



THE IWA STORY

The Next 10 Years



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The Next 10 Years (2012 - 2022)



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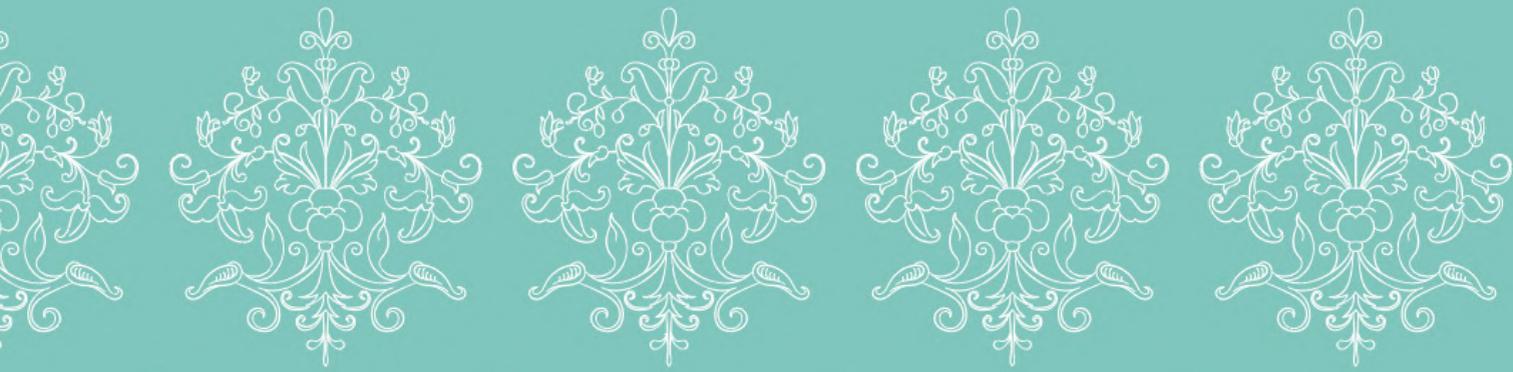
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IWA Registered Office: 857, Poonamallee High Road, Kilpauk, Chennai 600 010.
For private circulation.



IWA is a Chennai-based cultural organisation of women from India and abroad, whose stated goals are to increase the width and depth of their knowledge in disparate fields, while simultaneously promoting understanding and harmony between different cultures across the world, in a spirit of friendship and camaraderie.





FOREWORD

Dear Friends in IWA,

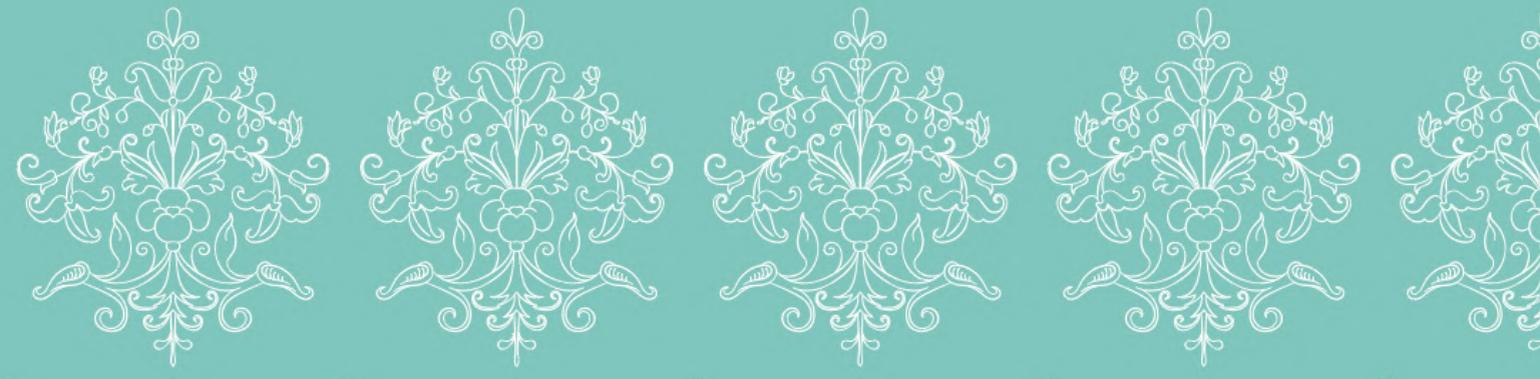
The wheel turns, and the years roll by, and we look up from the exhilarating rounds of learning, sharing and friendship that IWA promotes, to discover that 10 years have whizzed past since IWA's 25th year, and we are now 35 years old. It seems the kind of landmark that deserves to be celebrated and commemorated.

Even for an institution that has a massive ability to reinvent and refresh itself every year under new leadership, these last two years have seen IWA pass through monumental change. An organisation that is so rooted in tradition, its excellent systems, and this-is-the-way-it's-always-been-done, had to shake itself and devise innovative strategies to cope with the changed times.

IWA went completely Online.

The leadership of IWA had to develop ways and means that worked for us as an organisation, despite our individual tech-limitations. They helped the membership accept and adapt to these changes in the cheerful spirit of challenge and discovery. They explored the opportunities the times threw up, so that IWA could get the best returns from them. And they rejoiced as each member crossed the barrier of tech-hesitancy and joined the Digital World.

As always, IWA members rose to the challenge, and discovered strengths we did not know we had. We found a way, encouraged others to come along, and the result has been a myriad



of experiences and opportunities, but also the revelation, growth and development of our own skills. And that is always something to celebrate.

This book, *The IWA Story - the Next 10 Years*, builds on the shoulders of the one that has gone before, continuing the story where that one left off, and awaiting the next pairs of hands that will keep the story rolling forward, year by eventful year.

It tells the continuing saga of IWA, the last 10 years of inspiring leaders, stimulating meetings, unforgettable trips, fantastic events, a vibrant and always enthusiastic membership, and so much more. Never forgetting the Seven Stalwart Founders and Thirtyfive sets of Past Presidents, and their magnificent gift to us all. These pages are filled with photos and text, of course, but also with the softness of memories, the warmth of friendship, the excitement of learning new things, peals of laughter, and loads of gratitude for all the happy times.

Join us on this part of the odyssey of Discovery, and look ahead to many more years of insightful revelations and the limitless possibilities of IWA.

Till then, stay strong and stay smiling

Tehnaz Bahadurji & Shobha Jesudasen



OUR FOUNDERS



NIRMAL SESHADRI

IWA Founder President

I want to share a conversation I had with my mother, Nirmal Seshadri, when my parents were relocating to Chennai in 1984. I distinctly remember telling her that, once in Chennai, enjoy the new phase of your life, take a back seat, look after your health, and renew all your erstwhile Madras associations. She almost immediately rebuked me for suggesting that she should take a back seat, and said that she would start an organisation that would eclipse Indus over a period of time. In her mind she had already sowed the seeds for the birth of IWA.

My mother had this special quality that endeared her to one and all – that people could never say no to her, and that she could draw the best of the hidden talent in people. She seemed to draw an innate energy to pursue her interests and all this she did, despite not being in the pink of health.

Soon I heard that the late P L Reddy, a very good family friend, had introduced her to Nancy Stemple, who became IWA's Co-Founding-President with my mother, and IWA was well on its way. And now IWA has traversed a journey of 35 years and has cemented a strong socio-cultural cross-border bond amongst its membership. Somewhere up there I can envisage my mother's infectious smile in the knowledge that the organisation she founded has grown from strength to strength.

All the best to IWA for a very successful future, and special thanks to the entire IWA fraternity to keep the flag flying– FASTER / HIGHER / FURTHER.

- Ajjay Seshadri



NANCY DEAN

IWA Founder President

Little did Malathi Ramachandran know when she hosted her son's farewell party, that the casual meeting of Nancy Stemple and Nirmal Seshadri that day would give birth to this wonderful organisation we know today as IWA. Nancy Stemple (now Nancy Dean) - the then US Consul General's wife, was very keen on starting a cultural association for women - one with no political undertones. She found a kindred spirit in Nirmal Seshadri, and the two of them in turn roped in 5 other wonderful ladies, whom we honour as our Founder Members.



Nancy was an extremely efficient organiser, which every association needs, especially in its early years. She generously permitted the use of the Consulate library for IWA meetings and discussions. She worked tirelessly to help this fledgling organisation find its feet, and for the duration of her stay in Madras, she left no stone unturned in making it a success.

Her other responsibilities notwithstanding, Nancy was a loyal friend and gave her full attention and effort to whatever she took up. On her last visit to Chennai four years ago, it was with great fondness and nostalgia that she recollected IWA's early days.

A pioneer who set systems in place and took pride in her contributions - We salute you Nancy.



LAKSHMI PADMANABHAN

IWA Founder Member

We say her name, and immediately what comes to everyone's mind, is someone who takes up a job only if it can be done perfectly. This was her commitment to IWA, which extends even today. She attended as many meetings as she could, and kept a benign and nurturing eye on all the committees as they took charge every year. Unable to attend meetings now, she makes it a point to chat with and congratulate each incoming President.

Having been a member of Indus in Bombay, Lakshmi was keen to see a similar set-up in Madras, her new home, and made every possible effort to make this a reality. She had done a course in journalism, at which she had excelled. She never wanted to be President, but took charge of the Newsletter because of this background in journalism.

What did IWA mean to her?

It was her unflagging interest and motivation to bring this organisation to the standing it has today, offering fellowship, friendship and learning. Legend has it that she has carefully preserved Newsletters from all the years past, and still sometimes goes through them, reviving fond memories and bringing a smile to her face.

Thank you, Lakshmi, for all you have given IWA.

- Brahada Kameshwaran & Padmini Subramaniam



SAROJA RAMAMRUTHAM

IWA Founder Member

Saroja Ramamrutham had many personal talents, but perhaps the thing we all remember most, is that she was a gentle, warm and giving kind of individual.

When she arrived in Chennai after her many years in Mumbai, where she had been deeply involved with Indus, an organisation very similar to IWA, she was ready to join Nirmal, participate actively and involve herself in the growth and development of IWA Chennai.

She was the Baby Saroja of Tamil cinema, and was so popular, that there was even a Baby Saroja doll. She was an accomplished Veena player and Hindustani singer, and brought this sensitivity to the field of arts in IWA. She was also a qualified and expert practitioner of Ikebana from the O'Hara School, Japan, and it was a joy to witness the wonderful creations she could magically produce with just a few flowers. It was at her

suggestion, that musical ragas were played to accompany flower arrangements, as they complemented each other to create a holistic experience for the audience.

Her home was spacious and artistic, so she could host members for IWA meetings with traditional style and elegance, augmented by her personal warmth. Her instant smile, helpful ways and original ideas were characteristic of her.

As IWA grew, younger Board members and Chairpersons often sought her advice. Senior members of IWA and all who knew her, remember her with much affection.

- Sujaya Menon

ANNELIESE HAZARI

IWA Founder Member

Anneliese came to India from Germany in the late 60's after her marriage. She made her home in Chennai and started her family here, so many important years of her life were spent here. I knew her since the late 70's through our association with OWC.

At Nancy Stemple's request, both Anneliese and I were involved, along with Nirmal and Lakshmi, from the very first exploratory meeting at River House when we discussed starting an intercultural organisation in Chennai, that would become IWA. Anneliese was IWA's first Treasurer and we used to call her the Lady with the Cashbox. She set the systems for IWA's extremely tight and efficient records and account-keeping, which continue to serve us so well today. She was very German in her ways, methodical and strict, and did everything to Perfection.

In those days, there was a large diplomatic corps and German expat community in Chennai. Anneliese entertained very stylishly in her beautifully appointed home, filled with the books, clocks and dogs she loved. Another of her passions was music and ballroom dancing, and she was an elegant and enthusiastic dancer.

She was always willing to help out and pitch in, a trait that is so vital in any organisation's initial years. She was a warm person, a good friend, and contributed enormously to IWA. She always maintained that she enjoyed her life in India and had positive views of India and Indians, not least because of her membership in IWA.

- Aruna Vijaykumar





SUNITA SHAHANEY

IWA Founder Member

From the days of cyclostyled Newsletters on A4 size papers – folded and mailed out to the few members we had at that time - we are now 260 members strong - Virtual – Digital – Online - Email - Whatsapp and much more, and I would say, quoting our 25th Year Presidents – Nina and Cherry – “Forever Connected, Forever Inspired and Forever Learning” - Moving forward with amazing enthusiasm, knowledge, and fresh ideas to keep in line with the times.

This is IWA – vibrant and unstoppable.

Flashback to the beginning – 1986 – Seven Founders – many dedicated supporters, hard work, excitement at giving our city, then called Madras, an organisation which would in years to come, grow to these strengths that we see today.

The publications IWA has produced are 2 Cookbooks (Edition 1 and 2) and “The IWA Story” which says it all for those who missed out on our fledgling years - Years of hope, growing, learning, and giving – words which still hold strong for IWA today.

Originally with one small Committee which consisted of The Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers along with a few co-opted members to help run the Activities – we all multitasked – with holding 2 even 3 Portfolios till our member strength started to grow. It took 5 long years till during my year as President, we split the Committees into Activity Chairpersons and Managing Committee, later known as the ‘Board’.

Today, to be a part of IWA, is a very covetous desire – and there are waiting lists to get to be a member of this organisation.

At the time this goes into print in IWA’s 35th Year, we have had 68 Presidents guiding 260 Members of IWA through these years – making it a very sought after prestigious organisation in our city of Chennai. I thank our Current Presidents Tehnaz & Shobha for the idea of updating our website.

With this written – all that remains for me to say is -

More Power to IWA!

- Sunita Shahaney

REVA K SINGH

IWA Founder Member

My husband and I arrived from Bombay to Madras in the early 1990s, on a posting with Grindlays Bank. I have very happy memories of our short stay. We lived in a lovely, old-style bungalow on College Road, with deep verandahs surrounded by shrubbery, which I believe has since been pulled down to make room for high-rise blocks.

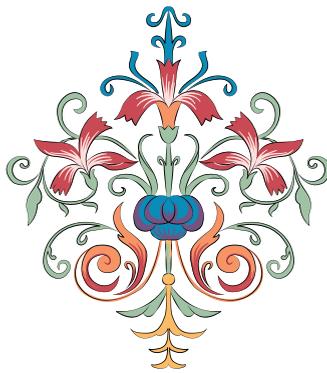
One of the highlights of my time there was the formation of a women's club to foster friendships and cultural exchanges between Indian and expatriate women. A few of us, including Nirmal Seshadri, had been members of Indus International in Mumbai, and Nirmal was eager to establish a society with similar objectives in Chennai. Nirmal was President along with Nancy Dean, wife of the US Consul General, I was Co-Secretary with Audrey Sprague, the US High Commissioner's wife, and Anneliese Hazari was Treasurer.

I recall the enthusiasm and excitement of those early years, when we decided on a logo, and organised a couple of get-togethers and book discussions. We had such great hopes and plans for the fledgling International Women's Association. Although I wasn't there long enough to see it grow, I'm delighted that it is now so well-established.

IWA is unique and very special, and its spirit lives on in its membership as the baton is passed on. It has gone from strength to strength to become a shining star in the social and cultural firmament of Chennai. My very best wishes and congratulations to all of you for having sustained IWA, and for your enduring commitment to its founding vision.

- Reva K Singh





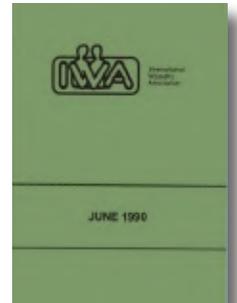
THE FIRST 25 YEARS
(1986 ~ 2011)

**NIRMAL SESHADRI
NANCY DEAN**
1986 • 1988



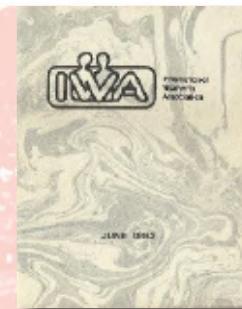
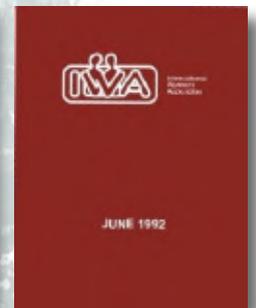
**VANITHA MUDALIAR
BARBARA CLARKSON**
1988 • 1990

**SUNITA SHAHANEY
JANET PICKEN**
1990 • 1991



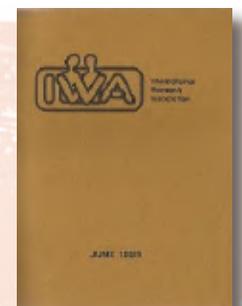
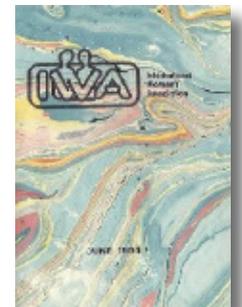
**NIRMAL MIRZA
STINA VASU**
1991 • 1992

**MALINI VIJAYARAGHAVAN
MAUREEN HUDSON MURARI**
1992 • 1993



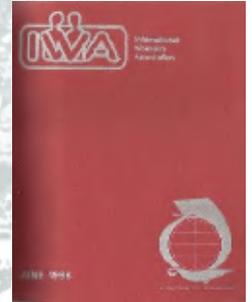
**NANDITHA KRISHNA
ARUNA VIJAYKUMAR**
1993 • 1994

**LILY MADHOK
MARGARET SEKHRAN**
1994 • 1995



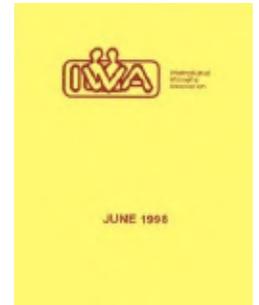
**ZUBEIDA ASGARALI
KHIN THI DA LWIN**
1995 • 1996

**ALAGU MUTHU
POONAM LALCHAND**
1996 • 1997



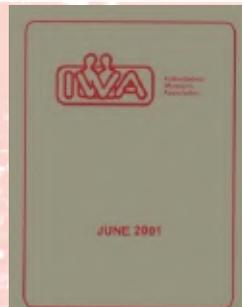
**RUPA KADHIRESAN
ANNELIESE HAZARI**
1997 • 1998

**SHYLA K RAU
MEGAN UTLEY**
1998 • 1999



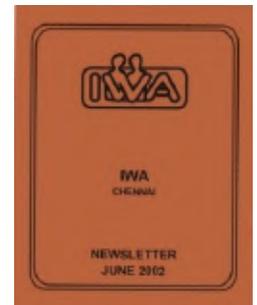
**GAYATRI BEWOOR
CHANDRIKA CHIDAMBARAM**
1999 • 2000

**JAVANTHI SINGARAM
EIRA DOSHI**
2000 • 2001



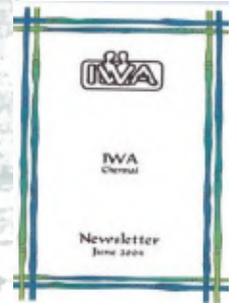
**RANI CHADA
SEEMA SAIT**
2001 • 2002

**KUSUM CHADDA
MEYYAMMAI MURUGAPPAN**
2002 • 2003



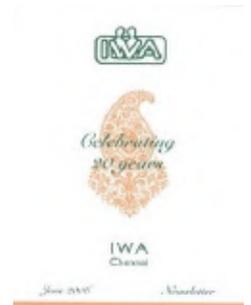
**SUSHILA NATRAJ
ELAINE WOOD**
2003 • 2004

**VIDYA SINGH
PADMA ASHOK**
2004 • 2005



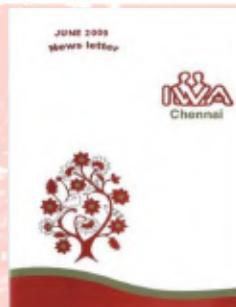
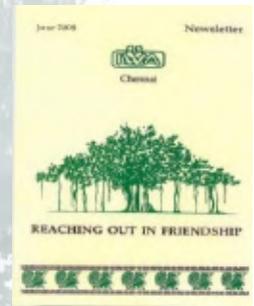
**PRINCESS NAIK
RATHI NILAKANTAN**
2005 • 2006

**SEEMA BHARGAVA
AMULYA RAO**
2006 • 2007



**KAMALA PRASAD
RAZIYEH SHEERAZIE**
2007 • 2008

**RANI ANANTH
LYNNE CONNOR**
2008 • 2009



**SHOBHA HEBBAR
ELIZABETH ASTON**
2009 • 2010

**MRIDULA SRINIVASAN
UMA GANESAN**
2010 • 2011



**NINA KOTHARI
CHERRY VENKATESAN**
2011 • 2012



THE NEXT TEN YEARS
2012 - 2022



RAMANI REDDY - VIJAYA B RANGARAJAN

2012 • 2013



We chose Purple as our colour for the year 2012-2013, not because it symbolized royalty, but because it represented unity. We adorned our Newsletter in purple and deployed it wherever we could. We obsessed about our purple lotus too.

We had a motivated, dedicated and selfless team of creative, hard working, can-do women as Activity chairs and Managing Committee members who delivered a memorable IWA year. Vice-Presidents Nita and Priya, Secretaries Asha and Sharon, and Treasurers Nabila and Heather made it all happen. 2012-13 was marked by 82 physical in-person IWA meetings. It all happened on our watch!

We kicked the year off with a Fellowship meeting at Savera Hotel with detailed table settings and purple balloons. The program featured a quiz and the food was excellent. The event was marked by true bonhomie and catching up amongst members.

The year featured three well-attended and much appreciated trips as is IWA custom. The overseas trip was to Myanmar and it came just as the country opened up and Aung San Suu Kyi was released from a long prison term. Our large group visited Yangon, Bagan, Mandalay, and the beautiful Inle lake, with its serene mountains and quaint cottages on stilts. We were fascinated by the floating vegetable gardens and the way the boats were maneuvered by the locals.

The India trip to Rishikesh, Haridwar, and Ananda was perfectly planned and we were lucky to get reservations at the Glass House on the Ganges, a Neemrana Heritage Resort with its own private Ganga Ghat. Ananda is a must on every Indian's travel bucket list. It proved to be our Nirvana.

The mini regional trip to Tharangambadi, formerly known as Tranquebar, noted for its old fort and church, was a relaxing seaside visit. It used to be a Danish trading post and is now known as the "place of the singing waves".

Since both Presidents were Telugu-speaking, we recreated an Andhra evening. The Trilinga program showcased the culture, poets, heritage, food and classical dances of Andhra Pradesh. Indira Dutt generously sponsored this event, along with the large contingent of other Andhra IWA members.

Kamala Prasad took the responsibility of pulling it all together. A sumptuous Andhra vindhu was served and hand crafted "kondapalli bommalu" (toys) were given as takeaways.

- Arts and Handicrafts held an unusual event with Sabitha Radhakrishna describing the beautiful sarees in various Indian states and presenting a wonderful collage of priceless heirloom sarees (some sourced from IWA members).
- Book Discussion held a standout meeting where IWA members read excerpts from Vikram Seth's "Beastly Tales from Here & There".
- Cooking Swapshop featured a unique, out-of-the-box lunch with Copper Chimney's Dared-Us-to-Care program where boys and girls from the Spastic Society served us.
- Current Events - Our favourite was "50 Years of James Bond" by the movie archivist Mohan Raman.
- Health and Ecology "How Not to Go to The Doctor" with Dr. Kailash had us all in splits.
- Music and Performing Arts showpiece was Lasya Kavya - The World of Alarmel Valli, the "pièce de résistance" documentary on Dance and a biopic on Valli.
- Philosophy and Religion Jashn-E-Eid added a different texture to the annual Eid celebrations by featuring Raziye who recreated an Iranian wedding in detail.
- Founders' Day was really fun with IWA-lympics.
- Music Day - The awardee for the scholarship in memory of Nirmal Seshadri was Supraja V.



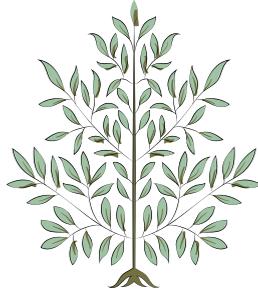
Deepavali was celebrated with Ananda Deepam in MRC Hall • Christmas joy was spread with yuletide, singing of carols, delicious lunch, a film and a unique take home gift of Christmas trees • Women's Day was marked with an interactive dialogue with Sqn. Ldr. Unni Nair at Madras Club.

Grand Finale: P.C. Ramakrishna and his team regaled us with a Play, preceded by a scrumptious Tea at ITC grand Chola. This was followed by a Fashion Show.

At the end of the IWA year, after 365 days of continuous interaction, we, the presidents, became closer, bonded and became friends for life. After going through the last year and a half of the pandemic, those moments and memories become all the more precious.

- Ramani Reddy & Vijaya B Rangarajan





NITA REDDY - PRIYA ASOKAN

2013 • 2014



Our able, confident, fun loving and enigmatic IWA woman with the wind in her hair, symbolically traversing the seasons, was represented on our Newsletter.

We committed to have 8 impactful meetings for each Activity, rather than 10, and a coffee, tea, and one snack policy, keeping inflation in mind and not wanting to burden members with an increased annual subscription. We also had a recurring theme to showcase IWA NextGen. Our Fellowship Morning, Founders' Day, Grand Finale as well as select Activity meetings, featured daughters and sons of IWA members. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree, so it's only fitting that our phenomenal IWA women should beget talented offspring! Our motto for the year was : Tell me and I forget, Teach me and I remember, Involve me and I learn! And our learning went to a whole different level!!!

IWA is a true meritocracy, where if you have the ability and willingness, nothing can hold you back; in fact it is a unique organisation where people actually cheer you on.

A big thank you to the showstoppers of our year - our vibrant and tireless Managing Committee members: Asha Hemdev, Heather Charraudeau, Sharmila Ramji, Christine Bomstad, Achu Kurian, Tineke Sysmans, and our industrious Activity Chairpersons.

We thank our Advisory Committee, Sushila Natraj, Javanthi Singaram and Maureen Murari for their able guidance. We bade farewell to Meyyammai Murugappan in January, and welcomed Maureen. We are grateful to the Music Committee, chaired by Geeta Vasudevan and assisted by Kala Bhashyam, Prema Kumar and Maya Mathew, who selected the talented classical pianist, John Pettigrew.

Our Membership Committee of Ramani Reddy, Vijaya Rangarajan, Shobha Hebbar, Asha Rammohan, Aruna Vijaykumar and members of our Board, worked to bring new members into IWA.

We thank our Election Committee, ably guided by Rani Chada and assisted by Eira Doshi, Kausalya Jaganmohan, Meera Jayakar and Rathi Neelakantan. They successfully completed the election process and put in place next year's Managing Committee.

There were a total of 65 meetings, plus the AGM. Along with these delightful and entertaining meetings, many of us enjoyed the charming and splendid sights of Vietnam, the rich cultural experience of

the Festival of Sacred Music at Thiruvapur, and the pristine and verdant landscape of the Banyan Tree Farm.

Some highlights of our year

Arts & Handicrafts team of Amita Bhatia & Farah Bangera brought us What an Idea Sirji, The art & science of advertising; The Perfect Photograph, a photo competition of our kitchens and Investing in Art for business or pleasure.

Book Discussion's Lakshmi Menon and Anjali Sacheti gave us The Cypress Tree, a journey to Iran, Blog!! Let your voice be heard! and How it Happened, the conflict of tradition versus heart.

Cooking Swapshop's team of Urmilla Agarwal and Gay Weir tempted our taste buds with everything from Chutneys and Pickles to Kerala Cuisine, cocktails & The Art and Science of Plating.

Current Events' Usha Jawahar and Dominique Rastoin enlightened us on Women's rights, the Economy in India, IPL – Caught Out, and the Naxalite Movement.

Health & Ecology's Fharzana Siraj & Julie Madre shed light on Epilepsy, our guts, the healing power of flowers and India's first zoo musicologist.

History, Culture & Tours' dynamic duo, Thayabae Kakar and Michele Segala took us on a Journey to the Ends of the Earth, IWA's French Connection, and the Geopolitics of Israel.

Music and Performing Arts' Jeyasree Ravi and Rigmor Ekstrand brought music to our ears with the legendary Beatles, The Art of Choreography, and Music is in my Blood.

Philosophy & Religion's Sheetal Shah and Cecile Ezvan Dufeu fascinated us with Adornment of Temple Deities, Rituals & Festivals, Dressing up Baby Lord Krishna and a trip to the beautiful Jain pilgrimage site on ECR.

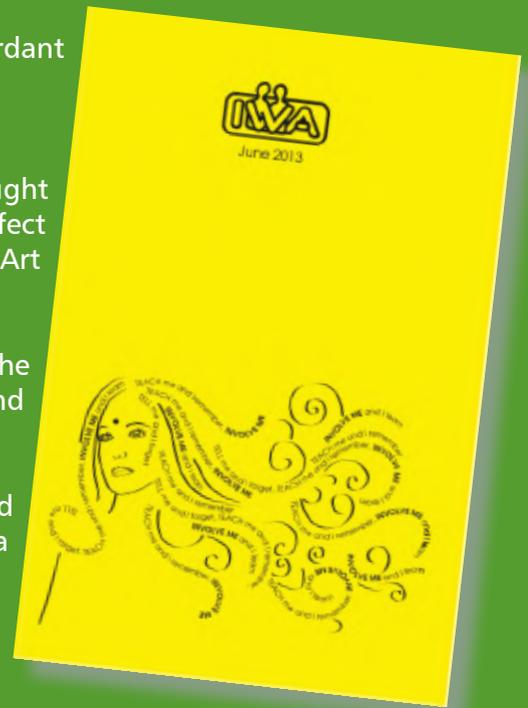
On Founders' Day we paid tribute to our Past Presidents with our own IWA talent dancing in Black & White

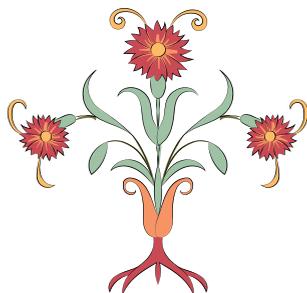


tights. Christmas was festive with heartwarming carols and the enthusiastic Lungi dancers! And Grand Finale sparkled with our glamorous IWA ladies and the NextGen parading on the runway.

Our story had a happy ending and a new chapter was waiting to be written by Asha and Jo. We stepped down with a feeling of satisfaction for all that was done in the spirit of IWA.

- Nita Reddy & Priya Asokan





ASHA RAMMOHAN - JO FROGBROOK

2014 • 2015



Jo Frogbrook and I, Asha Rammohan, had the privilege of being the Presidents of IWA 2014-2015, to lead the organisation that is committed to cultural diversity, learning & friendship.

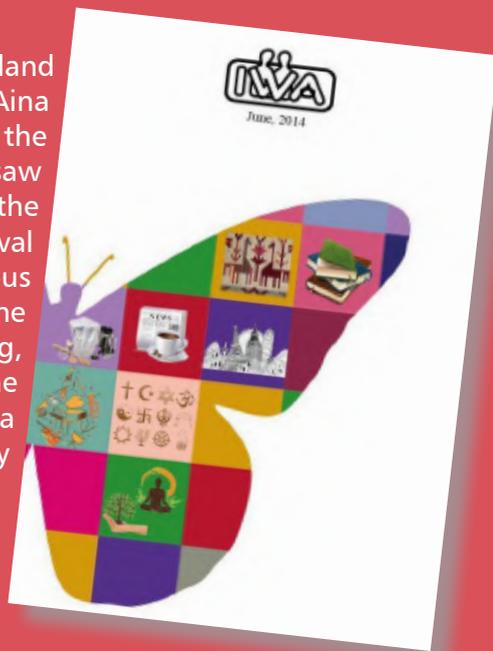
We found our inspiration in the butterfly, not surprising, our theme for the year was 'the Butterfly'. 'The Butterfly counts not months but moments and has time enough' - Rabindranath Tagore. We felt the butterfly embodies the same unique spirit & individuality as the IWA woman - each unique, special & beautiful. IWA provides a platform enabling us to learn, enjoy, grow, whilst giving us an opportunity to spread our wings & develop our individual talents for the enjoyment of the whole.

The year started on a grim note with the passing away of Anneliese Hazari, one of the Founders & an IWA Past President. Our forever gratitude to her, we salute her spirit of enterprise & for nurturing this great organisation in its infant years, together with all the Founders of IWA - The Magnificent 7.

Then we faced another tragedy. My wonderful, witty & loving Co-President Jo was diagnosed with cancer. But she never let it get in the way of her commitment for the year 2014-2015 as IWA President. In spite of all the surgeries, chemotherapy & hospitalizations, she sat on the hospital bed and continued her IWA work. She was a living example for all of us, that nothing stands in the way of commitments. She was the spirited one. During our year as Presidents, we, together with our Committees & adventurous members, explored & travelled to some exotic places loaded with historical significance, natural beauty & we tasted some unique cuisines. Truly cultural experiences.

Our International trip was to Japan - Land of the Rising Sun, one of the most beautiful holiday destinations in the world. It is a unique blend of tradition and modernity, where temples & historic buildings co-exist alongside modern achievements in architecture and technology. We visited Hiroshima, Osaka, Kyoto & Tokyo. We travelled by Bullet train, ferry, cable car & coach, visited Buddhist & Shinto temples, the deer park, enjoyed the beautiful gardens, the formal & delicate beauty of the Tea Ceremony, the breathtaking view of Mt. Fuji, caught a glimpse of the Geisha Ladies, & a Sumo Dojee, where we watched young wrestlers practice with their seniors. After a long day sightseeing, some of us enjoyed the therapeutic hot springs. A memorable trip indeed.

Next trip was to Kutch Rann Utsav - The White Desert, a celebratory land of art, craft, music, dance & nature. We visited Bhuj, Prag Mahal, Aina Mahal / Hall of Mirrors & Shree Swaminarayan temple - destroyed by the earthquake, but rebuilt over 7 years. In the shipyard in Mandvi we saw beautiful flamingos. During the full moon night of the winters amid the awe-inspiring and contrasting landscapes, each year a 3-day festival extravaganza is held, brimming with hospitality, vigor & sumptuous traditional flavors of Gujarati food. Our home for 2 nights was the Rann tent city with enchanting sunsets, camel cart rides, star gazing, sightings of flocks of beautiful birds flying in formations over the marshes. Some of the fearless ladies even enjoyed paramotoring in a motorized parachute. The colourful trip to Gujarat ended on a happy note & Namma Chennai welcomed us back.



The Hallmark of our year as Presidents was the introduction of 4 workshops where we covered a range of interesting & diverse subjects

- Introduction to gardening in small spaces. Although large gardens are slowly becoming a thing of the past we learnt we can still grow our own vegetables, fruits & flowers albeit in pots & in verandas/balconies. Facilitating this workshop were our IWA members Era Kalra & Archana Meiyappan together with her Co-Founder of the Magic Bean. Many members showed a keen interest and hoped to see the fruits/vegetables of their labor in the near future.
- Be your own makeup artist - Young Akriti wielded her makeup brushes with consummate skill & shared with us her tips on how we can all look like models.
- An introduction to Public speaking - Mr. Rajan founder of ZEAL shared with us valuable tips to enable us to speak confidently both in IWA and wider public forums.
- Photography - Mr. Sukesh from Evanescence Studios, introduced us to the fundamentals of Photography using the power of mobile phone cameras and how to use them effectively.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the amazing 22 women who made up the Managing & Executive Committees. They were brimming with ideas, planned wonderful events and were committed to making the year a great one. They spread their wings, gave us their colorful best, brought us some truly amazing and inspiring meetings. We worked together and discovered the inner butterfly in all of us. We were guided by an amazing Advisory Committee, Music Committee, Membership & Election Committees. We are deeply grateful to all of them.



Our year was engaging, exciting, lively, vibrant, fun-filled & informative. Jo & I were overwhelmed by the amount of support from members. Like the butterfly who has not months but moments, we hoped we had time enough to complete the goals we set ourselves at the start of our tenure.

- Asha Rammohan
& Usha Jawahar



ACHU KURIAN - MALINI KRISHNA

2015 • 2016



Our theme "Together in Friendship" was symbolised in our logo by IWA ladies holding hands in a continuous and long-lasting bond of friendship. Mala and I were supported by Nabila Avais, Jansi Kishore, Badrunnisa Mahadevan, Nalini Panday, Anita Koshy, Mahvash Sait and the Activity Chairpersons.

There were 70 meetings and 6 Board events. Board Events: Fellowship Day at the Madras Club, with ladies dressed in pink, marked the beginning of the IWA year. • Founders' Day was hosted by The Goyals at Park Sheraton • Music Day at Park Hyatt, honoured Pooja Shree RajaGopalan, a young Carnatic singer • Diwali Mela - Adeep, at MRC hall, venue graciously sponsored by Visalakshi Ramaswamy. Members performed a skit, there were festive shopping stalls, and a sumptuous High Tea • Christmas programme was

cancelled due to floods • Fellowship Morning at Hotel Raintree was fun with games, followed by a delicious lunch sponsored by Rajini C Reddy. Grand Finale at Park Hyatt featured a Fashion Show by Evoluzione, showcasing designers Pankaj and Nidhi, and our very own IWA members as models, and was a great success.

At the Endowment Lecture, Dr Choodamani Nandagopal, art historian, member of UNESCO, author, spoke on Symbolism of Sacred Spaces in Early Dravidian Architecture.

Aruna Vijayakumar was our gracious hostess for Onam, celebrated at her home, with ladies dressed in traditional Onam Pudava, with colourful floral Pookalams, and entertainment by our members.

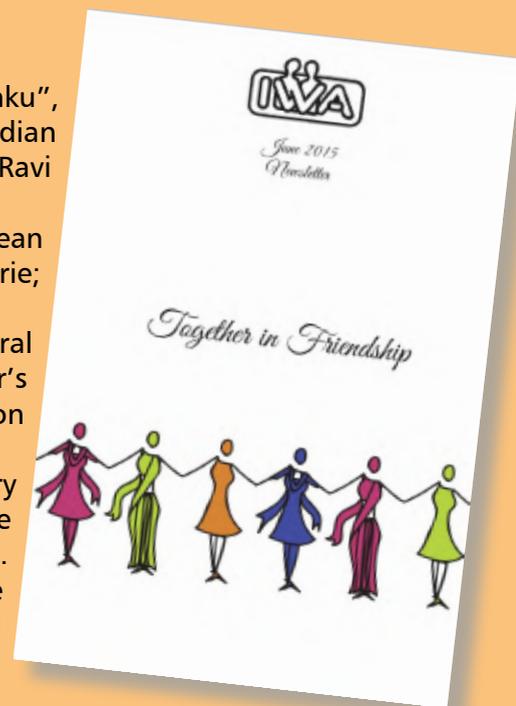
We wanted to showcase IWA talent, so IWA ladies were centre stage and won the hearts of audiences in all our Board Events. All meetings were outstanding with inspiring speakers, meticulously planned at lovely venues by our efficient Activity Chairpersons.

- Arts & Handicrafts: Usha Moorthy & Sanyukta Gill: Designer Gaurang Shah on his exquisite sarees; IWA members presenting Antique items from their collections; the Japanese art of Gift Wrapping by our member Masako Maruyama.
- Book Discussion: Nidhi Thadani and Amulya Rao: Face to face with bestselling authors Amish Tripathi

with his first book in the new Ram Chandra series, "Scion of Ikshvaku", and Anuja Chauhan, on her book, "The House that BJ Built "; Indian authors with a huge impact on the global stage; master storyteller Ravi Subramaniam delved into the dark side of the publishing industry.

- Cooking Swapshop: Asha Murthi and Chungmee Kim: Korean cuisine; Magic of Fondant Icing; Cooking demo at Bombay Brasserie; Christmas Cake mixing at ITC Grand Chola,
- Current Events: Anjali Sacheti and Lakshmi Menon: Cross-cultural communication by Immer Beser and Sreemathi Ramnath; an Insider's View of the film industry by Aswatha Naik; Dr Prasanna Gettu on Making Chennai safe for women.
- Health and Ecology: Banu Singh and Sushi Goklaney: Mercury Contamination in Kodaikanal; Dr E S Krishnamurthy on "How we remember and Why we forget"; Dr Vani on "Miracle of Surrogacy".
- History Culture & Tours: Usha Jawahar and Vicki Tippet: Three outstanding trips to South Africa and Zimbabwe, Wayanad, and Assam and Meghalaya. The stunning South Africa and Zimbabwe trip covered the Victoria falls, a cruise down the Zambezi river, Cape Town and the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, Seal Island, Penguin Colony, Stellenbosch wine industry, and and the famous Kruger National Park. Trip to Wayanad visiting the Banasura Sagar Dam and Edakkal caves, one of the earliest centres of human inhabitation. Assam and Meghalaya trip covered Kamakhya temple, World Heritage Site Kaziranga National Park, home to the Great Indian One-horned Rhinoceros, and Shillong, the Scotland of the East.
- Music and Performing Arts: Padmavathy Gunashekar and Sylvie Wright: Kalaripayattu - martial art of Kerala; Baradwaj Raman who innovated and designed a unique user-friendly Veena; On March 8th, International Women's Day, Dr Ghatam Karthick on "How to enjoy rhythm in a Carnatic Kutcheri and otherwise".
- Philosophy and Religion: Mallika Venkataramani and Sharon Iles: Nipun Mehta on "Giftism" and Dr Rajagopalan on "What to do with the rest of your life".

2 November meetings and all December meetings were cancelled due to the Floods . Fortunately we could reschedule them. The AGM was held on April 25th at Sivagami Pethachi Auditorium, kindly sponsored by Chandrika Chidambaram.



We were fortunate to be a part of a wonderful family of diverse ladies who shared their warmth, friendship and support.

Helen Keller said "Alone we can do so little, Together we can do so much" which captures the very essence of IWA and our year as Presidents.

- Achu Kurian & Malini Krishna



NABILA AVAIS - JANSI KISHORE

2016 • 2017



We wanted every member to feel special, unique & precious like a beautiful PEARL in a silvery oyster shell, denoting IWA's infinite precious possibilities.

"Create Value Out of Every Opportunity, Recognize and Seize the Treasures Within, For Happiness Starts With You." Each Activity Chairperson had a 5 member Support Team. The Centrespreads of the Newsletters had "Strings of Precious Pearls", carrying the names & year of joining of IWA members. Personalised telephone directories with members emails. Activity Chairpersons ensured brilliant and innovative meetings. In addition, there were Special 30th year Celebration Events, Star Meetings and Board Events.

- June - Pearl Fellowship had the Speakeasy Poets with foot-tapping & singing to Orlando's "Melodious Dozen" favourite English songs, & Hi Tea at Taj Club House. Why We Love The Way We Do - Preeti Shenoy, Elegant Dining - Taj Golden Dragon, Samba, Tango and Waterfalls - S America - Uma Krishnan, Mapping a Creative Mind - Aishwarya Manivarnan, Grow your own veggies - Hariresh Krishnamurthy.
- July - IWA's 30th Founders' Day was a 2-day Celebration. Sunset Jubilations - Crowne Plaza our past Presidents sported their respective Newsletter Flags & jived to the Dancing Queen • Sunrise Musings x Kalakshetra Seafront @ 4:30 am Devotional music & dance against the golden sunrise on the Bay of Bengal. Rising Hero of Jugalbandhi - Sriram Parasuram - violin • Juxtaposing Art and Yoga - B.O. Shailesh and Gayathre Srinath, Zorba - Sarvesh Sashi, Eid Milan @ Amethyst, Multi-tasking and Mindfulness - Ruchi Mohanta, Maharanis - Vidya Singh and Abhishek Poddar
- August - Stem Cells - Dr. Salahudeen, Organic Weaves - Neesha Amrisha, Nawabi Splendour & Sufi Music by Nikitha Gandhi at Amir Mahal, Balancing Relationships by Drs Kamala and Priya Selvaraj, Streets and Area Names - V. Sriram, Janmaashtami, Hiranya Garbha - Seema Kohli-paintings, US Elections - Narayan Lakshman
- September - International Trip was a "South American Sojourn", whizzing away 24 explorers to Brazil & Peru - Amazon Rain Forest, Machu Picchu and Lake Titicaca - 21 enchanted days. Reluctant Fundamentalist - movie at Satyam, Walking Tour of Theosophical Society • Tex-Mex cuisine at Chili's, Brexit - Bharat Joshi, Singing - Shilpa Natarajan, Osteopathy - Dr Shahul Hameed, The Tamil Story
- October - On International Music Day, IWA honoured 10yr old Lydian Nadhaswaram, piano prodigy, @ Rain Tree. Diwali Mela "Ghungroo & Khana Khazana" Mesmerising Bharatnatyam & Kuchipudi performance by Roshini Raju. Flavours of Rajasthan on silver thalis. Escapism in Inner Spaces - Sruthi C.

Reddy and Varsha Menon, Parsi Wedding with traditional lunch, Dr. V. Shanta on Cancer care, Aarohi - Music by Professionals, Mahabharata Quest - Christopher Doyle, Women's Safety - Anita Mohan & Sweet Treat, IWA Desserts

- November - Trip to Coorg, India's Coffee Capital, plus a visit to a Buddhist Monastery, the Elephant Camp. Global Tea Party at The Park - International Tea culture, Saris - Traditional and Contemporary - Ahalya S. & Akhila Krishnamurthy, Driverless Cars - Sandeep Maini, Becoming a Better Version of Yourself - Venerable Tenzing Priyadarshi.

- December - Demise of CM Jayalalitha & the Vardha Storm washed away the Christmas programme, but impromptu Christmas celebrations was held at Amethyst, where Floral Tributes were made to late PP Margaret Sekhran. The Sialkot Saga - Ashwin Sanghi

- January - English Garden Vintage Soirée and curated High Tea at Cottingley, accompanied by live Scottish music.

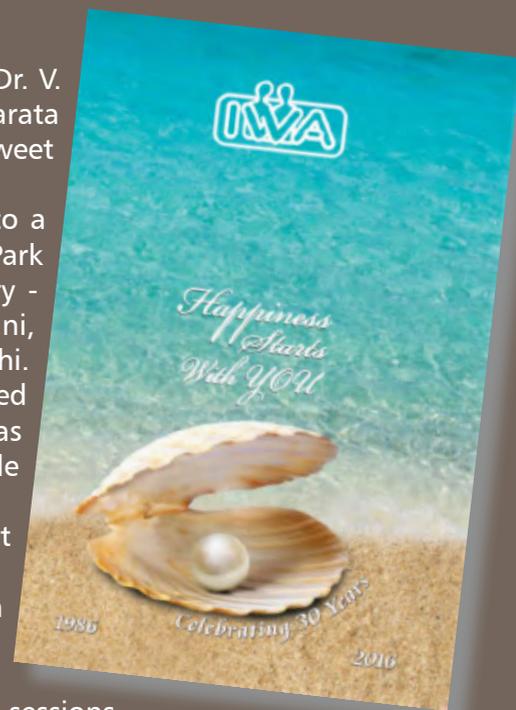
Endowment Lecture at Museum Theatre - Prof. K. Ramasubramanian on the Ancient Science of Mathematics. Deferred Christmas event, "Horse Power" at Polo 2.0" Unique evening curated especially for IWA, Spectacular Polo Match, Tea in marquées, horse rides, photo sessions.

Whistling - Swetha Suresh, Demons of Demonetization - S. Gurumurthy, Cataract Cure & Care - Dr. Mohan Rajan

- February - EGM on Feb 28th - 3 Resolutions were unanimously passed. To increase the annual subscription to Rs.5,000, with an annual increase of 10%; new IWA applicants attend as Special Guests for 18 months before consideration for membership; IWA registered office be relocated to Vanitha Mudaliar's premises.

Women's Day Picnic at Cavin Solai Bird Farm - 70 plus species, 600 birds. Mr. CK Ranganathan hosted South Indian lunch. Trip to Khajuraho, Orchha, Gwalior and Agra - a fiesta of art, architecture and unimaginable delights. Mangaluru Masala- Nalini Acharya, Shobha Hebbar, Asha Murthi, Sheela Shetty, Buddha Image - Sripriya Chithamoor, Dressing Cinderella and Princes - Anu Parthasarathy, Live Life With Love - Sara Kachwalla, Philosophy of Love - IWA Members on Valentines Day, Environment Conservation - Soumini Srinivas, Diksha of Ramayana - Dance by Diksha Kishore.

- March - Grand Finale was a Musical Masquerade Ball at ITC Grand Chola. What's Cooking, Foodology - Shree Periakaruppan, Secret Diary of Kasturba - Neelima Dalmia Adhar, Ritu Kumar Holi Hungama, Quiz - Dr Navin Jayakumar, Madras High Court Heritage Walk - Adv. N.L.Rajah and Sujatha Shankar, P S Ramachandran - Illayaraja & AR Rahman songs, Alzheimer's & Dementia - Dr Mohan Agashe's film Astu



- April - IWA Elections for posts of Vice President (Indian) and Secretary (Indian). AGM @ Park Hyatt. Thirst Quenchers - Radio Room, Story behind Bahubali-Anand Neelakantan, High Kicks, Dance by Aparna Nagesh's troupe, Mentalist Arun left us totally bewildered!

This grand parade of events through the year was a fitting celebration for IWA's 30th year.

- Nabila Avais & Jansi Kishore



BADRUNNISA MAHADEVAN - FARAH BANGERA

2017 • 2018



'Some people give time, some money, some their skills and connections, some literally their life's blood. But everyone has something to give'. – Barbara Bush. This is precisely what we cherished about IWA.

We endeavored to add value to the lives of our members, replacing 'I' with 'we' & 'illness' became 'wellness'. Tips to boost mental health, Nutrients most needed for women, and many more featured in our Newsletters & the Wellness Break.

At Fellowship Morning, the presence of Founder President Nancy Dean was the highlight. Nabrun Ghosh captivated us with a musical housie. 'From a little acorn, a mighty oak grows...' On Founders' Day 25th July, a song & poetry entertainment conceptualized by Sherry Batliwala & Tehnaz Bahadurji, was brilliantly performed by our talented members.

In August 'Ganapathi Bappa Morya Pudchya Varshi Lavkarya' reverberated in the home of Leena Suryaprakash! Our members recreated authentic Maharashtrian Ganpathi celebrations with the immersion, chants, drumbeats, dance and Lezims. Traditional 'swadisht upahaar' was served. - Philosophy & Religion/History, Culture & Tours. Bon Odori is danced during the Japanese Obon festival. Kiyomo Prasanna Tanaka spoke on 'Fukuchiyama Ondo'. Our members joined in the simple and repetitive steps of this dance. – Music & Performing Arts

Come September, we embarked on a fascinating adventure to Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Nature in all its splendour, churches, cathedrals & mosques, Roman amphitheatres and more. The pristine prettiness of Ljubljana & Opatia, Postojna's caves, Plitvice's lakes & waterfalls, Zadar's sea organ, Mostar's horse-ramped old Bridge, Dubrovnik's mighty magnificence! A very special holiday - memorable for many splendid reasons.

In October, we celebrated International Music Day, honouring Karthik Iyer, an exponent of Carnatic & Hindustani music in the presence of Mr. Seshadri. 'Enchanting Glimpses of South Korea' by Rathi Jafer included a tea ceremony, a Fashion show of their traditional costume - the Hanbok, an Arts & Crafts display & a surprise performance by a K-pop group. - Arts & Handicrafts/History, Culture & Tours. At IWA's Deepavali 'Navdeep', we had fun, festive shopping, the ever-popular Khazana stall, a mouth-watering High Tea and the brilliant Bharatanatyam footwork of Pavithra Srinivasan.

November was memorable with 'Material Memorabilia' – Aanchal Malhotra's book 'Remnants of a Separation'. A gaz, a ghara, a maang-tikka, a pocketknife - belongings of her great-grandparents and other migrants that led her to discover the heart-rending stories behind them. – Book Discussion.

Anannya Parekh founded the 'Inner Goddess Academy' at the age of 17! This aerospace engineering student was the Indian Representative at the Girls G20 Summit in Germany in 2017. She shared her experiences there, her goals and lessons learnt. – Current Events

Eat, Pray & Detox was a holistic wellness program to Rajah Islands on the backwaters of Kerala, incorporating Ayurvedic Panchakarma purificatory procedures, yoga & meditation. A visit to Guruvayur – Holy Abode of Vishnu on Earth. Exclusive Kalaripayattu & Mohiniyattam performances. Simple, satvik food. It was a fulfilling & enlightening trip.

In December, Dr Anouk Dev, explained how to keep the liver healthy through simple lifestyle habits. – Health & Ecology. Christmas morning was wrapped in happiness & tied with love. Carols by the American International School choir. Santa Lucia recreated by the children of the Swedish School. Gayatri Krishnaswami read a poem '...To mend a quarrel, seek a forgotten friend... Dismiss suspicion & replace it with trust..'

'The Dawn of a New Year is a moment for reflection and the counting of blessings...Thank you God for life itself, without which the universe would have no meaning...' conveyed Rupa Kadhiresan. Ice Breakers by Anjali helped members to get to know each other through fun filled games.

February tested if we knew pulaos from biryanis, enchiladas from empanadas, matcha from sencha...thinking caps instead of chef's hats for the Food quiz. – Cooking Swapshop

The Midlife Roller Coaster - Wellness Conclave detailing the physical & emotional challenges associated with the big 'M'. Dr. Jaishree Gajaraj, Didem Atahan Fabig & Keerthana Kumaraswamy offered coping strategies for menopause, midlife and more. Formulated & moderated by Nirupa Sundaravadanan.

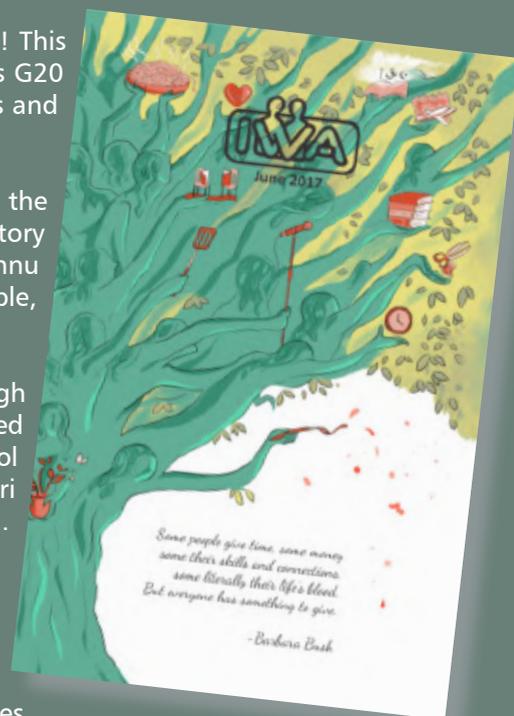
Odisha – From the 11th C Lingaraj Temple, said to be quintessence of Kalinga architecture, Dhauli hill – the battlefield of the Kalinga war, the Udayagiri rock cut caves, the Muktheswara Temple & finally to the Jagannath Temple at Puri and the 13th C Sun Temple at Konark with its intricately carved wheels. Chilika lake & Mangalajodi, known for migratory birds, was peaceful & tranquil. Local arts & crafts at Raghurajpur & Pipli. As all IWA trips, it was packed with good cheer, camaraderie, and liberal doses of shopping.

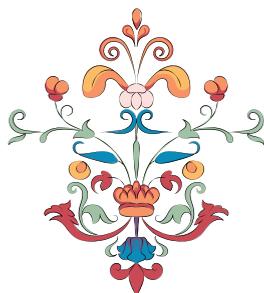
In March we celebrated Grand Finale with fun, photo booths with props, 'kizhi joshiyam' or was that you or Marilyn Monroe...The specially curated High Tea was presented thematically under our Activity headings, and Standup Comedienne Anu Menon made the evening memorable.

At another Wellness Conclave, Wellness as We Age, Dr. Subash Rao & Dhananjai Golla, covered common chronic conditions, maintaining wellness & preparing for successful ageing. Conceived & led by Nirupa Sundaravadanan & Vidya Singh.

Farah & I were blessed beyond belief with the best vanguard in our members of the Managing Committee & Executive Committee.

- Badrunnisa Mahadevan & Farah Bangera





USHA JAWAHAR - MAHVASH SAIT

2018 • 2019



The motto for this year is particularly fitting to IWA: "Coming together is a blessing, Keeping together is progress, Working together is success" - Henry Ford. The 2018/2019 logo encapsulated diversity, multicultural unity and confidence- symbolic of the IWA woman, as was our colour - powerful, feminine, passionate, creative and dignified.

Some highlights of our year.

Fellowship morning was held at the Madras Club filled with ladies in purple, bubbling with infectious laughter through the entertainment, games and creative group activities. Founders' Day was held at Hotel Crowne Plaza. Past Presidents dressed in their floral best talked about their IWA journey. 24 IWA ladies dressed up to reflect the 8 IWA Activities, did a fashion show.

August had several interesting meetings including a quilting session, and a talk on diabetes prevention through diet and life style. Leena Shashi, a certified Zorba specialist explored the secrets to health, mindfulness, and vitality through a workshop on yoga, dance, and movement.

In September, we experienced the much awaited Metro in Chennai, with a 30 minute informative ride. In the Health and Ecology meeting, Dr. Shravan spoke about the Application of Artificial Intelligence in health care and patient management.

On October 1st, International Music Day, IWA honored Amirtha Varshini, a versatile musician and singer. Deepavali celebrations consisted of members dressed in festive attire amidst music, dance, games and a scrumptious lunch. In November, Music and Performing Arts had a fabulous performance called Bollywood and Delicious, a group of Belgian dancers who mesmerized our IWA members with their high energy fusion dance. Health and Ecology had an informative session with T.S Shankar on Bio-Degradable Plastic.

In December, IWA members were treated to an evening of laughter with stand-up comedian Karthik Kumar. Christmas was celebrated in Red, White and Gold with fun games, IWA-Christmas carols and an elaborate lunch. In the New year, Welcome back Fellowship was at Madras Club and IWA ladies came ready to mingle in shades of blue, as they created accessories and dresses out of newspaper and participated in a fun filled fashion show. In February, Mr. G. S. Vasu, Editor-in-chief, The New Indian Express talked about the role of media and politics in India. Dr. Upinder Singh (D/O Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh) was the Endowment speaker. She talked about Women, Power and Authority in Ancient India; Making sense of the Contradictions.

In March, Women's day was celebrated at the Madras Club with a morning of puppetry and dance. The Grand Finale was celebrated at ITC Grand Chola with a night of merriment and laughter, comedy and live music followed by a scrumptious dinner.

IWA trips are always a whirlwind, and this one to Rameswaram was no exception.

We started at Devipattinam and the Navagrahas where Lord Rama remedied the doshas in his astrological chart. That and the Durga temple nearby, at the spot where the goddess vanquished the wicked Mahishasura, were a good start to the trip. We had the darshan at the towering Ramanathaswamy temple and visited the 22 sacred wells where Lord Rama cleansed himself of the sin of killing the Brahmin, Ravana. The famed 1000 pillared corridors, said to be the longest in the world, actually has 1212 imposing granite pillars.

We visited the temple at the spot where Vibheeshan surrendered to Lord Rama and it also had some floating stones that were used to build the bridge to Lanka. We drove through a ravaged Dhanushkodi and whizzed past Dr Kalam's school and to the well-designed Dr Kalam memorial. An exciting stop on Pamban bridge flanked by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar.

Then on to one of the oldest mosques in India, which looks remarkably like a temple, an abiding testament to communal amity. And finally to a local women's college founded to empower local women, which we were delighted to note was proving true.

QUINTESSENTIAL VARANASI AND LUCKNOW

Despite security concerns in the Northern airports, 16 irrepressible women (and two brave men) headed to Lucknow and Varanasi to find our salvation in the holy waters of the Ganges and also embarked on a weavers and food trail that kept us asking for more!

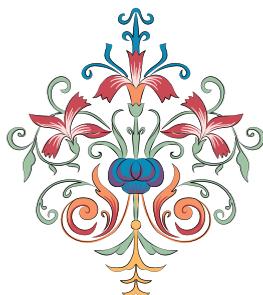
A visit to the Kotwara House, the heritage home of Raja Muzaffar Ali transported us back in time. A curated menu comprising of traditional Awadh food was memorable. The veggie trail, which I embraced, was at lunch time. Trawling through the old lanes and crumbling facades of labyrinthine Lucknow was a memorable vignette. In the Buddhist city of Sarnath, the museum had the original Ashoka Chakra and the monolithic lion emblem which is a part of our currency.



Varanasi can move one and make one misty-eyed... the boat rides on the Ganges at sunrise and sunset, the clean water, the 84 ghats which shone with their divinity, and the undimmed fervor and faith of the devotees was truly mesmerising.

We are grateful to the Lord and Lady Almighty for enabling a fun, eventful, dream trip.

- Usha Jawahar & Mahvash Sait



NIDHI KAPOOR THADANI - ANJALI SACHETI

2019 • 2020



Nothing could have prepared us for the whirlwind ride ahead when we started our year as Presidents in 2019-2020. Exhilarated at the idea of contributing to an organisation that is dear to our hearts, we were also incredibly nervous. Following in the footsteps of so many accomplished women was daunting. We had served on numerous committees and had the pleasure of learning first hand from many past Presidents. But no one told us how quickly the year goes by.

Our theme for the year was "Journey."

"Sometimes journeys take us to the far reaches of the world, and sometimes journeys take us around the corner, but many times the greatest journeys are the ones going on inside us."

Keeping this quote in mind, we charted many different kinds of meetings.

To journey to parts of "the far reaches of the world," our IWA trips transported us to historical Uzbekistan, lush Kabini, and royal Rajasthan. For journeys "around the corner," we took bus rides to ancient temples, enjoyed the Chennai Marghazi concerts, and took a guided stroll through the Theosophical Society. We even had a chance to explore the journeys inside us through our interactive zen-tangling and painting meetings.

We also wanted to highlight the journeys of our fellow IWA members. Our membership is such an immense resource, so we wanted to showcase the incredible stories of our friends. Every month we tried to arrange at least one member-led meeting.

We began meetings with a question of the day at the registration desk, to stimulate conversations and get to know one another better. The questions were topical, relevant to the meeting. At one meeting, we asked members about their favorite Indian flower. The answers sparked an interesting discussion about the types of Malli (Jasmine) available. Many were astounded to discover that there are 200 species of Jasmine around the world. The Gundu Malli proved to be an IWA favorite.

A fun feature of the meetings was our compulsive desire to dress in the color of our year. On the day of the meeting, we would don a yellow outfit. The challenge was to reuse our clothing to make it look fresh, so it would seem we had a different look for every meeting. We also loved photographing members wearing yellow to the meetings.

One of the most challenging aspects of the year was planning Board meetings. After 32 years of existence, it felt like IWA had done it all and done it well. Adhering to the framework set by our predecessors, we decided to infuse our meetings with current trends in popular culture.

So the welcome-back Fellowship was inspired by the concept of "speed dating," where people are trying to find a mate by getting to know them in a limited amount of time. We planned a morning of "Speed Greeting." The idea was to have brief chitchats with as many people as possible. We provided a list of questions for those who were at a loss about what to ask. All in all, it was an enjoyable laughter-filled morning.

At our "Dilwali Diwali," we imagined how the media would portray a modern-day Ramayana. Members of the Executive and Managing Committees acted in pre-recorded clips, designed to look like newsreel covering different moments, starting with a swayamvar and ending with the reconciliation of the husband and wife. Members generously contributed food for a pot-luck style meal which became an extravagant feast! In the Diwali bazaar, we added some game stalls. We encouraged members to bring their families, especially kids and grandkids, to partake in the festivities.

It was all about selfies and posting videos for our "Merry Little Christmas Party." After a performance of "The 12 Days of IWA Christmas" by our committee members, the camera frenzy began. Members scrambled to complete tasks that included videos of a dramatic goodbye to Frosty the Snowman as he melts, to photos of their naughty selves. There was also a requirement to perform a Christmassy song as a group. The hall was buzzing with laughter and singing as members enjoyed the holiday spirit.

A fitting finale for our theme was a virtual trip Around the World! Dressed as pilots and air-hostesses, our committee greeted members at the check-in counter and even provided some sweets during the "plane" ride. Using video footage sprinkled with live performances, we traveled the globe, taking in the sights and listening to the guided tour. There were ballerinas from Russia, Flamenco dancers from Spain, and drummers from Africa! After feasting our eyes and ears, we feasted on food from around the world. Members posed for photos in front of displays of famous landmarks of the world.

Who knew that this virtual tour would be the last that many of us would take for many months? The Grand Finale was the final event of our IWA year, before the AGM. The Covid 19 pandemic had arrived in India, so for safety reasons, we canceled the rest of our scheduled meetings, including the Endowment lecture, which was to take place later in the month. Due to lockdown, we postponed our AGM and had to wait until Government approval for an online AGM. We finally conducted it in December 2020. It was IWA's first foray into the era of the digital online world!

Throughout the year, we maintained a record of our meetings in a journal format. Replete with photographs and interesting tidbits, the journal had descriptions written by members who had attended the meetings. They served as a memento of the past year during the lockdown.

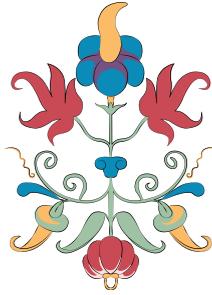


The pandemic changed so many things in the world, including IWA. But like our membership, our organisation is robust and will come out stronger on the other side. We are so thankful and proud to be a part of IWA.

Where one journey ends, another begins. Embrace the Journey!

- Nidhi Kapoor Thadani & Anjali Sacheti





JEYASREE RAVI - MANISHA SINGHEE

2020 • 2021



The year of 'Never Before's'.

March 15th, 2020, back when everything was still normal, and the Grand Finale marked another beautiful term coming to an end. It was a fabulous morning, but already friendly hugs had become suspect, and the era of fist bumps and elbow taps had begun. We could not have guessed how much more life was going to change.

Manisha and I were to take up the mantle of leadership in IWA in April 2020. Our Newsletter cover was ready for launch at the AGM, reflecting all the eight verticals of IWA. Our theme - Everything in a nutshell. "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." - Mahatma Gandhi

Our planner was ready. Our Managing and Executive committees, the spirit of IWA, were bursting with enthusiasm. The set-up for exciting events and speakers in June was in hand.

It was all coming beautifully together - when the whole world came to a halt. And so did IWA, for the very first time in history. Keeping calm in these unprecedented times, was a challenge. IWA membership is the most coveted thing in this city exactly because of the high benchmark, and we were determined to uphold that legacy, but getting started was the main issue.

Weeks flew by and then, months! It was the responsibility of Nidhi and Anjali to conclude their AGM, and hand over to Manisha and myself, but they were trapped by the strange circumstances and could not proceed. The AGM was scheduled for April, then July, then August, and still not held. There were frantic consultations and arrangements including Past President Nina Kothari, from whom help was sought and gratefully received. Bye laws had to be amended to suit the current times to allow the organisation to function online. There seemed to be so much to do before we could even get started.

Everyone seemed twice as busy, handling household chores, and with the entire family at home, on call 24/7. Manisha and I had all that too, plus several Zoom meetings with our team, never knowing if we would actually be put to the test. We learnt the nuances of conducting virtual meetings, holding multiple practice sessions with our teams. We had to learn quickly and become tech savvy.

We'd already missed Fellowship in June, and thought we could begin with Founders' Day in July, but that was alright - only two months lost, right? Wrong! We had to put our plans for our presidential year on hold, and wait for matters to be sorted. And the process took time, despite the help and support of many, and everyone

collaborating for a favourable outcome. The AGM was eventually held only in December, and at last, at last, IWA could go online, and restart in a completely new avatar.

For the first time ever, the IWA year began with Christmas, celebrated virtually with carols by Shilpa Natrajan, and pictures of celebrations from the early years of IWA, a nostalgic moment for many.

Our planned July events were rescheduled for January. Speakers were accommodating, but other things had to be completely refigured. Renewal forms, payment systems, newsletters, new contactless systems had to be devised for everything. On the other hand, we could have a Newsletter in full colour, and speakers from anywhere in the world.

Still, IWA is not just about meetings and learning. It's also about fellowship and camaraderie. We had to learn how to manage breakout rooms before meetings, where members could chat and catch up with each other. This social opportunity was well received and appreciated by members.

As we wanted to pack as much as we could into our few months, we decided to have one Board event every month. Christmas in December, Fellowship in January, Valentine's in February and Grand Finale in March, which was IWA's first three-day Grand Finale, spread across a week. Ukulele symphonies and light music by Shanay Shah, a Carnatic fusion concert by Sivaramakrishna Rao, and 6 different plays of Dramact by Nilakandan and his team.

Every speaker was picked with care. Every Activity meeting was perfectly curated. We had speakers from every corner of the world, which was something unique. But everything required practice, practice, practice.

We kept the Advisory Committee the busiest it has ever been. Everything was the first time, and we needed their expert advice. Our only ground event was the IWA elections. Under the able guidance of Asha Ram Mohan and with the warm hospitality of Vanitha Mudaliar, IWA elections were organised outdoors, another first, keeping safety norms in mind.

Being such a short presidential term, some members had graciously proposed we continue for another term, but both Manisha and I had other commitments and, some things cannot be changed, even during a pandemic. Even good things must come to an end. It was truly a memorable year. The happiest surprise was that our members, including many seniors, gracefully adapted to the new norms. Their cooperation and encouragement are something we will always be grateful for.

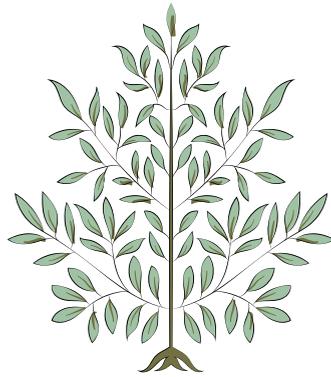


With much honour the mantle was handed over to Tehnaz and Shobha at the AGM and we took up the most esteemed positions in IWA – that of Past Presidents.

Though we knew we had been on board only for 4 months, it felt a lot longer. We learned a lot and it brought the whole team together and bonded us together as a unit.

A year that is bound to leave an impression. What more can one ask for? It has been a unique honour to serve IWA through this difficult period.

- Jayasree Ravi & Manisha Singhee



IWA TRAVELS & VIRTUAL TRAVELS
INTERNATIONAL



Greenland

Slovenia & Croatia

Venezuela

Peru & Brazil

Zimbabwe
& South Africa



Uzbekistan

Iran

Japan

Myanmar

Vietnam

 IWA trips  IWA virtual trips



TRAVEL

IWA INTERNATIONAL TRIPS



Vietnam (2014)



Myanmar (2012)



South Africa & Zimbabwe (2015)



Japan (2014)



South America (2016)





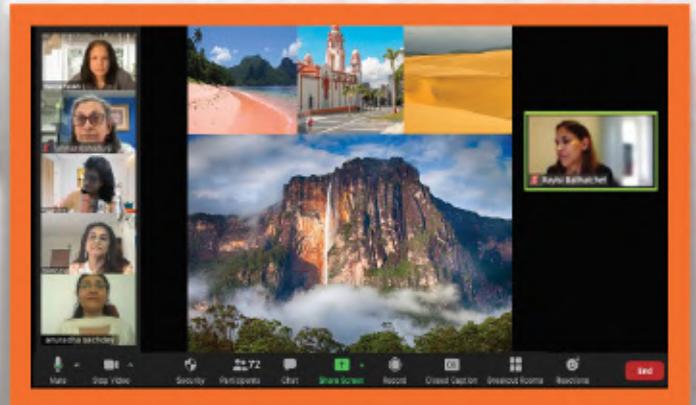
Croatia & Slovenia (2017)



Uzbekistan (2019)



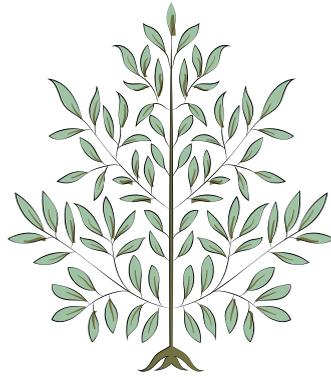
Iran (2021)



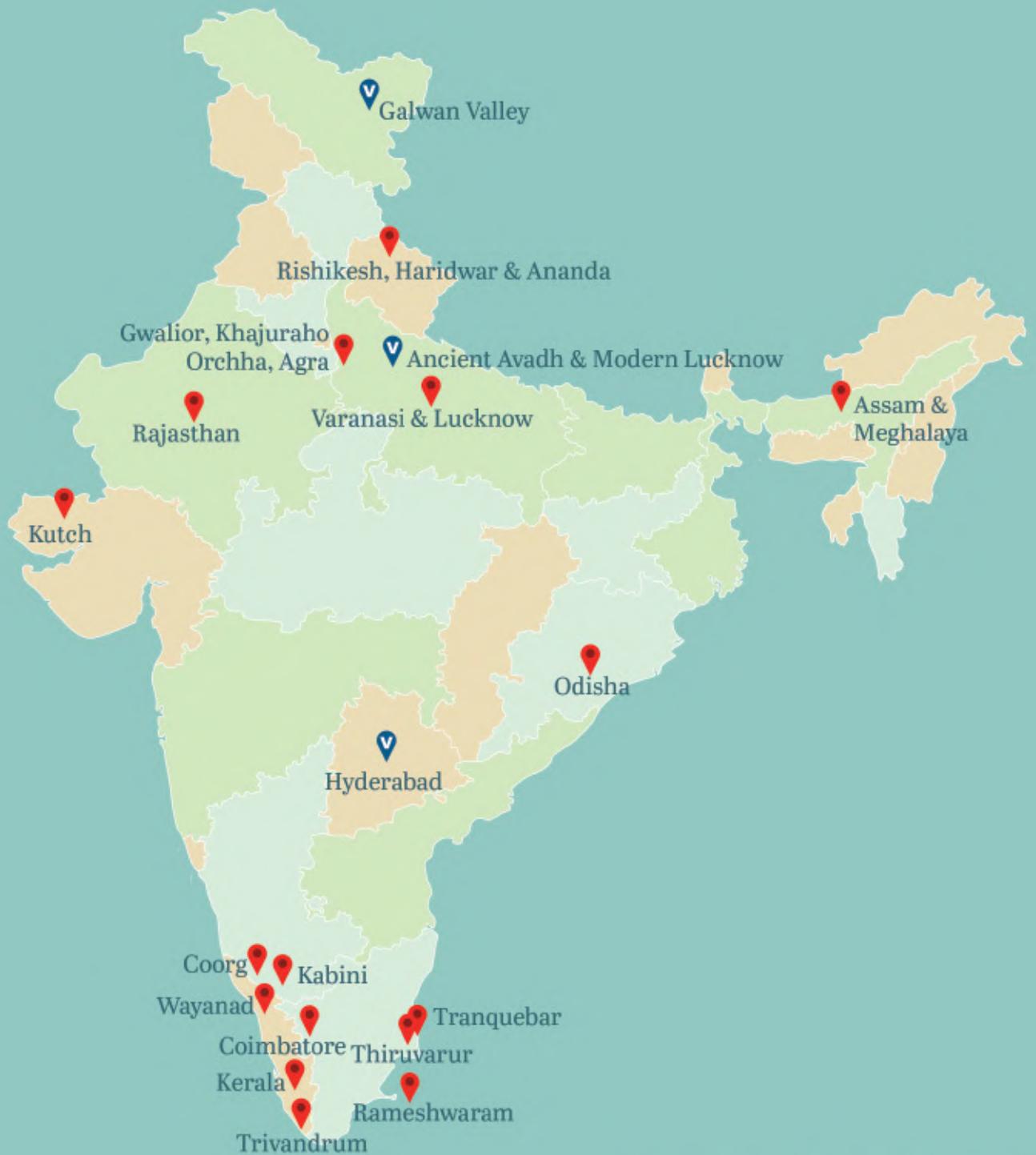
Venezuela (2022)



Greenland (2021)



IWA TRAVELS & VIRTUAL TRAVELS
NORTH & SOUTH INDIA



 IWA trips  IWA virtual trips

TRAVEL

IWA NORTH-INDIA TRIPS



Rishikesh (2012)



Kutch (2014)



Assam (2015)



Agra (2016)



Odisha (2017)





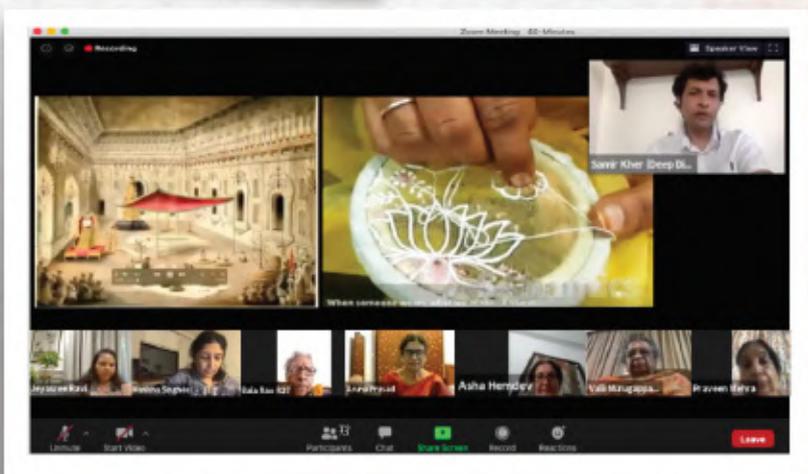
Lucknow (2018)



Rajasthan (2019)



Galwan Valley (2020)



Ancient Awadh & Modern Lucknow (2020)



TRAVEL

IWA SOUTH-INDIA TRIPS



Tranquebar (2012)



Banyan Tree Farmstay (2013)



Thiruvavur (2014)



Wayanad (2015)



Coorg (2016)



Kerala (2017)



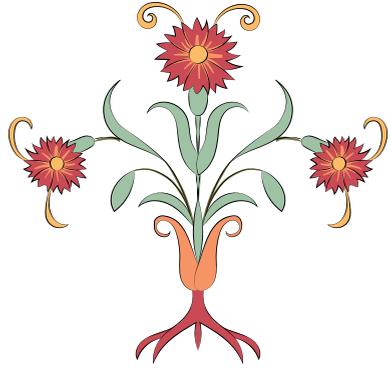
Rameshwaram (2018)



Kabini (2019)



Hyderabad (2021)



MUSIC DAY



MUSIC

DAY AWARDEES 2012-2021



OCTOBER 2012

Supraja V

Carnatic Vocalist | 16 years old



OCTOBER 2013

John Pettigrew

Western Classical Pianist | 16 years old



OCTOBER 2014

S Adithyanarayanan

Carnatic Music





OCTOBER 2015

Pooja Shree Rajagopalan

Carnatic Music Singer | 16 years old

OCTOBER 2016

Lydian Nadhaswaram

Western Classical Pianist | 10 years old



OCTOBER 2017

Karthik Iyer

Carnatic & Hindustani Music





OCTOBER 2018

Amirtha Varshini

Versatile Musician & Singer



OCTOBER 2019

Christina Beryl Edward

Vocalist | 12 years old

OCTOBER 2021

Anirudh Baiju

Western Classical Pianist | 10 years old

Young Anirudh mesmerized the audience with a **brilliant performance on the piano**. His fingers flew over the keys with such accuracy and speed, you could hardly see them.

He played **Etincelle** (by the German composer Moritz Moszkowski), **Le Coucou** (by the French Baroque composer Louis Claude Daquin), and **Jai Ho from Slumdog Millionaire** (by the ever popular Indian composer A R Rahman).





Every year IWA celebrates International Music Day on October 1, in remembrance of our Founder President Nirmal Seshadri, who was a great lover of music. In 2003, Nirmal's family instituted an annual award in her memory, for a deserving young musician, and IWA has recognized and rewarded much outstanding musical talent in our city, by means of it. The IWA Music Award is known in local musical circles as a lucky one to win, as recipients often go forward to win many more accolades.

In her lifetime, Nirmal brought many outstanding musicians to play for IWA, and she still continues to do so, even though she is no longer physically amongst us. We thank Mr Seshadri and his family for this wonderful gift to IWA, that continues to bring us joy through the years, and keeps our memories of Nirmal ever fresh.

“Where words fail, music speaks” - Hans Christian Anderson



ENDOWMENT LECTURES

OCTOBER 2013



*Dr Indira
Vishwanathan
Peterson*

Professor of Asian Studies, Mount Holyoke College, USA, spoke on **Serfoji II of Thanjavur, known for his innovations in Indian and European cultural forms, such as music, dance, education, medicine and printing.**

OCTOBER 2014



Dr G Maheshwari

Superintending Archaeologist, ASI, Chennai Circle, shared her **fantastic findings from an excavation in Kondapur, known as the Taxila of South India.**

OCTOBER 2015



Mrs Moortheeswari

Gave a fascinating insight into the **Different Types of Archaeological Museums in India and abroad**

OCTOBER 2016



*Dr Choodamani
Nandagopal*

Art historian, academic, author, member of UNESCO, propounded on the **Symbolism of the Sacred Space in Early Dravidian Literature.**

OCTOBER 2017



*Prof. K.
Ramasubramanian*

Historian of Indian Sciences, Sanskrit guru, Vedic teacher and Indian philosopher, he spoke on **The Ancient Science of Mathematics.**

OCTOBER 2018



*Dr Anarajith
Ramnath*

A historian of science, technology and business, gave a **Brief History of an Aspirational Profession - Engineering in India.**

OCTOBER 2019



Dr Upinder Singh

Illustrious historian, author, and the recipient of many awards, spoke on **Women, Power and Authority in Ancient India - Making Sense of the Contradictions.**

MARCH 2021



*Prof A R
Venkatachalapathy*

Historian, author, translator and bilingual writer, gave us a peek into the life of **Madhaviah's Daughter - the Lives of Tamil Women in the early 20th Century.**

AUGUST 2021



Dr Ramachandra Guha

Historian, writer, columnist, and public intellectual, spoke from his experience on **The Art and Craft of Historical Biography.** This was an entirely extempore lecture, with a wealth of personal detail and his own experience of writing historical biographies. Dr Guha mentioned in passing, diverse subjects of current relevance, which were of great interest to members.

ENDOWMENT LECTURES



ACTIVITIES



ARTS & HANDICRAFTS

Dr. Swarnamalya Ganesh - Nayak Era Art



IWA Members on Antiques



Kalakshetra on Weaving

BOOK DISCUSSION

CIRCE BOOK DESIGN by IWA MEMBERS



Mini Krishnan on translation

CURRENT EVENTS



Dr. Prithvi Mohandas on the Future of Healthcare



Shekar Dattatri on Wildlife Photography



U.S. Consul General Robert Burgess

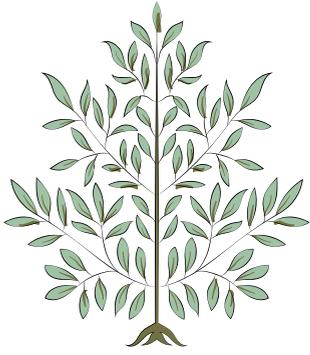


HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS



Global Tea Party

Onashamsakal at Aruna Vijaykumar's house



Anil Srinivasan on the Piano



IWA Members - My Fair Lady



Kiyomi Prasanna Tanaka on Bon Odori

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION



Ganesh Chaturthi at Leena Suryaprakash's home



IWA Member Tehnaz Bahadurji on Zoroastrianism



Janmashtami at Srikantha Jhaver's residence



EID celebration



BOARD EVENTS



FOUNDERS' DAY

2012 • 2021



Tribute to founders & Past Presidents

*Thirty five eventful years ago
When IWA didn't exist
Seven ladies bravely chose to fill
A gap that had been missed*

*These pioneers created an institution
An organisation we can all revere
So let today be a joyous occasion
Despite having been a heck of a year*

*Nirmal and Nancy were the first
To bear the presidential label
Nirmal was sweet and had long reach
And Nancy was efficient and able.*

*Saroja was a renowned master
At Ikebana and on her Veena
Anneliese, you couldn't get past 'er
Our accounts have never been keener*

*Reva compiled our first directory
Keeping records true and tight
Setting IWA on a stable trajectory
Ever marching to the golden light*

*We still have two of these fine women
Shining bright in IWA's skies
Lakshmi, with spirit always willing
And Sunita with her discerning eyes.*

*These founders built a house on rock
It's lasted strong for years
Spreading knowledge and fellowship
Through times of joy and fears*

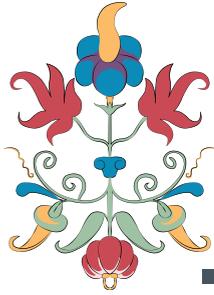
*New presidents take office every year
They all have their own special vision
And each does their very best
To ensure a smooth transition*

*They strive to fulfill these founding dreams
Of an organisation that stays bright
Renewing itself in every way
And doing what is right*

*Under their able guidance
IWA has matured and grown
Into this wonderful entity
We're proud to call our own*

*May this valiant spirit of IWA
Stay fresh for all of time
And take us through more sparkling years
Aging beautifully, like wine!*

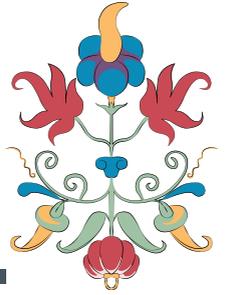
*The future stretches a long long way
IWA will always shine
We do our little bit today
And the rest, we leave to time.*



FELLOWSHIP

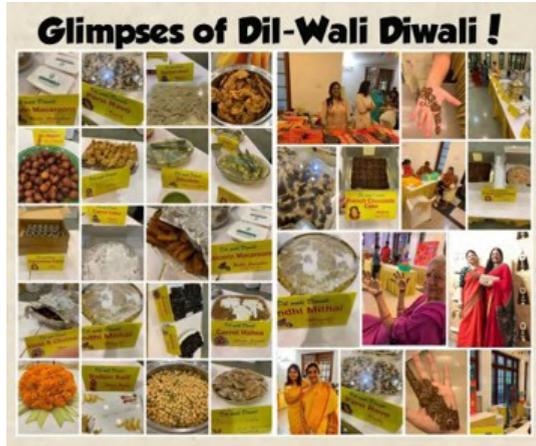
2012 • 2021





DIWALI

2012 • 2021





CHRISTMAS

2012 • 2021



Aivi Natesan

is a TedX speaker, teen-entrepreneur and the founder of Slime Space. She is also a self-taught origami. Her enterprising nature garners praise and recognition. Get playful with coloured papers and decorate your home with handmade origami models. (Psst... bragging rights included)

Christmas Origami essentials (Keep them handy)
square sheet of brown paper -18 cm.
5 square sheets of green paper.
(Sizes are: 12, 10, 8, 6, 4 cm.)
A rectangle strip of yellow paper of 1x20 cm to make the star for the tree.
(Don't worry about the size for this. Any strip of paper will do)

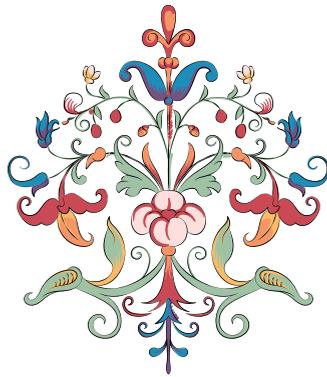




GRAND FINALE

2012 • 2021





WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IWA



IWA is a cornucopia of all good things - great bonhomie amongst members, love the group travels, and the meetings are so varied and absolutely interesting - we have learnt so much from IWA. Long live IWA
Rathi Nilakantan



IWA means friendship.
IWA brings India to one's door.
A one-stop call of cultural, topical and fun information, packaged under the leadership and companionship of presidents and chairpersons.
Maureen Hudson Murari



It is twenty-two years since I have been an active IWA member. What I like the most about IWA is there is - no bar on age - young and old mix. Together we join hands and participate in all events like one happy family.
Our trips are the most enjoyable and bonding.
Thank you IWA members.
Cherry Venkatesan.



Nancy Stemple invited me to attend IWA's 1st EC meeting in her house. She asked me to take over Health & Ecology and Philosophy & Religion together with Aruna. I had never met Aruna before, but we greeted each other and set to work.
When Nirmal discovered I was permanently in Madras, she asked me to keep the documents. I still have the papers from day 1, and have treasured them all these years.
Vanitha Mudaliar

I will be forever grateful to IWA for bringing out the best in me.
From public speaking, to singing, moving to poetry reading, it has helped me overcome my fears.
In the process I have met some of the most amazing women and learnt so much from them and the speakers over the years.
Not to forget all the fun and fellowship!
- Sheetal Parakh



At Hampi, when we were stuck in a traffic jam at night behind a huge number of trucks, I directed the driver to change lanes and go through the traffic, but he was Kannada and didn't understand me, so I asked him to move over and let me drive!!! Everyone had a good laugh, but I was serious
Vijaya Balu



2019, Sand Dunes Ride in Rajasthan desert. Alagu sandwiched in the middle seat - as the Jeep began shooting sharply down the tall dune, she shouted, 'I Can't do this, leave me out, I c a n n' t' and we zoomed down the silvery sands amidst her loud cries & screams!
She survived, pale and pink but with her smile intact - amazing unforgettable adrenaline flowing ride!!!
Princess Naik

Precious memories of our 2-year tenure in Cooking and Health, when families gave up, as Cherry and I worked hard. Exotic IWA trips - my first ship cruise in Egypt, Sri Lanka's ethereal beauty and lively music. Was horribly ill in Madhya Pradesh, when IWA became family with love, kindness, friendship and unity Pranaam IWA. ~ BEENA RAM MOHAN

Joining IWA was part of my bucket list. "It was an exclusive club" they said.

I don't quite agree. It's an inclusive club. Every member is special. Every member tries to include others in conversations, activities, celebrations, wishes, blessings and in their personal & professional lives. That's how love spreads and that's why I love IWA!

~ FHARZANA SIRAJ

For a non-Chennai girl, IWA opened up a whole new world for me - of new learnings, good lasting friendships, laughter and good cheer, and above all a continuously curious mind. IWA adds to my life in a holistic way - to the mind and the soul.

~ NINA KOTHARI

I LOVE IWA and it has been the best part of my Chennai life.

~ CAROLINE SATO
(Former Member)

For me IWA is all about the friendships that I have made during my association with IWA. I will continue to cherish them...

~ ARUNA VIJAYKUMAR



IWA to me, is...

about Sharing/Caring.

- Lalita Naidu

all about Versatility

- Mridula Srinivasan

like Therapy.

- Badrunnisa Mahadevan

is about Fellowship.

- Parvathi Nayar

is about Camaraderie!

- Lita Srinivasan

about Growth.

- Jaya Mahbubani

about a Sense of Community,
of people having your back.

- Priya Asokan

about Bonhomie!

- Roshan Poncha (Special Guest)

about Radiance!

- Nirupa Sundaravadanan

all about being Happy, just like
my happy paintings.

- Anjana Sunil



Fifty words! Even if one would give me five hundred, I wouldn't be able to describe the beautiful memories that IWA conjures up in my mind. And to say it in one word - I am still poring over Shashi Tharoor's 'Tharoorosaurus' for that apt word which would say it all.

~ FAZEELA NURDEEN

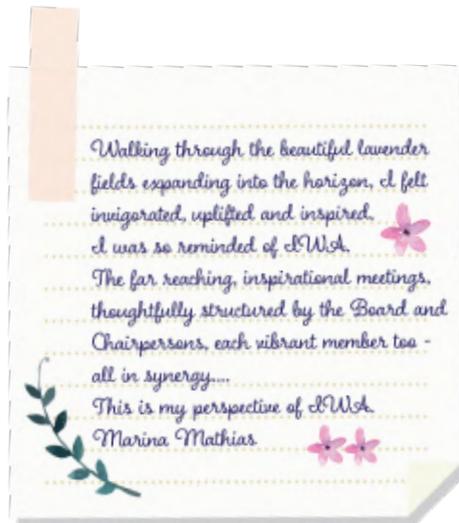
I love IWA and its members for their positivity, curiosity, generosity and warmth. The diversity and commitment of its members provide a special place for women of different backgrounds to share knowledge and wisdom, friendship and support. I am truly grateful for having been welcomed so warmly.

~ STEFANIE ANDRUCHOWITZ

I came from Bombay to a big family in Madras, but no friends. All my close friends today are people I met in IWA and who have contributed to my life and happiness in a big way. IWA has made Madras a wonderful experience. Thank you IWA.

~ NANDITHA KRISHNA

Maureen Murari was my roommate on an IWA trip to Gujarat and we celebrated every great day with glasses of red wine at bedtime. The sights were astoundingly beautiful, especially the Rabari villages with their enchanting children. Only six of us made the trek up the Shatrunjaya hill near Palitana to view the exquisite Jain temples there. The sight of a group of old, naked Digambara men was enough to make a young woman decide never to get married. ~ DEBBIE THIAGARAJAN



IWA experiences keeps us young at heart...never a dull moment.. learning amidst love and laughter. IWA truly holds a very special place in my heart, for I have grown with it, and grown with happy, treasured memories. I am grateful to IWA....thank you for having been a joyous part of my life
~ ALAGU MUTHU



I love IWA for its infinite variety, the limitless learning and warmth of friendship it offers, and that it continues to have the ability to create unanticipated pleasures.
~ TEHNAZ BAHADURJI

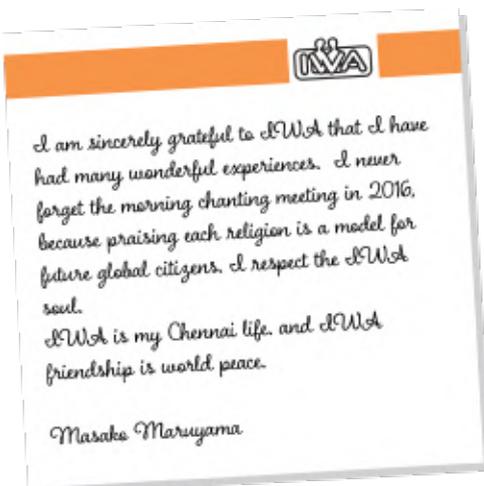


To me, IWA is about KNOWLEDGE IWA is like a Family, and members are warm & friendly. Committee members are open to all suggestions. Every meeting is a treasure house of knowledge. Thank you, dear IWA.
~ INDIRA SRINAGESH

The surreal experience of visiting the Treasury in Petra, at night. The winding path through rocks, standing sentinel for centuries, was illuminate with candles. It was a fairytale place, and I became one with the people who inhabited this Nabatean Kingdom!
Thank you IWA, for marking 'ticks' on so many travel destinations on my Bucket List!
~ RAMANI REDDY



Constantly being called "Avais" instead of "Nabila" by dear Lakshmi Padmanabhan. A Favorite IWA Memory Waking up @ unearthly 3am to reach Kalekshetra Beach @ 4am for our Sunrise Musings Meeting. Enchanting experience to witness the dark sky transform into the golden hues of glorious sunrise, the Bay Of Bengal till the horizon, the rhythmic chiming of hymns devotional music & dance - imprinted in my mind forever
~ NABILA AVAIS



Fun & friends
Eager to meet & greet
Lively & entertaining
Lovely all the way
Over the moon
Wonder trips
Surprises galore
Happy hugs
Inspiring & informative
Passionate about learning
& preserving friendship.
~ Darley Mathew



Traveling together with my IWA friends has been a joy I will always cherish. It opened my eyes to new sights, lands, people and cuisines - they are all etched in my heart forever. IWA is about camaraderie.

~ RAMA RAJAGOPALAN

To me, IWA is new learnings
 To me, IWA is new friendships
 To me, IWA is personal growth
 To me, IWA is fun & laughter
 To me, IWA is thinking out of the box.
 ~ Shefali Dadabhoy



My VIP transport in Rajasthan.
 ~ SUNITA SHAHANEY

I have to applaud the way the
 Pandemic has been handled with
 Zoom meetings.
 Long Live IWA!
 ~ CHANDRA PADMAMABHAN

Friends Forever
 As we go on, we remember
 All the times we had together
 And as our lives change, come whatever
 We will still be friends forever!
 Now there is you and me at home
 Talking on the telephone
 Thinking of the good old days
 And the memories we will cherish
 To me IWA is about friendship
 - Reena Verghese



We landed late night in Athens on an IWA trip, hungry and tired, but all nearby eating joints were shut. We frantically bought Greek yoghurt, collected our own food supplies - 125 theplas, bhaji, pulav, pickles. Somehow boiled our instant food packets in the electric kettles. It turned into our most enjoyable and memorable meal.

~ SEEMA BHARGAVA



MEMBERSHIP

“ The Strength of the Team is Each Individual Member.
The Strength of Each Member is the Team.



Alamelu Mangai



Suguna Anumolu



Nalini S Acharya



Urmilla Agarwal



Alagammai
Alagappan



Sulochana
Alexander



Nabila Avais



Rani Ananth



Meenakshi
Arunachalam



Zubeida Asgarali



Padma Ashok



Stefanie
Andruchowicz



Jennifer Ann
Macedo



Priya Asokan



Raylsi R.
Ballhatchet



Sherry D
Batliwala



Tehnaz Darius
Bahadurji



Mano
Bakthavatsalam



Vijaya
Balasubramaniam



Amita Bhatia



Latha Baratan



Farah Bangera



Anuradha
Bhasker



Seema Bhargava



Mansha Bhatia



Bimla Bhatla



Shalini Biswajit



Kala Bhashyam



Rekha Bhatla



Anita Bhatia



Rani Chada



Sarah Chanda



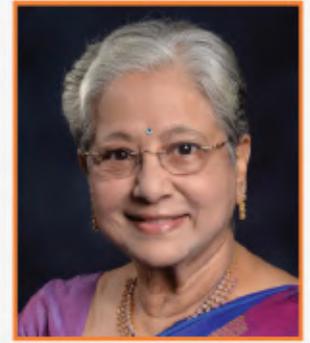
Usha
Chandrakumar



Gita
Chandrasekaran



Pushpa Chari



Prithika Chary



Nusret Cassam



Umayal
Chettyappan



Chandrika
Chidambaram



Sangeet Chopra



Rani Chandani



Dhun Dalal



Kashmira
Daruwala



Shefalii
Dadabhoy



Kaety Dalal



Rehane Yavar
Dhala



Meenakshi
Dhamija



Ritika Dhingra



Eira Doshi



Indira Dutt



Suma Eapen



Jessica Elias



Bharati N
Gopinath



Sanyukta Gill



Sushi Goklaney



Jyothi Ganesh



Padmaravathy
Gunashekar



Deepika Goyal



Deepali Goyal



Kanta Gupta



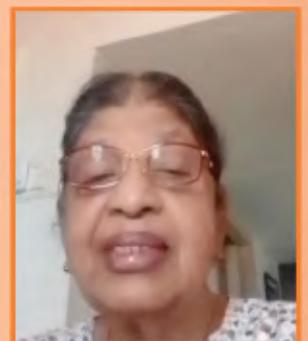
Shoba Hebbar



Asha Hemdev



Sherna Irani



Renuka Iswariah



Geetha Iyengar



Premila Jacob



Usha Jawahar



Renu Jalan



Shobha
Jesudasan



Srikanta Jhaver



Kausalya Devi
Apparao



Saranya
Jayakumar



Zainab
Kachwalla



Irina Kudina



Thayabae Kakar



Era Kalra



Brahada
Kameshwaran



Shanti
Karunakaran



Raheela Kareem



Sadiya Khaleel



Bela M Khaleeli



Jansi Kishore



Anita Koshy



Surekha Kothari



Malini Krishna



Nanditha
Krishna



Lalitha
Krishnan



Gayatri
Krishnaswami



Jasmine Kabrajee



Achu Kurian



Radhika
Krishnamohan



Susan Koshy



Anita Kapoor



Nina Kothari



Rita Lal



Koshu Lalchand



Chandra Lulla



Poonam Lalchand



Sukhee Lee



Pushpa
Lakshman



Badrunnisa
Mahadevan



Lily Madhok



Shobha G
Mahtani



Farida Majid



Jaya N
Mahbubani



Usha B Moorthy



Lakshmi Menon



Jayashree
Manradiar



Bina Mathew



Darley Mathew



Marina Mathias



Aseel Mathur



Bina Mathur



Minnie Mathan



Maya Mathew



Ann Mathew



Sindhura
Mommaneni



Sujaya Menon



Nirmal Mirza



Asha Mohan



Shweta
Mohapatra



Ambika Mammen



Archana
Meiyappan



Vanitha
Mudaliar



Maureen H
Murari



Meyyammai
Murugappan



Rashmi
Mohindra



Kamala Muthiah



Meena Muthiah



Seetha Muthiah



Alagu Muthu



Raksha N Mehta



Praveen Mehra



Bilkis Moosa



Lily Malhan



Cibi Mammenn



Rinku Mecheri



Asha Harish
Murthi



Thejomaye Menon



Masako
Maruyama



Parvathi Nayar



Lalita Naidu



Princess Naik



Mridula
Narasimhan



Meena Naru



Sabina Narayan



Sushila Natraj



Rathi
Nilakantan



Sharmilee Nielsen



Fazeela Nurdeen



Shanta
Narayanan



Sheetal Parakh



Chandra
Padmanabhan



Lakshmi
Padmanabhan



Urmila Devi
Prakash



Jaya Tambay
Patwardhan



Anupama Pasari



Aruna Prasad



Sucharitha
Prasad



Nalini Panday



Rama
Rajagopalan



Jayanti Rajaram



E. Rajeshwari



Beena
Ram Mohan



Deepa
Ramaprasad



Malathi
Ramachandran



Deepam
Ravindran



Swati Reddy



Visalakshi
Ramaswamy



Tulsi Reddy



Rekha Rangaraj



Nita Reddy



Catherine Reddy



Shyla K Rau



Latha Rajan



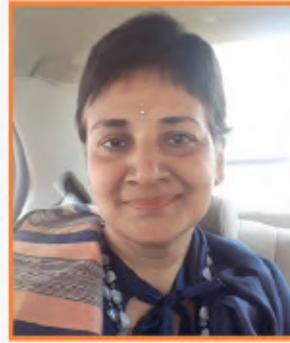
Anita Reddi



Vijaya B
Rangarajan



Parvathi Reddy



Shobana Reddy



Urmila Reddy



Sherien Ryan



Aasha L Reddy



Jeyasree Ravi



Preeya Reddy



Raji Ramesh



Ramani Reddy



Sharada Reddy



Amulya Rao



V. Kiran Rao



Vanitha
Rajkumar



Geeta
Rajagopalan



Asha Rammohan



Hemu Ramaiah



Rajini Reddy



Meera N
Raghavendra Rao



Rajni Sabherwal



Seema Sait



Renuka
Sabanayagam



Nandi Shah



Rajshri Sundrani



Neena Sanghavi



Mahvash Sait



Sheela K Sarath



Kausalya
Santhanam



Ritu Sahi



Naina Shah



Sheetal Shah



Sunita Shahaney



Daksha Sheth



Sheela Shetty



Vimal
Shivdasani



Veena B. Swamy



Vidya Gajapathi
Raju Singh



Kalpana
Sonthalia



Manisha Singhee



Usha Saravanan



Nandini
Srikanth



Mridula
Srinivasan



Bharathi Suresh



Devyani M Shah



Sabita Shetty



Sunanda
Sundaram



Chandra G. Seoni



Indira Srinagesh



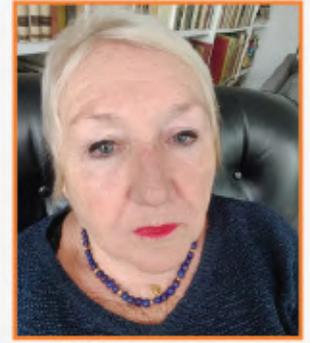
Padmini
Subramaniam



Anjana Sunil



Anuradha
Sachdev



Angelika
Schwering



Lita Srinivasan



Chandra Sankar



Somna Sachdev



Nirupa
Sundaravadanan



Banu Singh



Leena
Suryaprakash



Javanthi
Singaram



Fharzana Siraj



Anjali Sacheti



Sudha
Shivkumar



Maureen
Thadani



Shobana Thomas



Nidhi Kapoor
Thadani



Naaz Tyebbhoy



Debbie
Thiagarajan



Shanthi Thomas



Anuradha Uberoi



Usha Umapathi



Stina Vasu



Reena Verghese



Shanthi Verghese



Shirley Verghese



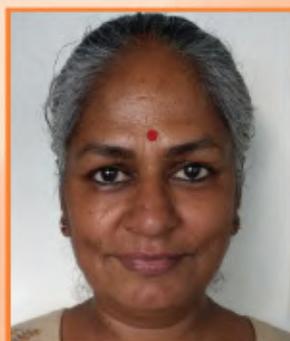
Aruna
Vijaykumar



Mallika
Venkataramani



Ranjani
Venkatraghavan



Gowri
Visvanathan



Lakshmi
Viswanathan



Cherry
Venkatesan



Geeta Vasudevan



Suchitra Girish (SG)

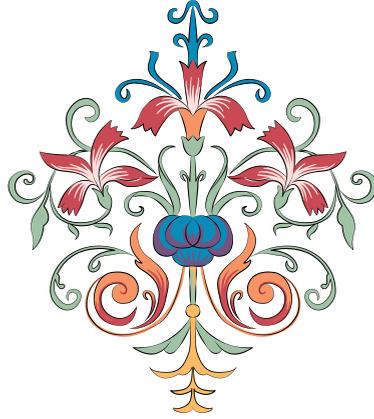


Priya Gopalen (SG)



Roshan Poncha (SG)

“ There are friends, There is family
And then there are friends that become family.



IN REMEMBRANCE

Mahmooda Haja Shareef

Anneliese Hazari

Shashi Malhotra • Kannamma Ranga Rao

Amala Emmanuel • Nalini Ramakrishnan

Margaret Sekhvan • Vidya Srinivasan

Prema Kumar • Jo Frogbrook

Meera Jayakar • Kamala Prasad

Dolly Prasad • Jatinder Bahl

Saroja Ramamrutham

Rupa Kadhiresan • Shobha Mujumdar

Jaya Menon • Bala Rao

Sabine Erlich Salaam • Linda Raymond

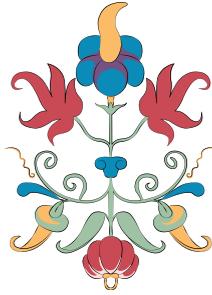
Nisha Sood • Sharda Khemka

Sylvie Wright • Valli Murugappan

“ Wherever a beautiful soul has been,
there is a trail of beautiful memories.



DISCOVER THE WORLDS WITHIN YOU
(2021-22)



TEHNAZ BAHADURJI - SHOBHA JESUDASAN

2021 • 2022



Seems just yesterday we were having manic practice sessions for our First Fellowship in June. Anjali set the perfect tone of seriousness and playfulness in our opening video, dancing gracefully, outdoors, to the classic song, What a Wonderful World. After that, quizzes, dances, story and poetry recitations as well as creation sessions, video packages of IWA memories and blessings, lighthearted games, Bollywood dhamakas, bagfuls of gifts, and the joy of discovery tempered by the warmth of friendship, have flooded our days.

Our Newsletter was not just digital with colour and images, all introduced previously, but looked more modern and youthful, fun and energetic, clearly playing up the vibrant Orange colour of our year, and the theme to Discover the Worlds Within Us. Credit for this transformation goes entirely to Sheetal Parakh and her elegant sense of design.

This was another paperless year. Many of us learnt new skills, and committee members especially, ramped up their

online expertise. This was part of our learning curve this year, and something we can all be proud of. It was wonderful that all members of all committees and sub-committees were totally on board with this. We conducted the entire process of applications for membership in IWA, online, meeting the applicants, and selecting three of them to join our ranks in the future. We are confident these young ladies will bring credit to the organisation.

Dr Ramachandra Guha charmed us at the Endowment lecture, with an extempore speech on the Art and Craft of writing Historical Biography. Young Anirudh Baiju mesmerized us on Music Day with a thrilling performance on the piano. Glenn McGrath, A B de Villiers and Virat Kohli wowed us at our Cricket Special with their personal and cricketing memories. We also conducted three exotic International Virtual Trips to Greenland, Iran, and Venezuela, and an India Trip, also Virtual, to historic Hyderabad.

Our Activity Chairs proved to be real heroines. Since this started as a Zoom year, we suggested they reach for the stars in terms of outstanding speakers. Have a crazy dream list, and go for it. The worst anyone could say, was no, we said. But most of the Speakers they approached said a resounding Yes. We found ourselves with an embarrassment of riches. Speakers whom we could not have had access to physically in Chennai, were willing to give us an hour of their digital time. We spilled this bounty gladly and joyfully into the laps of members, who rewarded our efforts with great attendance, and much kind praise and thanks.

The Managing Committee had their hands full with their usual responsibilities, but were always willing to accept the extra loads we piled on them. We need photos, get us video clips, make Past Presidents do funny things on

video, get write-ups, do research - they'd hide their groans and moans with a smile, say "Certainly" as sweetly as they could. Both MC and EC members cheerfully distributed IWA gifts too. The Discovery kit at the start of the year, the Christmas table runner and keychain, and apricots and cashews at the January Fellowship were declared excellent, elegant and eminently useful. Carefully curated, beautifully packed, and personally delivered, these gifts spread much happiness.

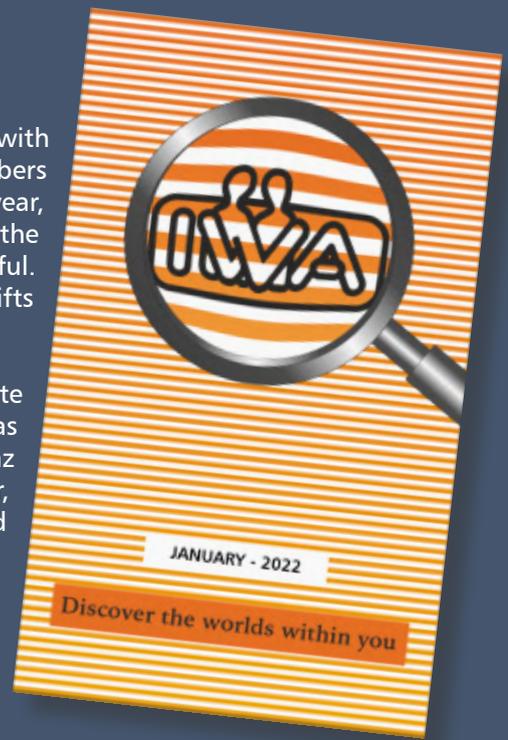
As if all these were not enough, the pressure to update the IWA website had been growing in the last few years, and we knew the Digital Year was the appropriate time to address the issue. Sheetal, Mangai and Tehnaz spearheaded this process, in connection with our very able Website Designer, Mr Kennedy. They retained the old website structure, but refreshed and brightened it, making it lively and interactive.

Our four subcommittees, Membership, Advisory, Music and Election, stood tall through the unique challenges thrown up by this digital year, and we were indeed fortunate to have the rampart of their guidance and advice. Past Presidents, who received many requests from our team for various inputs, were endlessly accommodating and supportive too.

We took Nina Kothari's suggestion to do an update of THE IWA STORY very nervously at first. But once we figured out what was needed, and decided it was manageable, we leant in to get it done, fully confident that with Sheetal's design talent in our back pocket, we could create something worthy. As always, the MC were our go-to-guys to get us our data. Getting it together was a Herculean task, involving progressive stages of requesting, cajoling, pleading, bullying and fake threatening, but members indulged our histrionics, and the result is in your hands now.

Grand Finale Month was another phenomenal landmark, with every meeting sparking utter delight. Distinguished speakers, each an inspiration in their work and in their lives. They represented IWA's 8 Activities in their genres, creating a unique and glorious monthlong parade celebrating Inspiring Women. And the splendid Grand Finale packed meal that was home delivered, added punch to the phrase, 'food for thought'.

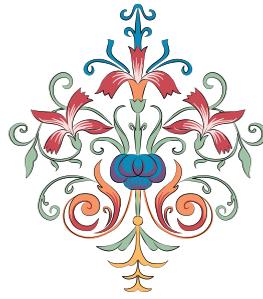
IWA Members have been the most powerful gust of wind beneath our wings, keeping us motivated, energised and determined to give our best. They adjusted to the digital meetings gamely, accepted our denial of physical meetings in the face of rising numbers, sometimes with disappointment, but always with understanding and support. And most importantly, they attended meetings, engaged enthusiastically, and generously sent in compliments and thanks. Attendance numbers are the surest marker, and ours were very rewarding.



As Presidents, we've been intimately involved in all these events, and we will forever be enriched by the learning and growing we've done in this action-packed year, and the friendships we have nurtured along the way.

We enjoyed discovering the wonderful worlds, within us and around us, and we hope we brought some wonder into your lives too.

Stay strong and stay smiling
Tehnaz Bahadurji & Shobha Jesudasan



THE TEAM

2021 • 2022

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



MANAGING COMMITTEE

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS



THE SUB-COMMITTEES



MUSIC COMMITTEE

Nabila Avais - *Chairperson*
Sujaya Menon
Sulochana Alexander
Urmilla Agarwal

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Tehnaz Bahadurji • Shobha Jesudasan
Jeyasree Ravi • Manisha Singhee
Sheetal Parakh • Mangai Kamal
Ritu Sahi • Sanyukta Gill
Sheetal Parakh
Jansi Kishore • Nina Kothari



ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Achu Kurian
Cherry Venkatesan
Nita Reddy
Usha Jawahar

ELECTION COMMITTEE

Achu Kurian - *Chairperson*
Kausalya Devi Apparao
Thejomaye Menon
Ann Mathew
Masako Maruyama





THANK YOU

Dear Jansi, Nina, Jeyasree & Manisha

The Membership Committee meets within the first week of the AGM, often on the day itself. The Presidents are still newborn, and it's a huge relief to know that there is someone here, who knows the ropes.

Selecting new members for IWA is such a responsibility. One prays one gets it right, and one's inductees will bring much variety and talent to IWA, and value it immensely as we do. Figuring out the systems for taking the process online is a meticulous job. The calm guidance and support of friends is a soothing balm that we can never appreciate enough.

Thank you for the clear thinking and wisdom you shared with us,

Tehnaz & Shobha

Dear Cherry, Nita, Achu & Usha Jawahar

Exactly how fantastic an institution the Advisory Committee is, is probably one of IWA's little-known secrets.

Presidents step nervously into the shoes of their predecessors, hoping that since they've climbed all the rungs, they will be equal to the task. Then they come up against the first nuanced dilemma. Not a black and white issue, but which shade of grey is the correct one. That's the time they send up a grateful prayer for the Wise Women sitting tidily in their phones in a WhatsApp chat.

And when they are approached, they are calm. They have solutions. They've been there. They help unstintingly. What a blessing it is to have them to turn to for every doubt, little or large.

Thank you for the many times you patiently answered all our queries.

Tehnaz & Shobha

Dear Nabila, Sujaya, Sulochana & Urmilla

It was a happy day for us when we requested the four of you to mastermind our Music Committee. Nabila has been a most able and resourceful Chairperson, guiding her team, and us, every step of the way. The Music Committee worked independently to devise and implement means of selecting a worthy candidate online, during the worst of the lockdown. The candidate you selected, young Anirudh Baiju, blew away IWA members with his phenomenal talent.

The Music Committee, mindful that this was a young child, and that the strange times should not rob him of the lustre of this special award, created a beautiful little Award Ceremony that Anirudh, his parents, his teachers, and all of us present, will always remember with pleasure.

Thank you for the many steps you went beyond just duty,

Tehnaz & Shobha

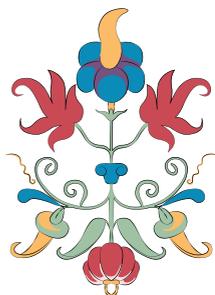
Dear Achu, Kausalya, Thejo, Ann and Masako

The Election Committee clicks into action quite late in the year. But such a responsible role. To select the next leaders of IWA. To put together the team that will lead the organisation onwards and upwards. To find the ladies who have served their time, learnt the ropes, been tested in escalating positions of authority, and shown that they are worthy to lead.

We worked with you, sharing the data you needed as you untangled the many threads to find a clear strong strand. It required patience and persistence and effort, but under the Chairmanship of Achu, you persevered to find the best solution for the future of IWA. It has been a lesson to watch and learn.

Thanks to all of you for your meticulous planning and attention to detail,

Tehnaz & Shobha



DISCOVER THE WORLDS WITHIN YOU

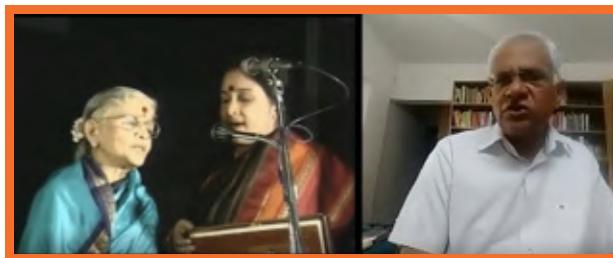
2021 • 2022



ARTS & HANDICRAFTS PARVATHI NAYAR

- June **Ashdeen Lilaowala** on *The Parsi Gara and other artistic and cultural symbols* (joint meeting with HCT)
- July **SG Vasudev** and **Navroze Contractor** on *SG Vasudev's artistic career*
- August **C P Satyajit** on his *Midlife Change of Artistic Career*
- October **Hafeez Contractor** on his *Life in Architecture*
- November **Dr Usha R Balakrishnan** on *Jewellery Traditions of India as seen in the CSMVS Museum, Mumbai* (pictured above)
- December **Jutta Jain-Neubauer** on *Stepwells in India*
- January **Bhooma Padmanabhan** on the *Chennai Photo Biennale*
- February **Giulia Ambrogi** on using *Street Art to convey social messages* (joint meeting with CE)
- April **Meera & Muzaffar Ali** on the *Convergence of Tradition & Fashion*

BOOK DISCUSSION SHANTHI THOMAS & KIRAN RAO



- June **Keshav Desiraju** (author) & **Sushila Ravindranath** on *A Gifted Voice, Book on M.S.Subbulakshmi* (pictured above)
- July **Anthony Good** (Author) and **Aruna Khanzada**, on *Kill, Redacted*
- August IWA Member **Maureen Hudson Murari** on *The Brontë sisters*
- September **Tina Seskis** (Author) and **Con Conlon**, on *How to Become A Successful Writer*
- October IWA Member **Jaya Mahbubani** (Poet/Author) and **Vinita Bimbhet**, on *Poetry in Pictures* and *Of Love and Companionship*
- November **Ranjitha Ashok** (Author) and **Anita Ratnam**, on *Half-a-Kilo Mixture*
- January **Jairam Ramesh** (Author) and **Mukund Padmanabhan**, on *The Light of Asia – The book that took Buddhism to the world*
- February **Nirupama Subramaniam** (Author) and **Bhavna Arya**, on *The Saravana Bhavan murder case – Murder on the Menu*
- April **Meera Rajagopalan** (Author), on *The Joys of Being a Tortoise*



DISCOVER THE WORLDS WITHIN YOU



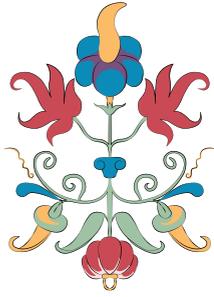
COOKING SWAPSHOP DEEPIKA GOYAL & MAHVASH SAIT

- June **Sita Pendurthi** on *Blended Smoothies*
August **Mahtangi Srinivasamurti** and **Meera Ramakrishnan** on *Traditional Cookware* (joint meeting with HCT)
August **Praveen Rajagopal** on *Gelatos*
September **Samia Sait** (IWA NextGen) on *The Perfect Flaky Croissant*
October **Karin Reiter** on *Bio Hacking our way to Good Health*
November **Kunal Vijayakar** on his *Experiences with food* (pictured above)
December **Payal Kapoor** on *Cooking without Looking*
February **Tanvi Bokaria** on *easy Avocado recipes*
April **Rohini Rana** on the *Royal Road to Culinary Delights*

CURRENT EVENTS KALPANA SONTHALIA CATHERINE REDDY



- July **Smriti Gupta** on *India's Adoption scenario*
July **Gurcharan Das** on *Making a Life, not just a Living* (pictured above)
August **Harish Bijoor** on *The Making of a Brand*
September **Neha Aggarwal** on *The Olympic Gold Quest*
September **Suhel Seth** on the *New Millennial – Grounded in India, Global in Nature*
October **Ishan Mishra** (with **VJ Bharadhwajan**) on *blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies*
November **Vanitha Mohan** on *Community Development Eco-activities in Coimbatore*
February **Giulia Ambrogi** on using *Street Art to convey social messages* (joint meeting with A&H)
February **The Pardiwala family** on *Getting Homeschooling Right* (joint meeting with H&E)
February **Allister D'Souza** on his *Award-winning film on aviation storage - Grounded*
April Former Ambassador **N Parthasarathi** on the *Russia-Ukraine crisis*



DISCOVER THE WORLDS WITHIN YOU

2021 • 2022



HEALTH & ECOLOGY

JASMINE KABRAJEE & SUKHEE LEE

June	Vikram Kannan on <i>Music Therapy</i>
July	Yatendra Agarwal on <i>Low Cost Eco-friendly Solutions</i>
August	Prashant Gade on <i>Prosthetic Arms</i> (pictured above)
September	Dr. Supraja Dharini on <i>Sea Turtle Conservation</i>
October	Zinobia Mody and Meeta Rangaswami on <i>EFT – Emotional Freedom Technique</i>
November	Sarath Champati on the <i>Project to Reintroduce the Cheetah in India</i>
December	Gulnar Adenwalla on her <i>ringside seat to pioneering Cleft Palate surgery</i>
January	Dr R V Ramani on <i>Free and Low Cost Eyecare across Rural India</i>
February	The Pardiwala family on <i>Getting Homeschooling Right</i> (joint meeting with CE)
April	Prasiddhi Singh (age 9 years) on her <i>passion for Tree Planting</i>

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS

ANURADHA SACHDEV

RAYLSI R BALLHATCHET



June	Ashdeen Lilaowala on <i>The Parsi Gara and other artistic and cultural symbols</i> (joint meeting with A&H) (pictured above)
July	Bharat V Epur on <i>The Origins of Freemasonry in India</i>
August	Mahtangi Srinivasamurti and Meera Ramakrishnan on <i>Traditional Cookware</i> (joint with CS)
	Dr. Ramachandra Guha on <i>The Art and Craft of Historical Biography</i>
September	Viraj Singh (IWA NextGen) on <i>Silent Snow – his movie on the Slow Poisoning of the Arctic</i>
October	Jayanti Rajagopalan - a <i>Virtual Tour of Historic Hyderabad</i>
November	Hormazd Sorabjee on a <i>Virtual Driving Tour of Persia</i>
December	Monisha Ahmed on <i>The Pashmina Trail in Ladakh</i>
February	IWA Member Raylsi Ballhatchet - a <i>Virtual Tour of her home country – Venezuela</i>
April	Susan Thottan Athi on <i>A World Tour of the History of Art</i>



DISCOVER THE WORLDS WITHIN YOU



MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

SADIYA KHALEEL

RENUKA SABANAYAGAM

- July **Ganjong Deoghar, Himalayan Tibetan Performing Arts** on *Tibet's vibrant dance culture*. (pictured above)
- August **Priya Krishnadas** on *Mohiniyattam*
- September **Sachin Das** on *Musee Musicals, A Musical Landmark of Chennai*
- October **Tani Gill** (IWA NextGen) on her *Passion to be a Dancer*
- November **Viji Krishnan** and **Ramanathan Iyer** on *The Legendary Violin Maestro, T.N.Krishnan*
- December **Sifu George Thomas** on *Tai Chi – Meditation in motion*
- February **Jigyasa Giri** on *The Significance of the Navarasas in Everyday Life*
- April **Pratika Gopinath** with a *performance of light Western Music*

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

JYOTHI GANESH

DEBBIE THIAGARAJAN



- June **Dr. D.K.Hari** and **Hema Hari** on *The Search for the historical Krishna*
- July **Dr Hanne de Bruin** on *Kattaikkuttu, theatrical Tamil art form that enacts the Mahabharat*
- August **S Anwar** on a *Panoramic view of Islam in South India*
- September **Dr. Uma Shankar** on the continued *relevance of Buddhism in India today*.
- October **Alarmel Valli** on her *Inward Journey through Dance* (pictured above)
- November **Zia Mody** on *Understanding the Baha'i Faith*
- January **Princess Aswathi Thirunal Gowri Lakshmi Bayi** on the *Thiruvananthapuram Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple*
- February **Dr Samuel Sudananda** on the portrayal of *Ethics in the ancient Tamil poem Tolkappiyam*
- April **Didem Atahan-Fabig** on the *importance of Cross-Cultural sensitivity*



IWA BOARD EVENTS 2021 - 2022



FELLOWSHIP FIRST



We started this year on a hope and a prayer - that our members stay healthy and well, that we keep them engaged and entertained, and that their knowledge and friendship continue to grow. **Anjali's beautiful dance to the song What a Wonderful World**, sounded the perfect opening note. Three **new members, Suguna, Rajshri and Raylsi introduced themselves**. We played a **Discovery game of Know your Newsletter** in Breakout rooms. And the event closed with an **evocative rendition of Maitreem Bhajatha**. Members were happy to receive a **Discovery kit** containing a Magnifying glass, symbol of the year's focus on discovery, a measuring tape, a compass, and personalized IWA notepad and pencils.

IWA CRICKET SPECIAL

BOARD EVENT

In the month of August, IWA had a very unusual Special Event, **Around the World with Cricket**, featuring one-on-one interviews with cricketing stars across the world.



VIRAT KOHLI (India), A B DE VILLIERS (South Africa) & GLENN MCGRATH (Australia)

This was only possible through the **kindness of Ambika Mammen and Team MRF**, who masterminded the process of contacting these cricketing giants. To have personal interviews with these legends, asking questions that had relevance for IWA members, to get a small inside look into their private lives, their families and children, and what they treasure, and to discover that we have this in common with them, that they too value their families the most in the whole world - made this a very special occasion.

For us, Shobha and Tehnaz, the added bonus was that our husbands and sons looked at us in shock and awe - **you're interviewing WHOM, Mum?** Truly, IWA offers many previously unknown pleasures.



FOUNDERS' DAY



Unscramble to reveal the name

- a ILARMN EHRASDI
- b CNYAN ENAD



NIRMAL SESHADRI
NANCY DEAN

FOUNDER PRESIDENTS



This event began and ended with small video clip - To All the Girls we've Loved Before. Chandra and Sherry read out a specially written poem about IWA's magnificent 7 Founders and the parade of Past Presidents, and their incalculable contribution to this organisation. This was accompanied by a photo montage. There were messages of goodwill and blessings from Sunita and Lakshmi. The Breakout room games involved solving puzzles of scrambled Past Presidents' names. The main entertainment was provided by some Past Presidents, sharing little personal secrets and foibles, singing snatches of nursery rhymes, and revealing their first, and in many cases, lifelong crushes. Past Presidents received gifts of Personalised paperweights with their name and Presidential year, and a traveling phone or tablet stand.

BLOCKBUSTER DIWALI



The story goes...

It was a large party, and I was my father's hostess that evening, moving from one cluster of guests to another, smiling, welcoming, chatting. My eyes stayed alert to all arrangements, so I would not have expected to miss the entrance of any guest. Yet somehow I did. And found myself up against a manly chest. As my eyes rose and rose and rose to meet his eyes, the hair on my arms tingled...



IWA Diwali celebrations were auspiciously inaugurated by Surekha's profound exposition of the esoteric meaning of the Ramayan story and how it related to us all. Then the Ramayan story was beautifully recited again by Farah and Nidhi, accompanied by nostalgic Bollywood songs through the ages. Everyone's favourite actor, actress, singer or song got a mention, and members thoroughly enjoyed the interlude. In the Breakout rooms, members played their own story creation game, revealing a strongly entrenched streak of romanticism. The celebrations ended with a video package of blessings, stories and good wishes from members. Much fun was had by all.

A CRACKER OF A CHRISTMAS



Members of the Managing and Executive Committes displayed the joyful spirit of Christmas as they danced to the tunes of the popular Christmas song, Jerusalem. Two short stories were read by Shefalii, Sabina and Sheetal, and a bunch of childhood letters to Santa by Ambika, Reena, Jennifer, Stefanie, Sherna and Badrunnisa. Kaizad Gherda and his magnificent voice entertained us with three peppy Christmas songs. In the Breakout rooms, members played a Discovery game of a Christmas quiz with lots of delightful trivia learning. Messages of goodwill and Christmas cheer concluded the event. Members loved the Christmas gifts of a silver or gold table runner and a hand-crocheted Christamassy keychain. It was an afternoon packed with pleasure.



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WELCOME BACK FELLOWSHIP

New Member Irina introduced herself. Vice-Presidents Sheetal and Mangai mounted a mock insurrection against Tehnaz and Shobha, in a quiz spoof, that startled members, but then made them laugh. 'Twas the month after Christmas, so Cherry and Deepali shared their woes about the after effects of too much good food. And members released their inner poet and wrote flowing poetry about their love for IWA. The morning ended with a video chain of IWA memories strung across the popular song With a Little Help from my Friends.





GRAND FINALE MONTH

BOARD EVENTS

March 8 is **International Women's Day**, and we decided to add to these celebrations by projecting the whole of **March** as a month to celebrate **inspiring women, to learn from them, to recognise their journeys, and to acknowledge their achievements.**

Zoom gave us an opportunity to reach across the world, and seek out speakers everywhere, but we did not omit to look in our own backyard, and Chennai women feature in this Honour Parade too. March became a month-long parade of **Inspiring Women, showing their power, but also their softness, their IQ, but also their EQ, what makes them great role models, but also, just like us.**

We added some small **spots of typical IWA entertainment, quizzes for learning, and comedy sketches for laughter and fellowship.** Usha B Moorthy presented a hilarious poem and IWA Special Guest **Roshan Poncha** performed a mini-mime, both dedicated to men, and MC members **Ritu, Sanyukta, Swati and Deepali** showed us just how wrong things can go on Zoom.

The first half of the month was further brightened by a **packed snackbox, prepared by Eden Restaurant, and home-delivered** for members to enjoy in safety and comfort. In the second half of the month, in a brief lull in the furious pace of event meetings, there arrived **the last of our gift packages for the year, The IWA Story - The Next 10 Years,** the very book you are holding right now.



Arts & Handicrafts

Kavita Singh
Colour me a Rainbow



*Chitra Banerjee
Divakaruni*
Destiny's Child



Book Discussion



Cooking Swapshop

Reva K Singh
Beaucoup de vin,
s'il vous plaît



Letika Saran
The Indomitable Spirit
of a Top Cop

NEW
NEW
NEW
Current Events
NEW



Health & Ecology

Dr. Uma Nambiar
Angel in a White Coat



Ameeta Mehra
A Jewel in the Crown

History, Culture & Tours



Shanmukhapriya & Haripriya with Sukanya Sankar

Double the Harmony,
Double the Joy



Philosophy and Religion

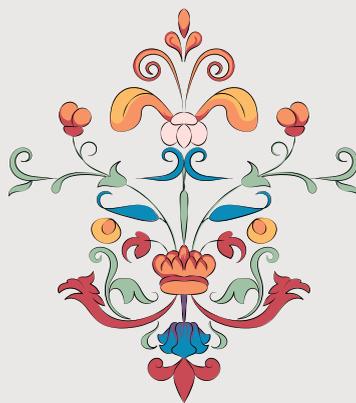
The Rise & Rise of Sara Mathew



Grand Finale month snack box.

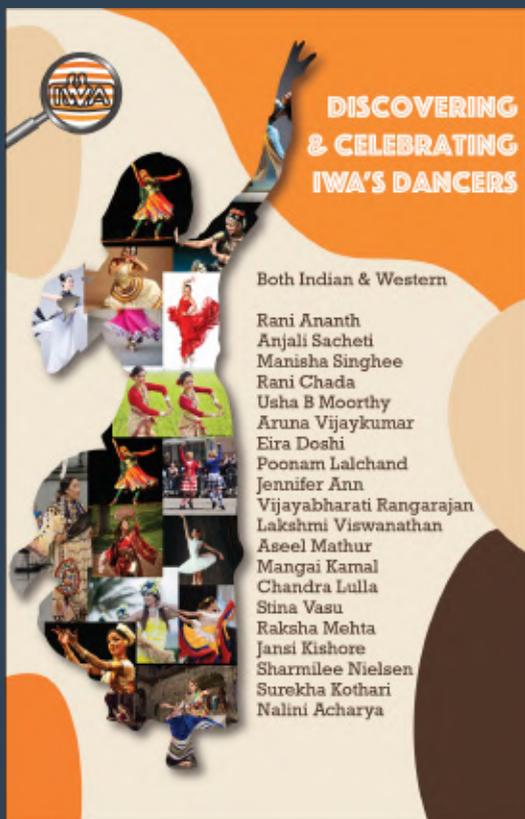


Taking The IWA Story forward into the next decade



Furthering our theme of discovery for the year, we chose to discover the hidden talents of our own IWA members. To learn things about them that may not be so well known. That they are authors, dancers, designers, medical professionals, fitness enthusiasts, gardeners and artists. And to celebrate these talents amongst our membership. Here's a selection of some of the year's Discovery posters, beautifully designed by Sheetal.

DISCOVERING AND CELEBRATING IWA'S MANY TALENTS



DISCOVERING & CELEBRATING IWA'S DANCERS

Both Indian & Western

Rani Ananth
Anjali Sacheti
Manisha Singhee
Rani Chada
Usha B Moorthy
Aruna Vijaykumar
Eira Doshi
Poonam Lalchand
Jennifer Ann
Vijayabharati Rangarajan
Lakshmi Viswanathan
Aseel Mathur
Mangai Kamal
Chandra Lulla
Stina Vasu
Raksha Mehta
Jansi Kishore
Sharmilee Nielsen
Surekha Kothari
Nalini Acharya

DISCOVERING & CELEBRATING IWA'S PUBLISHED AUTHORS

Lakshmi Viswanathan WOMEN OF PRIDE - DEVADASI HERITAGE	Meyyammai Murugappan Visalakshi Ramaswamy THE CHETTINAD COOKBOOK
Chandra Padmanabhan SIMPLY SOUTH	Geeta Vasudevan THE ROYAL TEMPLE OF RAJARAJA
Jyothi Ganesh SAMARPANAM - AN OFFERING OF POEMS	Jaya Mahubani POETRY IN PICTURES
Achu Kurian CAKES, DESSERTS & MORE	Nanditha Krishna SACRED PLANTS OF INDIA
Vidya Singh PERU & BOLIVIA ADVENTURE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD	Seetha Muthiah FLAVOURS OF CHETTINAD
	Anuradha Uberoi CHENNAI BREW




DISCOVERING & CELEBRATING IWA'S INTERIOR DESIGNERS & STYLISTS

Malini Krishna
INTERIOR DESIGNER

Sharmilee Nielsen
FURNITURE DESIGNER

Kiran Rao
INTERIOR STYLIST

Sunita Shahaney
INTERIOR DESIGNER

Kalpana Sonthalia
DEITY DRESS DESIGNER

Sheetal Shah
ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS

Padma Ashok
STAINED GLASS DESIGNER

Kashmira Daruwala
FENG SHUI CONSULTANT

Geeta Rajagopalan
FENG SHUI CONSULTANT

Aseel Mathur
INTERIOR DESIGNER

DISCOVERING & CELEBRATING IWA'S HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan
DENTAL SURGERY

Amulya Rao
GENERAL MEDICINE

Prithika Chary
NEUROLOGY | NEUROSURGERY
EPILEPTOLOGY

Nirupa Sundaravadanan
GENERAL MEDICINE

Minnie Mathan
GASTROINTESTINAL PATHOLOGY
ELECTRON MICROSCOPY

Shanti Karunakaran
PSYCHIATRY

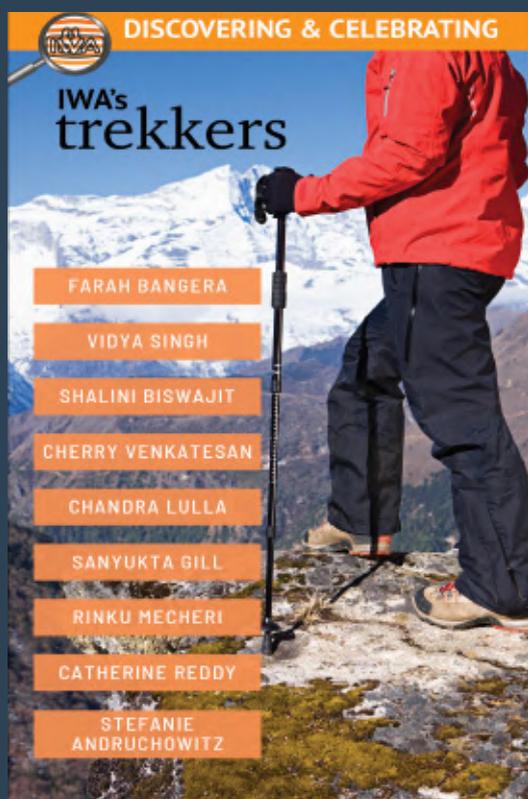
Mahvash Sait
SPEECH LANGUAGE THERAPY

Cibi Mammen
DENTISTRY

Veena B Swamy
PAEDIATRICS



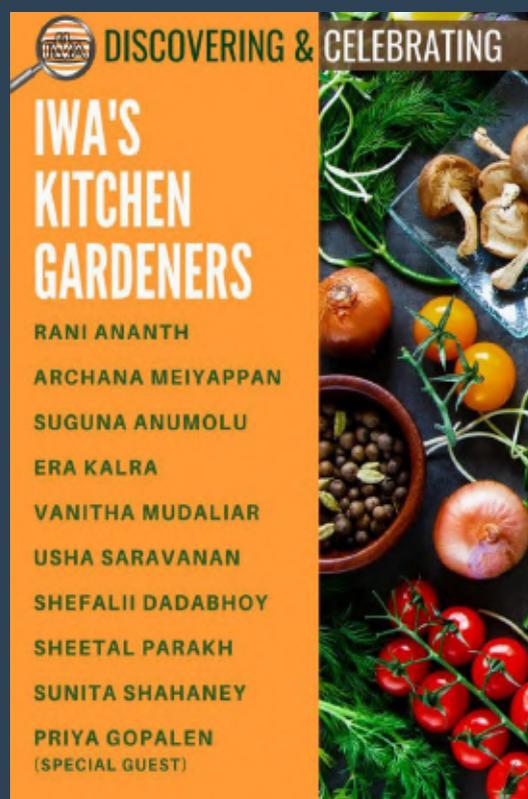
DISCOVERING AND CELEBRATING IWA'S MANY TALENTS



DISCOVERING & CELEBRATING

IWA's trekkers

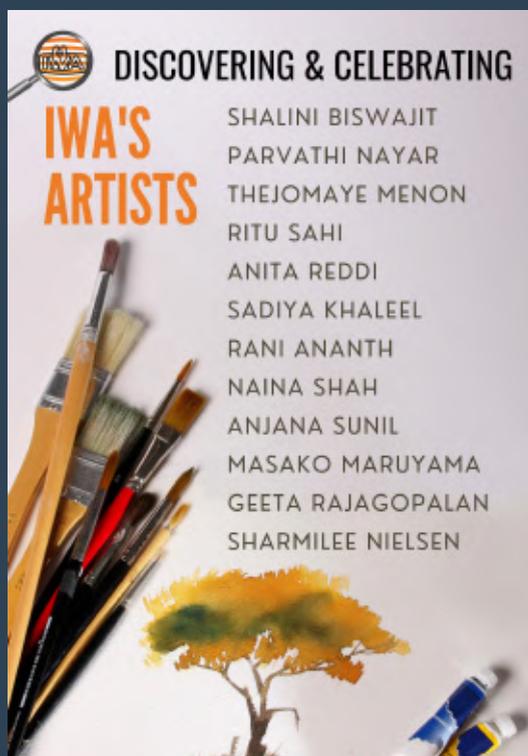
- FARAH BANGERA
- VIDYA SINGH
- SHALINI BISWAJIT
- CHERRY VENKATESAN
- CHANDRA LULLA
- SANYUKTA GILL
- RINKU MECHERI
- CATHERINE REDDY
- STEFANIE ANDRUCHOWITZ



DISCOVERING & CELEBRATING

IWA'S KITCHEN GARDENERS

- RANI ANANTH
- ARCHANA MEIYAPPAN
- SUGUNA ANUMOLU
- ERA KALRA
- VANITHA MUDALIAR
- USHA SARAVANAN
- SHEFALII DADABHOY
- SHEETAL PARAKH
- SUNITA SHAHANEY
- PRIYA GOPALEN (SPECIAL GUEST)



DISCOVERING & CELEBRATING

IWA'S ARTISTS

- SHALINI BISWAJIT
- PARVATHI NAYAR
- THEJOMAYE MENON
- RITU SAHI
- ANITA REDDI
- SADIYA KHALEEL
- RANI ANANTH
- NAINA SHAH
- ANJANA SUNIL
- MASAKO MARUYAMA
- GEETA RAJAGOPALAN
- SHARMILEE NIELSEN

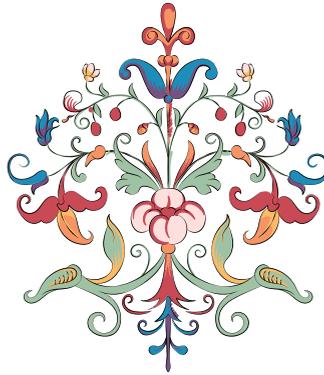


DISCOVERING & CELEBRATING

IWA'S DESIGNERS

- GRAPHIC & BOOK DESIGNER
Sheetal Parakh
- DRESS DESIGNERS
Anita Reddi
Usha Umapathi
Rehane Yavar Dhala
- JEWELLERY DESIGNER
Nalini Panday
- TERRACOTTA & FABRIC DESIGNER
Rani Ananth
- SAREE DESIGNERS
Suguna Anumolu
Padmavathy Gunasekaran
- KANJEEVARAM SAREE DESIGNER
Jeyasree Ravi

DESIGN IS
THINKING
MADE VISUAL



THANK YOU

Dear Vanitha

This is a small note to say a big THANK YOU.

Over the years, you have generously provided safe shelter for a growing number of IWA cupboards in your corridor. They house all our precious documents and photos, and the records of the 35 years this organisation has grown from strength to strength.

Your office premises are also our Registered Office, and we have our Elections there, and all IWA Election officials, and everyone else who come poking in the Archives, know how kindly you press your personal hospitality on us

IWA's bountiful thanks, dear Vanitha, and best wishes from IWA to you, as we know your best wishes are always with us.

Stay strong & stay smiling
Tehnaz & Shobha

Dear Rani Ananth

For many long years you shouldered the responsibility of maintaining and updating the IWA blog. And in the last few years, you additionally took up the liaison work for the website, ensuring the Newsletters were uploaded. We deeply appreciate that you have been doing these tasks so consistently all these years.

Many thanks for this yeoman service to IWA, Rani, and best wishes from IWA to you, as we know your best wishes are always with us.

Stay strong & stay smiling
Tehnaz & Shobha

Dear Nina and Cherry

10 years ago, you created a permanent space for IWA in the digital firmament, with the creation of our very own IWA website. It has every Newsletter through the years, the Archives, a wealth of detail about IWA, its 8 Activities, and names of distinguished speakers who shared their knowledge and skills with us. It is our privilege to update and refresh this website after a sterling run of 10 years, retaining its essential character, and modernising only where required.

The IWA Story that you chronicled and shared with all members, is a beautiful recap of the first 25 tumultuous years of our treasured organisation. This book, *The IWA Story - The Next 10 Years*, builds on that story and keep the chronicle updated.

Our thanks for these wonderful gifts to IWA, Nina and Cherry, and best wishes from IWA to you both, as we know your best wishes are always with us.

Stay strong & stay smiling
Tehnaz & Shobha

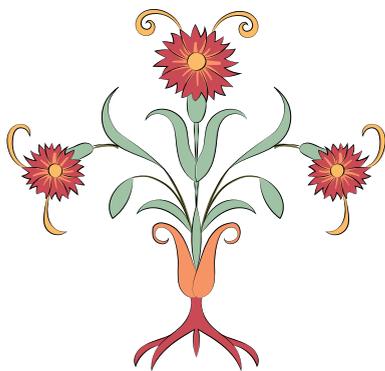
Dear Jeyasree and Manisha

The two of you took up the reins of IWA in one of the most difficult periods of its history. Your 'year' lasted just a brief 4 months, but in that short time, you pulled our beloved organisation, resisting and wildly protesting, into the 21st Century, and you will always be remembered for that.

IWA went completely digital under your watch. All meetings went online - systems and modalities had to be formulated to make them efficient and user-friendly. The Newsletter, of which we already had a digital version, went completely online. Not a single scrap of paper passed through IWA under your guardianship, preferring emails and WhatsApp as means of communication.

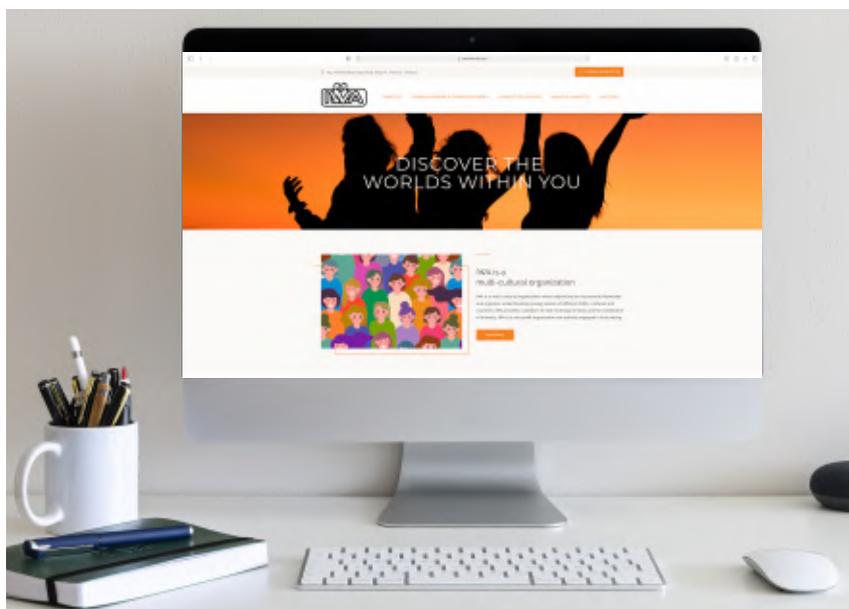
IWA's thanks for your calm hands on the tiller in those choppy seas, Jeyasree and Manisha, and best wishes from IWA to you both, as we know your best wishes are always with us.

Stay strong & stay smiling
Tehnaz & Shobha



WEBSITE

For the last few years, we have been hearing rumbles from our Website Designer, that our **website platform needed to be upgraded**. Then he would go into technicalities, and none of us understood a word of what he was saying, so we pushed the task off for another day. So when we inherited the situation, it had reached the urgent stage. And this was a Digital Year, so it was right that this issue be addressed now. So two young ones, **Sheetal and Mangai**, were seconded to the job, along with Tehnaz. And they saw it through in style. **All the earlier data, plus colour, vibrancy, interactive layout and a bit of youthful pizzaz.**





IWA BOOK TEAM



Nina suggested that 10 years was a good interval at which to do a Part 2 on the IWA Story book, and frankly, we balked. What a mammoth task! But when we looked at it again, and broke down the task, section by section it seemed more manageable. Nina kept a maternalistic eye on us, guiding and encouraging us on the way. Ritu, Deepali, Mangai, Swati and Sanyukta worked on getting Presidential write-ups and photos for the past nine years. Shobha co-ordinated the updated Founder member section. Tehnaz provided text wherever needed and Mangai and Ritu were the primary proofreaders. Members sent in contributions for the What I Love About IWA section. And Sheetal was the Design Supremo.



Thanks & Acknowledgements

So many to thank for this Book you hold in your hands, where does one start? In the words of the song, Let's start at the very beginning.

If **Nina Kothari** had not casually suggested a Part II to The IWA Story published originally in her year, it's fairly safe to say we would never have thought of it. Even when she did, we said a quick no thanks, and fled. But Nina persisted. It's easy, she said, and broke down the task making it sound easier than taking candy from a child. In her version, the book practically wrote itself. Well, the truth is, of course, that it didn't. But she had planted a seed. And inevitably that seed took root. Then she kept an eye and a ear on us. Have we started work? Were we making progress? Wise suggestions. Kindly advice. And also the comforting promise, don't worry about expenses. I'll help out. We will not unnecessarily burden IWA.

The first bit of grunt work was handed to the long-suffering MC. Getting 9 Presidential blurbs to cover the 9 years, and to get photos from the Presidents of their Board events, trips, and Activity events. **Ritu, Sanyukta, Deepali and Swati** got on the job with alacrity.

The 9 sets of Presidents they approached were **Ramani & Vijaya, Nita & Priya, Asha, Achu & Malini, Nabila & Jansi, Badrunnisa & Farah, Usha & Mahvash, Nidhi & Anjali, and Jeyasree & Manisha**. Through Covid restrictions and with no access to the Archives, they somehow produced photos and write-ups. Too long, they were told, or too short, need more photos, need better photos please. They grumbled a bit, but got on with the task, searched online for Endowment and Music Day speaker photos, accepted nudging, cajoling and bullying, and Tehnaz's editorial red pencil, until the Goldilocks level of Just Right was finally achieved.

Shobha set to work on the Founder Member blurbs and photos, getting write-ups from **Ajjay Seshadri, Brahada & Padmini, Sujaya, Aruna, Sunita and Reva**, and sorting patiently through the memories of senior members, pulling together strands and weaving together a soft and graceful fabric.

Tehnaz wrote almost all the text, filling the spaces between the photos and giving them context and relevance.





Mangai & Ritu and their magic all-seeing eyes, were our primary proofreaders, catching missing commas and spelling errors.

Then we started work on the 257 member photos. **Deepali, Ritu, Sanyukta and Swati** were back in the fray, politely pleading for photos. They achieved some success, but in the end, Tehnaz had to roll out her bulldozer and cover the last mile, even badgering members at IWA meetings to switch on their videos for just a minute. (Don't mock it, we got quite a few shots that way.)

Members were generous and supportive, seeing they had no idea what this was about - we only told everyone we were updating IWA records. They even enthusiastically sent in messages on why they love IWA, never questioning us as to why we should desire this information. Now they know!

For this year, **Activity Chairs** offered photos of their favourite meetings, but it was a difficult task, since right through the year, they had brought us truly fantastic speakers and topics from across the country and the world. The only correct way to recognize their efforts was by creating a full record of all their spectacular meetings in the Activities section.

Towering over us all, the Ultimate Authority on all matters of design and presentation, was **Sheetal**, who not only designed and laid out the whole book, but offered these professional skills as a gift to IWA. She made a few token offers of 'do you like this or that' with regard to design, to let us think we were in charge, but she had the wheel firmly in her hands, and with her experience, sense of style, and expertise, we were happy to let her lead.

To all these abovementioned, our bounteous thanks. Each of you played an important role in the creation of this record of IWA's history. It has been an inestimable honour and a privilege to work with you.

So now, taking our lead from the King in Alice in Wonderland, we have come to the end, and so we must stop.

Tehnaz Bahadurji & Shobha Jesudasen
IWA Presidents 2021-2022





www.iwachennai.com