

February 2009

Newsletter



Chennai



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 Meiyappan	28473932	9840998800
Lena Heyman	24493222	9444076800

IWA NEWSLETTER

Volume XXIII No.9

Chennai

FEB 2009

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Mon. 2nd Feb.	Managing Committee Meeting	09.30 a.m.
	Executive Committee Meeting	10.30 a.m.
Thu. 5th Feb.	Arts & Handicrafts & Health & Ecology <i>Integral Design</i>	10.15 a.m.
Fri. 6th Feb.	Philosophy & Religion & Arts & Handicrafts <i>Kashmir - Paradise on Earth</i>	11.00 a.m.
Tues. 10th Feb.	Cooking Swapshop <i>Continental Cuisine</i>	10.15 a.m.
Wed. 11th Feb.	History, Culture & Tours IWA TRIP TO GUJARAT	
21st Feb.		
Thu. 12th Feb.	Book Discussion <i>Valentine's Day Special</i>	10.15 a.m.
Tue. 17th Feb.	Current Events <i>The Mumbai Attacks- A First Hand Account</i>	10.15 a.m.
Fri. 20th Feb.	Arts & Handicrafts BUNDI Miniature Paintings	04.30 p.m.
Thu. 26th Feb.	Book Discussion <i>A Thousand Splendid Sons</i>	10.15 a.m.

IWA Blog Site : www.iwachennai.blogspot.com

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear friends,



The New Year has begun with a bang. The Pongal festival with the Folk dancers vying with the shadow puppets and the Pongal lunch that followed brought a slice of rural life. As the saying goes "Thai piranthaal vazhi pirakkum." The harvest festival marks fullness, plenty and prosperity. If it doesn't overflow, it isn't Pongal and on this auspicious note we begin yet another interesting month with Activity Chair persons overflowing with meetings.

This month we take you to the paradise on earth -Kashmir and give an insight on how the Kashmiri Pandits celebrate *Shivratri* which will be followed by a talk on the beautiful Kashmiri carpet weaving, rounding it off with a Kashmiri lunch.

Taj Mount Road the new boutique hotel will play hosts to us with its chef demonstrating new recipes.

We then showcase the art of miniature paintings from Bundi.

We talk about, how fashions and ecology go hand in hand.

Come February and it is the season of love. We celebrate *Valentine's Day* and look forward to the poems, songs etc., from you members.

26th November 2008 will go down as one of the darkest days in the history of Mumbai and India as a day of terror, when life in India's bustling metropolis came to a standstill. We have a first hand account of the experience from one who was caught in the attack.

Some of our members would be away, taking in the sights and sounds of the land of legends-Gujarat. We wish them **BON VOYAGE**.

We are on to the second month of the year and the time has come to think about the next year's Board. The IWA Election Sub-Committee has been selected and you will hear from them soon.

As always we look forward to seeing you.

RANI ANANTH

LYNNE CONNOR

MANAGING COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mon. 2nd Feb. at 9.30 a.m.

Mon. 2nd Feb. at 10.30 a.m.

Meetings hosted by

Nalini Acharya & Bharati Nair Gopinath

At: Bowside, Madras Boat Club

24, Adyar Club Gate Road, Chennai - 600028

IWA-CHENNAI INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

1st April'08 To 31st December'2008

INCOME

	Amount Rs. ps
Membership Subscription	342100.00
New Membership	5500.00
Hostess Contribution	125682.00
Telephone Books	14180.00
Guest Contribution	29260.00
Photographs and Badges	630.00
Deepam Celebration	190690.00
Savings/Bank Interest/Fixed Deposit Interest	34816.00
Total Income	742858.00

EXPENDITURE

AGM Expenses 2007-2008	47410.00
Accounting Charges	9000.00
Meetings	153534.05
Printing and Stationary	36768.00
Postage&Courier Charges	16484.00
Founder's Day Celebration	71512.00
Music Day Celebration	11100.00
Deepam Celebration	105725.00
Christmas Celebration	27950.00
Bank Charges	28.00
Total Expenditure	479511.05
Excess of Income over Expenditure	263346.95

Funds Position as on 31st December'2008

Opening Balance - 1st April 2008	
Bank	2,24,417.35
Cash	5,604.70
Add: Excess of Income Over Expenditure	263346.95
Less: Advance paid to Chairpersons	24000.00
Closing Balance - 31st December'2008	
Bank	4,61,512.75
Cash	7,856.25
Fixed Deposits	
Special Fixed Deposit -1287306000314	100000.00
Corpus&Entrance Fee -1287303572/1	424354.00
Entrance Fee-128730300637/1	5515.00
Total Fixed Deposits	529869.00

**ARTS & HANDICRAFTS
HEALTH & ECOLOGY**

Thursday, the 5th February at 10.15a.m.

At: Nalini Panday's

6D, 'Ramaniyam Towers'

20-L, Greenways Road, Chennai 600 028

Integral Design - Upasana Design Studio, Auroville

Uma Prajapati is a graduate of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, Delhi and the founder of Upasana Design Studio, a part of Auroville - Pondicherry. Uma will be talking about some of her many initiatives and projects with the Upasana Design Studio which include:

Small Steps - an initiative to promote environmental awareness, to promote a responsible alternative to throwaway plastic bags and learning to say "NO" to plastics - that too in style.

Tsunami has so far been the most successful and fulfilling socially responsible communication design intervention for Upasana. The little Tsunami dolls have touched millions of hearts offering a healing touch to those directly affected by the devastating Tsunami of 2004. With the raw material coming from industrial waste, the Tsunami provides livelihood to many fisherwomen who were affected by the Tsunami.

Varanasi Weavers Project which seeks to find new ways for traditional weavers in Varanasi, to make a living by pairing them with large companies and design studios like the creation of "corporate gifts" of Banarasi silk scarves for the Best Seller company wherein the immediate needs of the weavers were met.

In 2007, the project matured into a full-fledged process for social development of the weaving community in Varanasi. The Varanasi Weavers has now grown into an independent, self-sustaining yet fast-evolving movement, sharing the same principles and aspirations as Upasana.

We thank Nalini Panday for hosting this meeting.

**NABILA AVAIS
ZAINAB KACHWALLA**

**NINNA HOGEDAL
HELEN DE CLERCQ**

**PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION
ARTS & HANDICRAFTS**

Friday 6th February, at 11.00 A.M
Warn in meeting

At: Nirmal Mirza

No.15, Casuarina Drive

(left at Kapaleeswar Arch

Near Santhi Hospital on ECR)

Neelankarai, Chennai 600041

Kashmir- Paradise on Earth

Shivratri is the most important festival for Kashmiri Pandits. They believe that the marriage of Shiva and Parvati was celebrated on this day. This day is also called 'Herath'. Nirmal Mirza will talk to us about the Kashmiri way of celebrating Shivratri.

Kashmir is famous the world over for the hand made beautiful and classy Kashmiri carpets. These handcrafted beauties are predominantly made in the Srinagar area of Kashmir and are the most popular shopping attractions.

Born into the Kashmiri "MIR family" well-known for Kashmiri carpets, it is but natural that the family heritage of carpet weaving runs in the blood of our esteemed speaker, **Mr. Sajad Ahmad Mir**, of the Cottage Industries Exposition Ltd., Chennai. He will be sharing his expertise and experience on the history of making these legendary master pieces - discussing factors such as design, colour, quality, knots, marketing and family traditions passed on from one generation to the other...to unravel the mystery - the timeless lineage of Kashmiri Carpets.

Do come dressed in your Kashmiri best - a shawl or a vest, a trinket or a crest, anything Kashmiri will do.

We thank Nirmal Mirza for hosting and offering her home for this meeting.

A Kashmiri lunch will be at 12.15p.m. Please warn in with Nabila Avais at 9840026665 or Archana Meiyappan at 9840998800 as only 50 members can be accommodated.

**NABILA AVAIS
ARCHANA MEIYAPPAN**

**NINNA HOGEDAL
LENA HEYMAN**

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Tuesday, 10 th February, 2009, 10 15 am
Warn in Meeting



At: Taj Mount Road,
Club House Road,
Off Anna Salai,
Chennai.

CONTINENTAL CUISINE

Taj Mount Road is the new age, stylish boutique hotel with an international look and trendy food and beverage outlets. This hotel is geared to meet the requirements of the " modern business traveler " who has a multitude of requirements from ease of access to the modern fast paced world to the comfort and style that the environs of the hotel offers.

Chef Easo Johnson has been involved in the designing, conceptualizing and planning of the kitchen department of the Taj Mount Road. Starting as a Chef trainee at Taj President, Mumbai, he later started the restaurant- Thai Pavilion, which is still the most talked about restaurant of the city. He moved on to Dubai and then to Pune to set up the Taj Blue Diamond as Executive Chef. From there he went to Yemen to take charge of Taj Sheba and worked there for a period of four years. Chef Easo Johnson will be demonstrating a few recipes for us.

Members only

Please warn in with Achu Kurian at 98411 44072 and Balveer Singh at 99401 83839 as only 55 persons can be accommodated.

ACHU KURIAN

BALVEER SINGH

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS



IWA TRIP TO GUJARAT

From 11th February to 21st February

Gujarat.....where azure seas meet sparkling sands and blushing sunsets embrace rosy dawns. The jungles are lush and green, where lions prowl and flamingoes preen. Age-old palaces and white and pure marble temples reflect the glory of days gone by. Here, tribal life is a celebration of music, dance and multi-coloured traditions.

IWA sets out to this Land of Legends to savour its culture and heritage, its natural beauty and its ancient palaces, forts and temples. Thirty of our members will leave on the 11th of this month on an exciting adventure as they visit Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar, the beautiful temples of Palitana, Mount Abu and Somnath, the ancient ruins of the Indus Valley civilization at Lothal, the colourful villages of Bhuj and, hopefully, meet up with the King of the Forests, the stately lion at Gir Forest.

LEENA SURYAPRAKASH

CHERRY VENKATESAN

We thank Priya Reddy for co-sponsoring the meeting on Tibet.

Election Sub - Committee

The Managing Committee has appointed the following members to serve on the Election Sub Committee for the election of IWA Office Bearers for 2009-2010 :

Chairperson : Rupa Kadhiresan

Members : Urmilla Agarwal
Rama Rajagopal
Seema Sait
Alexandra Thompson

BOOK DISCUSSION

On Thursday February 12th at 10.15 am

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



Valentine's Day Special

"There is only one happiness in life - to love and to be loved".
George Sands

It is that time of the year again - Valentine's Day!! Let us remember that it is love that makes the world go round and that "makes the ride worthwhile."

Let us celebrate not only romantic love but love in all its myriad hues and forms. As Lao -Tzu so aptly puts it,

*We are most alive when we are in love.
Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength;
Loving someone deeply gives you courage."*

We invite members to share with us, this morning their thoughts, poems, prose, songs, dances or any thing else that pertains to this vast topic. The poets or writers in our midst can even pen their own poems or articles on love and share them with us.

Do be there because it is going to be a fun filled, sentimental journey of love. And yes, do come dressed in the colours of love -red or pink!

We thank Shanti Karunakaran, Sharmila Ramji, Nita Reddy and Sherien Ryan for sponsoring this meeting.

NALINIACHARYA

BHARATHI NAIR GOPINATH

CURRENT EVENTS

Tuesday, 17th February at 10.15 a.m

At: Madras Cricket Club
Cricketer
Bells Road, Chepauk
Chennai



The Mumbai Attacks-A First Hand Account

A coordinated series of attacks took place across Mumbai on November 26, 2008. The terrifying and senseless killings of 26 x 11 left the whole nation numb and united. With proximity to Pakistan and visibility as the hub of India's financial sector, Mumbai has suffered many terrorist attacks over the years. But the dastardly attacks perpetrated on 26x11, played out so publicly and prolonged over so many days, have shaken us as never before.

Our speaker, Mr B.G KUKILLAYA a Printing technologist from Madras University and the Managing Director of M/s Universal Print Systems Ltd., was present at the Taj Mahal Hotel, Mumbai on that ill-fated day. He will give us a first hand account of his chilling and unnerving experience on 26th November at Mumbai Taj Mahal Hotel amongst the hurrying terrorists brutally and senselessly shooting at all possible objects before them. It was a nightmare and an experience that one hopes will never happen in anyone's routine life ever again.

Anuradha M. Uberoi

Tineke Sysmans

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS

On Friday, the 20th February at 4.30 P.M

At: Prakrit Art Gallery

No.9, Dhandayudhapani Nagar

II Street, Kotturpuram, Chennai-600 085



Minature Paintings with special emphasis on BUNDI ART.

Bundi is a small City situated in the South East of Rajasthan amidst hills and lush green forests dotted with small lakes and streams with the great Chambal River running through it. The Bundi Kingdom was established in 1342 A.D by Raja Rao Deva a descendent of Privithiraj Chauhan and the dynasty ruled it until Indian Independence.

The Bundi painting idiom came into being in the early 17th Century. The Bundi Schools produced exquisite minature paintings which expressed the poetic beauty of its landscape, flora and fauna and the divinity and eternal love of nature intertwined with music and poetry. They are known for their brilliant deep colours which are most often made from natural materials like minerals, vegetables, precious stones and indigo. They were painted on paper, walls of palaces and havelis and some even on cloth.

The Maharajas of Bundi were related to Ranas of Mewar by marriage and had close association with the Moghul emperors, thus Bundi paintings, are an excellent synthesis of the vibrant indigenous Mewar School and the refined Moghul School.

Lt. Gen. (Retd) Moti Dar, essentially a renaissance man - who has had a brilliant career in the Indian Army, where he has commanded brigades in the cold regions of Ladakh to the burnings deserts of Rajasthan, is a rare combination of a soldier and an acclaimed artist with many facets to his personality. He will be talking to us on the specialty of Bundi Minature Art which is Rajasthan's most beautiful cultural tradition. Today, Bundi paintings enjoy a special place of pride and dignity in all museums of the world.

We are thankful to Meena Dadha of Prakrit Art Gallery for kindly hosting this meeting for us.

NABILA AVAIS

NINNA HOGEDAL

BOOK DISCUSSION

Thursday, February 26th at 10.15 am.

At: Madras Club

Mowbrays Hall

Adyar Cub Gate Rd.

Chennai 600028

A Thousand Splendid Sons by Khaled Hosseini

A Thousand Splendid Sons is a superb second novel by Afghan writer Khaled Hosseini who shows himself once again to be a natural storyteller in this tale of war torn Afghanistan. It is a story of two quite ordinary women who struggle to survive in a battle zone amid starvation, human deprivation and world apathy. Spanning 30 years of Afghan history, it is a deeply moving story of family, friendship, faith and the salvation of love.

Geetha Doctor will be reviewing this book for us. She is a well known journalist and writer who describes herself as a life style journalist. Her commentaries on life, literature and society have always sought to be provocative and controversial. She is a regular reviewer of books on literature and art in the Indian Review of Book, Art India and the Lalit Kala Akademi's journal for the arts. She has interviewed many leading writers, artists and dramatists for these publications. She now writes for The Indian Express, Mint, a Hindustan Times publication and contributes to India Today.

We wish to thank Eira Doshi, Radha Gopalakrishnan, Gayatri Krishnaswamy, Rita Lal, Chandra Lulla, Lily Madhok, Asha Mohan, Sushil Natraj and Shobhana Reddy for sponsoring this event.

NALINI ACHARYA

BHARATI NAIR GOPINATH

Going Forward: THE GRAND FINALE 2008/2009

It's hard to believe that another IWA year will be coming to a close in just a few short weeks. We've spent much of the past year talking about current events and issues and addressing concerns for the future courtesy of our Activity Chairpersons.

With that in mind we decided it was time to take a step back in time (several decades to be precise) to "our youth" and celebrate the IWA 2008/2009 year in style. Full details will be available in the March edition of the IWA Newsletter.

RANI ANANTH

The Board

LYNNE CONNOR

OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES



With a heavy heart we announce the sad demise of our member Maya Reddy. Our sincere condolences to the family.