

July 2008

Newsletter



Chennai



REACHING OUT IN FRIENDSHIP



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2008- 2009
MANAGING COMMITTEE

PRESIDENTS

Rani Anandh	24490854	98407 61624
Lynne Connor		98409 75740

VICE PRESIDENTS

Shubha Hebbar	26411248	98403 38258
Vijaya Ranganarajan	28156588	98410 99363
	(O)28288844	

SECRETARIES

Mridula Srinivasan	24321028	98409 31812
Ruth Lauge	24495199	98402 35222

TREASURERS

Asha Hemdev	28278165	98403 43529
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

Laena Suryaprakash	28213067	9840937366
Cherry Venkatesan	28293436	9841023740

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Ramani Reddy	28353348	9840086858
Angelika Schwering	24490382	9840379471

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

Archana K Meiyappan	28473932	9840998800
Lena Heyman	24493222	9444076800

IWA NEWSLETTER

Volume XXIII No. 2

Chennai

JULY 2008

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Fri. 4th July	Managing Committee Meeting Executive Committee Meeting	09.30 a.m. 10.30 a.m.
Tue. 1st July	History, Culture & Tours <i>Talk on Spain</i>	10.15 a.m.
Wed. 2nd July	Current Events <i>Advances in Information Technology</i>	10.15 a.m.
Thu. 3rd July	Arts & Handicrafts <i>Kanchi Pattu Sarees</i>	05.00 p.m.
Tue. 8th July	Health & Ecology <i>Kidney Disease & Transplant</i>	10.15 a.m.
Thu. 10th July	Cooking Swapshop <i>A Sweet Ending - Delicious Desserts</i>	10.15 a.m.
Thu. 17th July	Philosophy & Religion <i>Feng Shui</i>	10.15 a.m.
Fri. 18th July	Music & Performing Arts <i>Talk on Animation</i>	10.15 a.m.
Fri. 25th July	Founder's Day	10.15 a.m.
Thu. 31st July	Book Discussion <i>The Silent Raga</i>	10.15 a.m.

IWA Blog Site : www.iwachennai.blogspot.com

FROM THE PRESIDENTS



Dear Friends,

It was good to see so many of you at the Fellowship Meeting looking so relaxed after the summer break.

Fellowship morning set the trend for the year and the morning kick-started on a note of bonhomie and cheer. Many thanks to the entire team - the Managing Committee and the Activity Chairpersons for all their efforts in ensuring that the true winner of the day, was the "Spirit of Friendship".

Sincere thanks must go to Maureen Thadani who has completed her term of office on the Membership Sub - Committee. We welcome Radha Gopalakrishnan in her place. Welcome Radha.

Friday, 25th July is Founders' Day, to commemorate and recognise the individuals who envisioned this organisation and the Past Presidents who have perpetuated its growth and diversity.

Our Activity Chairpersons have planned some interesting meetings with topics as diverse as weaving silk sarees to organ transplants. We remember those of you who work - so evening meetings are on the agenda.

Come September, we are revving up full throttle, "Bienvenido" to the land of paella, sangria, fiestas, bull running, concerts and ballet in the gardens of the caliphs - Spain and Portugal.

The Music Sub - Committee is all set for action. Thank you Geeta Vasudevan and your team - Brihada Kameshwaran, Ranjani Venkataraghavan and Amulya Rao for accepting the task of finding this year's awardee.

There was a touch of sadness though, as news of the passing away of Pronoti Bannerjea came only days earlier. We both paid our condolences to her family.

That's all for this month - we've no more space!

RANI ANANTH

LYNNE CONNORS

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS



Tuesday, 1st July at 10.15 a. m.

At: Hotel Savera

Maple Hall

146, Dr.Radhakrishnan Salai

Chennai- 600 004

The Romance of Spain and Portugal

Widely known for Flamenco music and dance, bull-fights, fantastic beaches and lots of sunshine, Spain has much more to offer than that. It is - and has been for thousands of years - one of the cultural centres of Europe. It has beautiful cities and towns, offering really old monuments as well as futuristic architecture.

Portugal has pretty towns and a landscape wreathed in olive groves, vineyards and wheat fields. It is littered with UNESCO World Heritage sites and graced by one of Europe's most attractive capitals, Lisbon.

Ashrafi Bhagat, Head of the Department of Fine Arts, Stella Maris College, has been teaching for more than three decades. She has done her Ph.D in Art History and has written articles and held workshops and seminars on art and the history of art. She is a riveting speaker who will be talking to us on "Spain - The Medieval Western Border of the Moorish Empire". The tour operators, Tehillah, will make a power point presentation at the end of the talk.

We would like to thank our gracious hostess Sucharita Prasad for sponsoring the meeting.

LEENA SURYAPRAKASH

CHERRY VENKATESAN

Trip to Spain: September 16th - 25th. Details of the trip have been given in the flyer sent to all members.

Trip to Yercaud: The trip to Yercaud has been postponed from 16th August to 19th - 22nd August, 2008.

CURRENT EVENTS

Wednesday, 2nd July at 10.15 a.m

At: Madras Club
Mowbrays Hall
Adyar Club Gate Road,
Chennai 600 028



Information Technology - A Decade of Surprises

At today's rate of growth of technology, we will not experience just 100 years of progress in the 21st century – it will be more like 20,000 years of progress!

Within a few decades, machine intelligence will surpass human intelligence. The implications include immortal software-based humans, and ultra-high levels of intelligence that expand outward in the universe at the speed of light.

Mr. Lakshmi Narayanan is Vice Chairman and co-founder of Cognizant Technology Solutions, one of the top ten global technology service companies. He has been in the Information Technology industry for over 25 years and has played a leading role in the growth of the IT industry in India. He will talk about the rapid advances in technology in the next decade and the way they will impact the lives of future generations.

We thank Cibi Mammen for hosting this meeting. We also thank Rani Dasgupta for sponsoring the LCD equipment.

ANURADHA UBEROI

TINEKE SYSMANS

MANAGING COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Fri. 4th July at 9.30 a.m.

Fri. 4th July at 10.30 a.m.

Meetings hosted by
Lynne Connor
"Cottingley", 20, Anderson Road,
Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 006

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS

Thursday, 3rd July at 5 p.m.

At: Asha Murthi's
No.10, (old 20), Krishnama Road
Nungambakkam, Chennai 600 034



Kancheepuram Pattu Extravaganza!

The weaving of traditional Kancheepuram pattu sarees is a valuable ancient art which has been passed on from father to son – an art which fascinates and attracts a global clientele. Three eminent members from the House of Nalli will give us an interesting insight into their world – a world of silken splendour.

Jayshree Ravi, Advertising Consultant of Five Maadi Kumaran, will unfold the crafting and weaving techniques of Kanchipuram pattu sarees., emphasizing on the mix and match of colours, the intricate designs woven on the borders using skillful machinery and labour and much more....

Mr. Ramanathan, the present Managing Director of the Nalli group, will be talking about innovative marketing techniques and the globalization of Kanchi silks, thus taking Tamil Nadu culture around the world.

Lavanya R.Nalli is a 5th generation entrepreneur and the present President of the Nalli group. She has brought in a fresh approach and modern ideas to enhance and promote the growth of the company. She will address us on her role in administration and her involvement in the age old family business.

This evening is a tribute to the South Indian pattu saree, and it is time to bring out those heirloom beauties! Do come draped in your silky yards and enjoy the South Indian ambiance, cuisine and a special pattu saree ramp walk by some of our members.

We thank Asha Murthi for graciously hosting this meeting at her home and also sponsoring the tea.

NABILA AVAIS

NINNA HOGEDAL

This is an evening meeting. Please note the change in timing.

HEALTH & ECOLOGY

Tuesday, 8th July at 10.15 a.m.

At: Madras Boat Club
Boat Club Road
Chennai - 600 028



"Awareness of Kidney Disease & Organ Transplant"

Kidney disease and organ transplant are topics which have frequently been in the news recently. Malathi Venkatesan, our speaker today, gives us the opportunity to hear first hand the personal trials and tribulations which she underwent during both kidney failure and organ transplant. She will also be speaking on the causes of kidney disease and its failure and raise the subject of both organ transplant and organ donation.

Malathi is a charming, dedicated and deeply spiritual woman. Presently, she is a trustee of the Tanker Foundation which provides subsidized dialysis for underprivileged kidney patients. She also counsels and takes care of the scheduling for their free dialysis. In addition to this she is also a trustee of the Mohan Foundation which spreads awareness of organ donation and runs patient support groups. She has many other talents too - so do come and hear her story.

ZAINAB KACHWALLA

HELEN DE CLERCQ

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO

Urmila Agarwal on the marriage of her son Vinay to Sharanya

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Thursday, 10th July at 10.15 am

At: Rhapsody
Marriott Hotel
564, Anna Salai
Teynampet
Chennai -600 018



A Sweet Ending - Delicious Desserts

Desserts are a scrumptious and satisfying way to end a meal. The word 'dessert' comes from the old French *desservir* meaning "to clear the table". Common desserts include cakes, cookies, fruits, pastries, ice cream and candies.

In today's culture, the dessert has become an important and much anticipated part of any meal. An excellent dessert, as a last course, lingers on in the memory. Who can resist a decadent cake, a tasty pie, rich and creamy fudge or a velvety smooth cheesecake?

Chef Sunil Kumar, the Executive Sous Chef of the Courtyard by Marriott has experience and expertise in all types of cuisines. He had an exciting stint as a chef on a cruise liner before joining as a part of the pre-opening team of the hotel. Chef Sunil Kumar will demonstrate some delectable desserts.

ACHU KURIAN

BALVEER SINGH

OUR CONDOLENCES TO

Asha Ram Mohan and Kamala Prasad on the loss of their mother and sister-in-law, respectively.

Anita Reddi on the loss of her mother-in-law.

PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

Thursday, 17th July at 10.15 am

At: Madras Boat Club
Boat Club Road
RA Puram
Chennai 600028



Feng Shui in our Homes and Work Lives

Does Man merely "turn the wheel on which he turns" as T.S. Eliot put it, or is there, as Shakespeare would have it "a tide in the affairs of all men which taken at the helm leads on to fortune"? Can symbols, colours and placements and alignment of objects really fine tune one to the environment, bringing good luck and good fortune?

Kashmira Daruwalla, our member, is also a Feng Shui consultant. She will talk about the Principles and Concepts of Feng Shui as well as give valuable tips on how to improve our luck at home and office. Kashmira has trained under the internationally acclaimed Feng Shui exponent Lillian Too. She believes that everyone can attain *nirvana* with the environment as well as enjoy good fortune and protection by following the principles of Feng Shui.

We thank Urmilla Reddy and Thayabae Kakar for hosting this meeting

ARCHANA MEIYAPPAN

LENA HEYMAN

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Lena Heyman,
Grayshott Apartments,
A-401, No 4 Bishop Garden Extension,
RA Puram, Chennai - 600 028.

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Friday, July 18th at 10.15am

At: Madras Cricket Club
Chepauk
Chennai.



Animation: Infusing new life into Entertainment

Animation does literally what it means - it makes things come ALIVE! It is the rapid display of a sequence of images of 2-D or 3-D artwork or model positions in order to create an illusion of movement. It is an optical illusion of motion. The most common method of presenting animation is as a motion picture or video program, although several other forms of presenting animation also exist.

Krishna Priya Vincent is a VFX Supervisor/Producer [Motion capture]. She has been working in this field for the past 13 years. She has the credit for starting the first Animation Studio in Hyderabad. At present, she is working as Producer in Mobility Art Studio, the only Motion Capture Services Provider in India and the 4th largest in the World.

Please come and enjoy this unique, little known aspect of make believe we see on our screens everyday, without realising the magnitude of precision and effort that goes into the actualisation of a 'split-second' visual on screen.

We thank our hostess Lalitha Krishnan, for sponsoring this meeting.

RAMANI REDDY

ANGELIKA SCHWERING

FOUNDER'S DAY

Friday, 25th July, 10.15 a.m.

At: The Marigold Hall
GRT Convention Center,
120, Sir Thyagaraya Road.,
T.Nagar,
Chennai 600 017



Friday, 25th July 1986: Nirmal Seshadri and Nancy Dean, together with Lakshmi Padmanabhan, Saroja Ramamrutham, Sunitha Shahaney, Anneliese Hazari and Rewa Singh, founded a multi-cultural organisation to promote friendship and a greater understanding among women of different faiths, cultures and countries, ensuring a platform for the exchange of ideas and celebration of diversity. The organization - International Women's Association - has grown from seven founding members, to a vibrant organisation now known as IWA, which has almost three hundred members from all over the world.

Once again we celebrate on Friday, 25th July, as the 25th happens to fall on a Friday this year too. It is our day to remember and honour the founders who laid the foundation for this great organization, and the Past Presidents who have made sure that it remained on a strong footing.

Please make a note of this special day when we shall meet in the memory of our Founders and make this a memorable day.

Members Only

RANI ANANTH

LYNNE CONNOR

THE IWA BOARD

BOOK DISCUSSION

Thursday, July 31st at 10.15 a. m.

At: Madras Boat Club
Boat Club Road,
Chennai - 600 028.



The Silent Raga - Flavours of Traditional Tamil Culture

"The Silent Raga" is a moving and ambitious debut novel by Ameen Merchant, an old Madrasi who moved to Canada to pursue a career in creative writing. It is an entrancing and moving tale of family, tradition, loss and reconciliation, a tale of two sisters from a middle-class Brahmin family in Madras.

There is a musicality that permeates the novel - right from the name, "The Silent Raga" (Mouna Ragam) - to the way its chapters are structured after the various stages of a raga's performance in recital, like *varnam* and *alaapana*. The author has retained many of the Tamil words that are part of everyday speech and these add authenticity to the novel. "One can almost smell the fragrance of the jasmine, the fried tingle of an appalam".

Ranvir Shah, leading theatre personality, arts enthusiast, founder of the Prakriti Foundation and a close personal friend of Merchant will review the book and read excerpts from it. Jayalakshmi Sekhar, a well-known veena exponent, will bring alive the heroine Janaki, as she plays the Mohanam and Sankarabharanam on the veena, transporting you to the Sripuram agraaharam!

We invite you to join us as we take a nostalgic trip back in time.

We thank our hostesses Farida Majid, Shweta Mohapatra, Saranya Jayakumar, Zubeida Asgarali and Sushi Goklaney.

NALINI ACHARYA

BHARATHI NAIR GOPINATH

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC DAY



International Music Day falls on October 1st. In memory of our founder Nirmal Seshadiri, an endowment has been set up by her family. This fund is used to honour a young artist in the field of music. A committee is set up to choose a promising candidate for the award.

This year the Music Committee members are:

Geeta Vasudevan	Chairperson
Brihada Kameswaran	Member
Ranjani Venkataraghavan	Member
Amulya Rao	Member

IWA members are invited to send in suggestions for recipients for this award. The candidates should be preferably 18 and under 18 years of age. They should have certificates, awards, etc., to showcase their prowess and standard.

Send in your suggestions with appropriate copies of certificates and a brief write-up to Geeta Vasudevan to reach before July 30th, 2008.

OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES



With a heavy heart we announce the sad demise of our member **Pronoti Bannerjea**. Our heartfelt condolences to the family.