

April 2010
News letter



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2009- 2010
MANAGING COMMITTEE**

PRESIDENTS

Shobha Hebbar	26411248	9840338258
Elizabeth Aston	24328590	9094558566

VICE PRESIDENTS

Mridula Srinivasan	24321028	9840931812
Sejal Wasani	24355290	9884052575

SECRETARIES

Ramani Reddy	28353608	9840086858
Manisha Singhee	24991482	9841035003

TREASURERS

Archana Meiyappan	28473932	9840998800
Jansi Kishore	28226395	9841589896

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS

Deepali Goyal	24313144	9540442260
Suzanne De Haes	24352346	9840933138

BOOK DISCUSSION

Geeta Rajagopal	24453239	9840052899
Janet Haughton Quarshie	24512401	9884187719

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Asha Rammohan	28332006	9840039958
Jennifer Arua	28275032	9880399490

CURRENT EVENTS

Zainab Kachwalla	28292274	9840853652
Jennifer Moore	9940065292	9840892782

HEALTH & ECOLOGY

Nabila Avals	28264325	9840026665
Bess Simkin	24333565	9791172021

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS

Maya Mathew	28281228	9841010080
Nalini Panday	24610944	9841048629

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Nita Reddy	24990717	9962530717
Sue Cook		9677020407

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

Anuradha Uberoi	24329728	9841042520
Tineke Sysmans	45066148	9940135888

IWA NEWSLETTER

Volume XXIV No.11

Chennai

APRIL 2010

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Mon. 5th Apr.	Elections	10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.
Tue. 6th Apr.	Managing Committee Meeting Executive Committee Meeting	10.30 a.m. 11.30 a.m.
Thu. 8th Apr.	Cooking Swapshop <i>Peshawari-Cuisine of the Northwest Frontier</i>	10.30 a.m.
Sat. 10th Apr.	Extraordinary General Meeting	10.15 a.m.
Mon. 12th Apr.	Music and Performing Arts <i>Exploring Creativity in Bharatanatyam</i>	10.15 a.m.
Thu. 15th Apr.	Current Events <i>IWA Quiz on Current Events</i>	10.15 a.m.
Tue. 20th Apr.	Health & Ecology <i>The Truth about Tigers</i>	4.30 p.m.
Thu. 22nd Apr.	Book Discussion <i>Maria's Room by Shreekumar Varma</i>	10.15 a.m.
Wed. 28th Apr.	Annual General Meeting	10.00 a.m.

IWA Blog Site : www.iwachennai.blogspot.com

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

The last Newsletter of the IWA Year 2009-2010 is dedicated to you the members, for the invaluable support, generosity and friendship throughout the year.

For us, the Presidents, it has been a busy and extremely enjoyable year with so many wonderful memories. We thank you for the privilege of office bestowed on us and look forward to next year's IWA meetings.

To the Managing and Executive Committees who worked tirelessly to bring you a varied and interesting programme of events we send our heartfelt thanks. Your efforts are the direct result of IWA's successful year.

We are indebted to all members of the Advisory, Byelaws, Election, Membership and Music Committees for their contribution and professional support to IWA.

To Rani Ananth who quietly and efficiently produces the monthly 'blogspot', we say 'Thank You' from the increasing number of members who appreciate and use the site.

We do hope that as many of you as possible attend the Grand Finale on Saturday, March 27th at the Residency Towers, and also the EGM and AGM.

Congratulations to the incoming Managing and Executive Committees and we wish them a happy and successful year in office.

SHOBHA HEBBAR

ELIZABETH ASTON

MANAGING COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tues. 6th April at 10.30 a.m.

Tues. 6th April at 11.30 a.m.

Meetings hosted by
Shobha Hebbar & Elizabeth Aston
Taj Mount Hotel
2, Club House Road, Chennai - 600 002.

Our grateful thanks to the Board who have inspired and supported us throughout the year.

The Vice Presidents:

Mridula & Sejal: The efficient twosome who ensured the newsletter was produced on time every month and dealt with all other publications including the Telephone book.

The Secretaries:

Ramani & Manisha:

Ever smiling and cheerful, they were meticulous in writing the minutes and posting the newsletters.

The Treasurers:

Archana & Jansi: The gentle duo for their professionalism in keeping the accounts and maintaining our membership list so conscientiously.

Arts & Handicrafts:

Deepali & Suzanne gave us a rich and varied experience and took us on an artistic tour of the world from Bunraku puppets to world craft; from South Indian jewellery to the handicrafts of India; from the art of design to the world of haute couture design. A fitting finale was the display and talk by members on their hobbies and crafts.

Book Discussion:

Geeta & Janet created a forum where members could exchange ideas on books and where speakers talked on varied topics - writings on Chennai, the Devadasi Heritage, Draupadi's story in "Palace of Illusions", Obama's autobiography and Sivasankari's literary journey through India, to name a few.

Cooking Swapshop:

Asha & Jennifer were quietly efficient and wonderfully innovative with big screens flashing close ups of the cooking. They took us on a rich gastronomic journey of 6 countries in 60 minutes and gave us a glimpse into Global Cuisine. They gave us healthy options like Ayurvedic cooking and grilling "on the rocks. Thai, and Bengali cuisine, mocktails, cocktails, snacks... the journey was endless!

Current Events:

Zainab & Jennifer gave us some thought provoking meetings. They brought us contemporary events and happenings like the ethnic

conflict in Sri Lanka, Gay Rights in India, Medical Tourism and the Incredible World of Magazines. We got the opinions of leading experts in various fields like finance and education and met eminent personalities like Vijay Amrithraj.

Health & Ecology:

Nabila & Bess made us aware of eco-conservation with meetings on the conservation of the Asiatic lion and Safe foods and the dangers of genetically modified foods. They stressed the need for a healthy lifestyle with meetings on cancer awareness, care of the eyes, cleft palate surgery, first aid, pain relief, women's mental health and achieving a dynamic balance of mind and body. All kudos to them.

History, Culture & Tours:

Maya & Nalini, our intrepid duo showed us that travel could be filled with fun and laughter as they gave us three wonderful trips to Russia, Hampi and Maharashtra. We became armchair historians as we heard about the 7 wonders of India or the love life of Warren Hastings. We were transported to exotic destinations like Machu Picchu, Kilimanjaro and the base camp of Everest.

Music & Performing Arts:

Nita & Sue planned wonderful programmes - some thought provoking like the symposium on male dancers and some classical like Anil Srinivasan's piano recital. We had folk and classical dance and even dance as a way of life! There was set design with Thotta Tharani and a book reading by members. **Surekha Kothari** captivated us with her rendition of old Hindi music.

Philosophy & Religion:

Anu & Tineke successfully de-mystified philosophy and increased our knowledge of religion with meetings on Hinduism, on Hindu weddings, on Vaishnavism, on the teaching of the first alphabet to a child in Islam and on the Sindhi religion. They presented fun meetings like Holi and took us on a well-organized trip to Sri Kalahasti.

Thank you all once again.

SHOBHA HEBBAR

ELIZABETH ASTON

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENTS

The IWA year has zipped past at a rate of knots! I have seen first hand how wonderful are the ladies in this organisation. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Shobha, Liz and Mridula who have helped me navigate the maze of events and activities and also the 'way things are done'. The Management and Executive committees this year have been simply stupendous. Thanks for your immense effort. Also to the IWA members who show their enthusiasm by attending meetings so vigorously - a heartfelt thanks.

SEJAL WASANI

IWA had another satisfying year with opportunities to hear different viewpoints and engage in interesting conversations. I must thank the Activity Chairpersons for the blurbs sent in for the newsletters. Many thanks to Shobha, Liz and other members of the Managing Committee for their constant support and help during the year.

MRIDULA SRINIVASAN

FROM THE SECRETARIES

We would like to place on record that it has been a wonderful year working with the Managing Committee. Our Presidents have been phenomenal in guiding, nurturing and encouraging us to give our best.

Each annual term on the IWA Committee hones our skills a notch higher. This was our first year on the Managing Committee and the work is very different from what we did as Chairpersons. If there have been lapses during our tenure we humbly apologise for them. We did try to rectify the same whenever you brought them to our notice. We learnt reams about 'Minutes' and timely dispatch of newsletters!

Wishing our large family of 300 as well as their extended families the very best. A warm welcome and good luck to the new team.

RAMANI REDDY

MANISHA SINGHEE

FROM THE TREASURER

This IWA year has just flown by! It has been an exciting and exhilarating one. This would not have been possible without the contributions of all of you-home hostesses, co hostesses and sponsors. A big Thank You to all of you.

Thanks to all the Activity Chairpersons for meticulously planning their meeting finances and presenting their accounts month after month on time.

Thanks to the Management Committee for their support and guidance throughout the year.

I wish the incoming committee all the best.

ARCHANA MEIYAPPAN

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP TREASURER

Looking back at the IWA year gone past, it is most heartening to see that almost all meetings have been well attended. I hope this trend continues into the new IWA year.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported the club. IWA thrives mainly upon your active involvement and participation.

The Membership Sub Committee has been of great help and support to me and I am ever grateful to them for making my job easier. It has been a great pleasure working with each one of you. Thank you so much.

JANSI KISHORE

REMINDERS

- Please return your renewal forms together with your cheques for the annual Membership Fee of Rs.2000 made out to "IWA Chennai". This can be done at the AGM, or by post or hand delivered. The closing date is June 30th, 2010.
- To ensure our records are up to date, please complete all sections of the renewal form accurately.
- In the case of Non-Indians who are departing Chennai, please send a letter or email informing that you will not be renewing your membership. This will enable us to fill your slot quickly with another interested applicant.

All members are reminded that they should inform in writing, or by email, if they are likely to be absent for a month or more. This should be done prior to, or at the beginning of each absence.

JANSI KISHORE

Parking at Madras Boat Club for self driven cars

We have received permission from Madras Boat Club that self driven cars can be parked inside the Club. This permission has been granted only for IWA meetings. We thank Nalini Acharya for her immense help in facilitating this move.

ELECTIONS

The Election Committee has submitted the report for election of office bearers for the year 2010 – 2011. The voting will be at the IWA Registered office.

At: IWA Registered Office
857, Poonamalle High Road
Kilpauk, Chennai – 600 010
(Enter NIIT gate immediately after Breeze Hotel)

SHOBHA HEBBAR *

ELIZABETH ASTON

FROM THE ELECTION COMMITTEE

Based on the nominations received, we are happy to announce that the following members have been elected unopposed to the posts mentioned against each:

Presidents

Indian
Mridula Srinivasan

Non – Indian
Uma Ganesan

Vice President

.....

.....

Secretary

Zainab Kachwalla

Jennifer Moore

Treasurer

.....

.....

Our congratulations to them and our very best wishes for a successful term.

FROM THE ELECTION COMMITTEE

Elections shall be held for the following posts:

Post	Candidate (names in alphabetical order)
Vice President - Indian	Prithika Chary Kausalya Jagannathan
Vice President – Non-Indian	Jansi Kishore Sabine Erlich Salam Karen Saurer
Treasurer - Indian	Nabila Avais Archana Meiyappan
Treasurer – Non-Indian	Juliet Meikle Shanta Narayan Manisha Singhee

Voting shall take place on Monday, April 5th, 2010 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

at

IWA Registered Office:
857 Poonamallee High Road
Kilpauk, Chennai – 600 010
(Immediately after Breeze Hotel, enter NIIT gate)

On completion of counting of votes, successful candidates for the above three posts shall be announced.

CHAIRPERSON : ALAGU MUTHU
MEMBERS : KAMALA PRASAD
SHEELA SHETTY
ANGELIKA SCHWERING
MEYYAMMAI MURUGAPPAN

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Thursday, 8th April, at 10:30 a. m.

At: Mandapam

Sheraton Chola Hotel

Cathedral Road, Chennai 600 086



Peshawri – Cuisine of the Northwest Frontier

The gastronomic delights of the nomadic tribes of the North-West Frontier Provinces have been among the most popular over the last few decades. Restaurant Peshawri, at Sheraton Chola Hotel located on Cathedral Road is credited with popularizing the rugged Tandoori Cuisine of the North-West Frontier Provinces, in Chennai. At the Peshawri, food is cooked entirely in clay ovens known as Tandoors and the heat is imparted by live coals at the base – regulated to impart just the right amount of heat required to cook a particular dish. It is a healthy food option as the dishes are devoid of added fats.

Chef Arif Iqbal heads the Peshawri Kitchen at the Sheraton Chola Hotel. Originally from Chennai, he graduated from Manipal with a degree in Hotel Management. He joined the ITC Hotels for their Kitchen Executive Programme. Later he was posted at the ITC's Premium Hotel "The Sonar Bangla" at Kolkata where he honed his culinary skills working with famous Chefs of the industry. Chef Iqbal will demonstrate how to bring a number of ingredients together to make a harmonious whole resulting in mouth-watering delicacies.

We thank Mrs.Chandan Singh, General Manager, Sheraton Chola Hotel for her help in organizing this event.

MEMBERS ONLY, WARN-IN MEETING, LIMIT: 125

Please Warn-in at the earliest with **Asha Rammohan (98400-39955)** or **Nita Reddy (99625-30717)**.

ASHA RAMMOHAN

JENNIFER ARUN

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, April 10th, 2010

Registration & Refreshments: 10.15 a.m.

EGM starts promptly at 10.45 a.m.

To all Members:

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of IWA will be held at Chennai on Saturday, the 10th of April, 2010, at 10.45 a.m. at

CPREEC Convention Centre,
C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyar Foundation,
1, Eldams Road, Alwarpet,
Chennai – 600 018

The Agenda for the meeting is:

To consider and if thought fit, to adopt with immediate effect, the suggested amendments to the existing Memorandum of Understanding and Bye Laws of IWA with or without modifications.

GRAND FINALE

We would like to thank the following members for their help in planning the Grand Finale.

Sarah Chanda for helping us with the venue;

Nanditha Krishna for helping us book the Madras Players

Usha Jawahar for sponsoring the band

Asha Rammohan for the soft drinks and the sodas

Nita Reddy for the flower arrangements

We thank all the members of the Board who worked hard for the programme.

SHOBHA HEBBAR

ELIZABETH ASTON

MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS



Monday, 12th April at 10.15 a.m.

At: **Sivagami Petachi Auditorium**
179, Luz Church Road
Mylapore
Chennai 600 018



Exploring Creativity in Bharatanatyam

Dr Srinidhi Chidambaram is a renowned exponent of Bharatanatyam, having carved a niche for herself in the field for the last 30 years. She is a medical graduate from the Madras Medical College with an MD in public health. She is currently working with Apollo Hospitals.

Srinidhi practices the Vazhuvoor style of Bharatanatyam. She is a talented choreographer with several solo works to her credit, the latest being "Chennai" (the Bharatanatyam Margam recital on Chennai).

Srinidhi will present to us excerpts from "Chennai" and also speak on exploring creativity within the parameters of the classical format of Bharatanatyam. Being a perfect example of a career woman who gives equal importance to her family and her hobby, Srinidhi will give us an insight into how all three can be balanced.

We thank **Chandrika Chidambaram** for very generously allowing us the use of the auditorium.

NITA REDDY

SUE COOK

We thank **Susan Koshy** for co-hosting the tea for the Health & Ecology meeting in March.

CURRENT EVENTS



Thursday, 15th April at 10.15 a. m.

At: **Madras Club**
Adyar Club Gate Road
Chennai - 600 028

IWA Quiz on Current Events

A 'food for the brain' morning for our members, by our very own quiz master **Saranya Jayakumar**; who will conduct this quiz show with her usual aplomb.

The questions for the quiz will be drawn from our current event topics and subjects covered from June 2009 to March 2010. We will also quiz you on how much you know, plus increase your knowledge about the current affairs of our country and the world around us.

So, let's once again enjoy the thrill of participating in this skillfully conducted quiz and fire up our minds.

We thank **Kiran Rao** for sponsoring this meeting.

ZAINAB KACHWALLA

JENNIFER MOORE

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Sue Cook
Apt 3A
Anugraha Apartments
No.5, 4th Seaward Road
Valmiki Nagar
Chennai 600 041

HEALTH & ECOLOGY

Tuesday, 20th April, at 4.30 P. M.

At: American Consulate General (Auditorium)
Near Anna Flyover
220, Mount Road, Chennai-600 006



The Truth about Tigers

The tiger, India's National Animal, is disappearing at an alarming rate. Estimates reveal that there may be fewer than 1411 left! Why have India's tigers declined so drastically? What exactly are the problems facing their conservation? And are there any solutions to the crisis?

These and many other questions are answered succinctly in 'The Truth about Tigers', a 40 minute documentary by wildlife and conservation filmmaker, Shekar Dattatri, whose films have won numerous awards in India and abroad and aired on National Geography and Discovery. A committed conservationist, he will talk to us about his film, which combines craftsmanship and artistry with a profound understanding of the nuances of conservation issues. Internationally acclaimed actor Roshan Seth provides the narration.

We thank Bess Simkin for the venue .

As you are aware, all visitors to the Consulate must bring a valid government issued photo ID card in original – such as passport, driving license, voter ID card, PAN card. Also carry an IWA Newsletter with you. Regrettably, the Consulate cannot accept photocopies of valid identifications. Please note that due to security restrictions, no cell phones, laptops, cameras, or any other digital/electronic media are allowed inside the Consulate building. Please be aware that all individuals (and their belongings) who wish to enter the Consulate are subject to search by Consulate Security staff". Parking facility will be made available at the Church compound next to the Consulate.

NABILA AVAIS

BESS SIMKIN

BOOK DISCUSSION

Thursday, 22nd April, 10:15 a.m.

At: Madras Boat Club
Boat Club Road
Chennai 600 028



Maria's Room by Shreekumar Varma

Our speaker Shreekumar Varma is an author, playwright, newspaper columnist and poet. His latest novel, *Maria's Room* was nominated for the Asian Man Booker Prize. He is the great great grandson of the artist Raja Ravi Varma and grandson of Regent Maharani Sethu Lakshmi Bayi, the last ruling Maharani of Travancore.

Maria's Room - Beyond the sunny beaches of Goa, the music and the feni, lies a land caught between the past and present. Here, soon after Liberation, the beautiful young Maria is swept off her feet by the French artist Marcel-an affair that ends in tragedy.

Decades later, writer Raja Prasad arrives in Goa as he flees from the dreariness of his own life. Here he encounters Maria, a woman as enigmatic as the land itself. As he settles down to write his second novel, Raja stumbles on to the mystery surrounding Maria's death. In the process he uncovers secrets of his own

Dramatic and intense, *Marja's Room* is a tale of love and memory; of a father's fear and a son's turmoil. It is the story of a man's struggle to make sense of himself and the world.

GEETA RAJAGOPALAN JANET HAUGHTON QUARSHIE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of IWA is to be held at 10.45 a.m. on Wednesday, 28th April 2010 at The Marigold Hall, GRT Convention Centre, 120, Sir Thyagaraja Road, T. Nagar, Chennai - 600 017.

REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS: 10.00 a.m.

The Agenda for the meeting will be as follows:

- ☆ Welcome Address Elizabeth Aston
- ☆ Secretary's Report Ramani Reddy
- ☆ Treasurer's Report Archana Meiyappan
- ☆ Adoption of the Audited Accounts for the year 2009 - 2010
- ☆ Membership Treasurer's Report Jansi Kishore
- ☆ Appointment of Auditors for the year 2010 - 2011
- ☆ Remarks by the outgoing President Shobha Hebbar
- ☆ Any other business
- ☆ Introduction of Election Committee - Alagu Muthu
Chairperson
- ☆ Presentation of the new Managing Committee 2010 - 2011
- ☆ Address by the incoming Presidents
- ☆ Introduction of the new Executive Committee
- ☆ Vote of Thanks Prema Kumar

Note: Copies of the Accounts and Reports of the various Activities will be available for members to peruse.

Explanation for the following item:

The cost of holding meetings at hotels/clubs and other venues has gone up tremendously. Therefore, we suggest raising the entrance fee of new members from Rs. 250/- which was fixed many, many years ago to Rs. 5000/- only

To consider and if thought fit, to pass the following resolution with or without modifications:

Resolved to raise the Entrance Fee for new members from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 5000/- only.

SHOBHA HEBBAR

ELIZABETH ASTON

KEEP TABS ON YOUR ATTENDANCE

Every month jot down the meetings you have attended in the column below. This will help you keep track of whether you have completed your ten meetings.

MEETING	DATE
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	