBEROI

TINEKE SYSMANS

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Mansha Bhatia on the marriage of her daughter Aarti

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

On Thursday, 26th March, at 10.15 A.M
Warn in Meeting

At: Jayashree Manradiar's
"Anoor", II (old No 5) A B M Avenue
Chennai - 600 028



Classical Music in Films

Unnikrishnan is one of the most sought after Carnatic vocalists of today. His wonderful voice and youthful approach brought the fans back to Carnatic music. In 1994 he received his first film offer and we all remember the dulcet, haunting melody of "Ennavalae" (movie - Kaadalan). 'Uyirum Neeeye' bagged him the National Award for Best Playback Singer, Male. He has successfully bridged the 'Classical Music - Film Music' divide, which had been earlier achieved by K. J. Yesudass.

Unnikrishnan has till date recorded over 600 film songs in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam films. Films gave him a 'pan-India' address. He says that he grew up listening to a lot of Western, Hindustani and film music and this facilitated the effortless ease with which his voice flows seamlessly from one genre to another. We are fortunate that Unnikrishnan has agreed to address us on the above topic. Maximum number: 80. Please warn in with Ramani Reddy at 9840086858 or 28353608 or Angelika Schwering at 9840379471 or 24490382 from the 1st of March.

We thank Jayashree Manradiar for graciously offering her home and hospitality.

RAMANI REDDY

ANGELIKA SCHWERING

FROM THE ELECTION COMMITTEE

We invite you to nominate persons for each office of the Managing Committee.

GUIDELINES:

1. Nominees for Presidents shall have served on the Managing Committee for at least 2 years. They should have been members of IWA for at least 5 years. This may be relaxed in the case of Non-Indians.
2. Nominees for office bearers of the Managing Committee (i.e., Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer) should have served as Activity Chairpersons for at least 2 years. This may be relaxed in the case of Non-Indians.
3. The Election Committee shall present to the members the names of Indian and Non-Indian nominees who are eligible and willing to stand for election on the Managing Committee, keeping in mind their proven ability to fulfill their responsibilities and work as a team. They shall inform the members of the date, time and venue of the election.

This newsletter carries the nomination form. Please fill the form and forward it to Rupa Kadhiresan, Chairperson of the Election Committee at the following address:

25, Sriman Srinivasan Road,
Alwarpet, Chennai - 600018.

Please ensure that your nomination form reaches Rupa Kadhiresan's residence before 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 7th, 2009.

CHAIRPERSON:
MEMBERS:

RUPA KADHIRESAN
URMILLA AGARWAL
RAMA RAJAGOPALAN
SEEMA SAIT
ALEXANDRA THOMPSON

FROM THE ELECTION COMMITTEE

Following is the list of eligible members in alphabetical order who have agreed to be nominated for the various posts on the Managing Committee – Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers for the IWA year 2009 - 2010.

Indians

Sarah Chanda
Prithika Chary
✓ P Shobha Hebbar
Kausalya Jagannathan
T Surekha Kothari
S Archana K. Meiyappan
Ramani Reddy
P Mridula Srinivasan
Anuradha M. Uberoi

Non-Indians

S Liz Aston
T Jansi Kishore
P Nalini Panday
✓ P Manisha Singhee
Sejal Wasani

Note: All non-Indians are all eligible. However, only the above mentioned members have agreed to be nominated.

Members may nominate for all posts or for only those they wish to.

CHAIRPERSON: RUPA KADHIRESAN
MEMBERS: URMILLA AGARWAL
RAMA RAJAGOPALAN
SEEMA SAIT
ALEXANDRA THOMPSON