



International
Women's
Association

OCTOBER 1990

OCTOBER 1990

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Friday	Oct 1st	MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS: Join us in a musical celebration of International Music Day.	10 a.m.
Wednesday	Oct 3rd	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:	10 a.m.
Monday	Oct 8th	ART & HANDICRAFTS: Palm leaf decoration by C.J. THOMAS.	10 a.m.
Friday	Oct 9th	CURRENT EVENTS: "Eastern Europe and its impact on Asia" - talk by renowned diplomat K.P.S. MENON.	<u>6.30 p.m.</u>
Friday	Oct 12th	MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS: An evening with the maestro Dr. L. SUBRAMANIAM	<u>7 p.m.</u>
Thursday	Oct 13th	PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION: HABIBULLA BADSHA on the "Myths about Islam".	10 a.m.
Wednesday	Oct 16th	BOOK DISCUSSION: "Trying to grow" a much acclaimed book by FIRDAUS KANGA, reviewed by GEETA DOCTOR.	10 a.m.
Friday	Oct 26th	CAREERS: Panel discussion on "Careers in Computers" by STEVE JOHNSON, BRINDA BHAT & RAJKUMAR RANGACHARI.	10 a.m.
Friday	Oct 30th	HEALTH & ECOLOGY: An audio-visual introduction to the birds of Madras by PRESTON AHIMAZ.	10 a.m.

Dear Friends,

I should like to add a few lines to this month's Newsletter in order to thank all the members of I.W.A. for the friendship, warmth and hospitality that they have extended not only to me but to my husband Tony as well.

I should like to especially thank all those, too numerous to mention individually, who served on the committee with me. I shall remember all of them with much affection - indeed I shall think of Madras often and recall the absolutely marvellous time that I spent here.

Please, please come and see us in the U.K., and bring a little warmth and sunshine with you into a, no doubt, cold and grey England.

So Au-Revoir

BARBARA CLARKSON

Address in the U.K.

58 Howard Road
WOKINGHAM
BERKSHIRE RG11
Tel. WOKINGHAM(0734) 782 489

FAREWELL

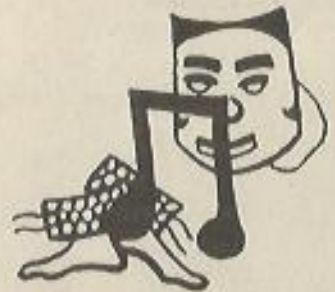
We shall miss you Barbara and we shall always remember your "Cheerful Presidency". We wish you and Tony much happiness in the years to come.

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Monday, 1st October 1990 - 10.00 a.m.

At : Gita Menon,
11, 4th Avenue,
Indira Nagar,
Madras - 600 020.

Tel: 414018



INTERNATIONAL MUSIC DAY

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC DAY is celebrated all over the world on the 1st of October every year. We present a morning of sheer melody from our "in house" talents. We appeal to all our gifted members to come forward and participate in commemorating this day. Piano support for Western music, harmonium and percussion support for Indian music will be available. We urge you to give your names to Nirmal or Christina, if you wish to sing or play an instrument. So, let us have MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC !!!

All are welcome.

NIRMAL SESHADRI

CHRISTINA ENGVALL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, 3rd October 1990 - 10.00 a.m.

At : Sunitha Shanney
"Ashley House"
6, Boat Club Road
2nd Avenue,
Madras - 600 002.

Tel: 450759

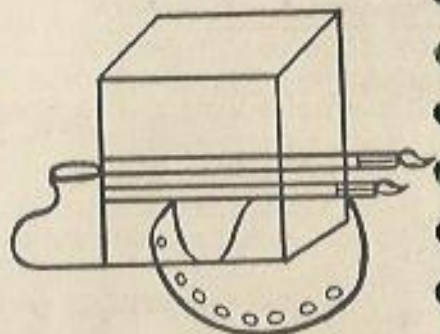


ART & HANDICRAFTS

Monday, 8th October 1990 - 10.00 a.m.

At : Urmila Reddy,
11, Third Street,
Subba Rao Avenue,
Madras - 600 006.

Tel: 476421



Palm Leaf Decoration

Towering palms and lush banana plants provide Kerala with food. In addition, their leaves and stems are turned into works of art by master craftsmen.

Sri C.J. Thomas of Kalakshetra will demonstrate the art of decorating with palm leaves and the banana stem. He learned this craft as a child in his Kerala village where year after year he was in great demand for decorating homes during the festive season.

Sri Thomas teaches classical dancing at Kalakshetra where his hobby is much appreciated. In fact no celebration at Kalakshetra is complete without the decorations crafted by Sri Thomas.

Mrs. Anandhi Ramachandran, who is a well-known journalist and a lecturer in dancing at Kalakshetra, will provide the explanations during the demonstration.

All are welcome.

MALINI VIJAYARAGHAVAN

VIJAYA RANGARAJAN

FELICITATIONS to Niranjan, the newly wed son of Vanitha Mudaliar.
Our warm good wishes to the young couple.

CURRENT EVENTS

Tuesday, October 9th 1990 - 6.30 p.m.

At: Madras Club,
Off Chambers Road,
Madras 600 028.



Shri. K.P.S. MENON, former Ambassador to China and U.S.S.R., and recently retired as the Foreign Secretary Govt. of India, will speak on the changes in Eastern Europe, and its impact on Asia, with special reference to India.

This meeting is in collaboration with the Madras Club.

Husbands and guests are invited.

SARAH CHANDA

LULU COHEN

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Neelu Sawhni
10, Cenotaph Road,
Madras - 600 018.

CONDOLENCES:

Our heartfelt sympathies to Aruna and Vijay Kumar in the recent death of his father.

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS:

Friday, 12th October 1990 - 7.00 p.m.

At : Kasturi Srinivasan Hall
(Mini Hall)
The Music Academy,
306 T.T.K. Road,
Madras - 600 014.



Hailed as "a peerless virtuoso" and "a rare musical phenomenon" by the connoisseurs of music and the world media, the renowned U.S. based Indian Violin Maestro, Dr. L. SUBRAMANIAM has carved a niche for himself in the history of contemporary music. A true "Madrasian", Dr. Subramaniam has collaborated and performed with some of the prestigious symphony orchestras of the world, and with musical greats such as Yehudi Menuhin, Stephen Grapelli and recently with fellow Indian Zubin Mehta. His innovative approach to music has not diminished the "sampradaya" or traditional quality in his music. Dr. Subramaniam has recorded and produced close to 50 recordings including a five volume "Anthology of Indian Music" in Europe and a video presentation entitled "Master Musicians from India". One of his most cherished and memorable moments was when Zubin Mehta and the New York Philharmonic Orchestra played his most ambitious composition to date, "Fantasy on Vedic Chants", for four days to standing ovation during the Festival of India in USA.

We are indeed proud and very privileged to present this eminent artiste in a very special evening exclusively for I.W.A. Dr. Subramaniam will not only present a special concert, he will also share with us his experiences of his East-West encounter in contemporary music, and show us some video clippings of these fusion concerts.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to three of our members and their spouses in planning this concert. They are Gayathri and Arun Bewoor, Chandra and Ramesh Lulla, Stina and T. T. Vasu. Bush Boake Allen are the chief sponsors of this concert and we thank their M.D. - Arun Bewoor for their support. Ramesh Lulla's Vision Hire will be providing the videoscope facilities and T T Vasu is ever helpful in arranging for us to use the mini hall.

To Vasu, Ramesh and Arun, our special thanks!

There will be a nominal charge of Rs.30/- per admission card for members and their guests. The hall seats only 275 people, so those of you who desire to come to this concert of melody and rhythm - please collect your cards from Ms. Shantha or Mr. Ganesh at the C P Ramaswamy Iyer Foundation, 1 Eldems Road, Madras 600 018, or any day after the 25th of September from 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. only.

Members will have to show their name badges, sign the register and buy the cards only by cash. No phone bookings or refunds will be accepted. Hurry, and collect your cards on 25th September. Please be in your seats by 6.45 p.m.

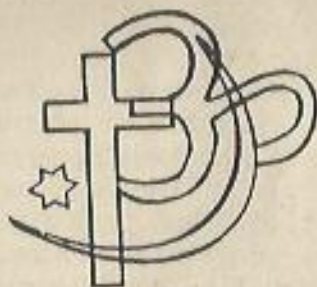
NIRMAL SESHADRI

CHRISTINA ENGVALL

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

Saturday, 13th October 1990 - 10.00 a.m.

At : Mrs Bilqis Chida
4 Jagannathan Road
Opp. Ganpat Hotel
Nungambakkam
Madras - 600 034.
Tel: 476209, 477393



MYTHS ABOUT ISLAM

The Muslim population in India is the third largest in the world. They believe in Monotheism and in prophet Mohammed as the messenger of God.

Mr. Habibullah Badsha - Senior Advocate of Madras High Court will speak on the various aspects of Islam and throw light on the "Myths about Islam".

SANGEET CHOPRA

R.S.V.P. Tel. No. 410759

CLAIRE TALWAR

BOOK DISCUSSION

Tuesday, 16th October 1990 - 10.00 a.m.

At : Mahmooda Sharif,
"Nihal", 17, Haddows Rd.,
1st Street,
Madras - 600 006.



Tel: 47 65 22

The book chosen for October is a much acclaimed autobiographical first novel by the young Parsi writer, Firdaus Kanga, "TRYING TO GROW". The author, disabled from birth with an incurable bone-disease describes the traumas of his growing up. His novel celebrates many things - "courage, faith, the vitality and resilience of Indian family life..... the city of Bombay itself". We are fortunate in having the well known Madras based journalist, GEETHA DOCTOR, to introduce the book for us. See you all there!

This month, we feel there is need to bring to your attention the real intent of the Book Discussion group. This is the only IWA Group that depends entirely on member participation for its success. The key word here is "Discussion". Of late the meetings have been falling short in this respect. The books are very carefully chosen - for their literary content, for their readability and moderate price. There was one comment made that the books are circulated too much in advance. May we suggest that a remedy would be to jot down thoughts that pass through your mind as you read, whatever they be. If each member contributes one comment at the meeting, it would make all the difference. At least this amount of participation is expected. The guest speaker has usually taken a great deal of trouble over his/her preparation and a feedback from the audience is expected.

ANNA ABRAHAM

MAUREEN HUDSON MURARI

CAREERS

Friday, 26th October 1990 - 10.00 a.m.

At : Pat Johnson
3 Rutland Gate 6th Street
Nungambakkam
Madras 600 034



Tel: 47 67 27

Are you baffled by computers? This session of careers is designed to provide you with enough information to ask intelligent questions about your computer and how you can use it.

Our panel will discuss options on learning about computers. Steve Johnson will discuss how you can use a personal computer for pleasure and profit at home. His topics are word processing, desk top publishing, computer-aided graphic arts and data base management. Steve has had two years in this field because of forced unemployment in Madras. Prior to Madras he has taught mathematics and computer science in colleges and universities around the world. Brinda Bhat has taught in NIIT and has now launched her own company called "Real Value Systems". Rajkumar Rangachari is the Manager - Education and Consultancy at Computer Point. They will speak to you about an entry into the lucrative software industry.

USHA KRIS

PAT JOHNSON

FAREWELL

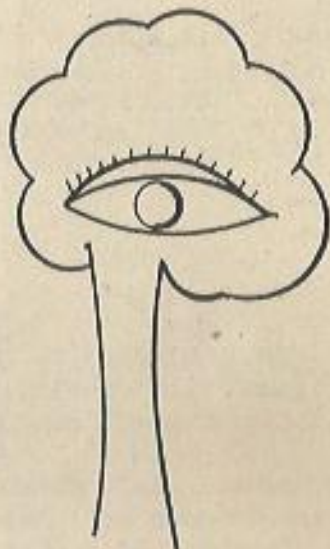
This month we bid farewell to SIGRUN NEUMANN.

Thank you Sigrun for all your efforts. Much happiness and hope you will keep in touch with us.

HEALTH & ECOLOGY

Tuesday, 30th October 1990 - 10.00 a.m.

At : The Eco-Dome
C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation
1 Eldams Road
Madras 600 018
Tel: 45 12 49



BIRDS OF MADRAS

With garbage on the streets and polluted skies and waterways, one rarely remembers that there are attractive facets of Madras too. One of these is the wealth of birds which live in Madras, in the trees, in the waters and on the open scrubland.

The C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre is starting a series of exhibitions on "This is also Madras" in the newly constructed Geodesic Dome (or Eco-Dome"), the first of which is on "Birds of Madras". Mr Preston Ahimaz of World Wide Fund for Nature - India (WWF-I) will be presenting an audio-visual introduction to the Birds of Madras for our members. Do come along - the skies of Madras may look more attractive the next time you look up!

NANDITHA KRISHNA

MAUREEN THADANI

Male Anand and Rob Cass members of "EMMISSARY of Divine Light and Emmissary Foundation International" extend an invitation to the IWA members for a seminar on "Joy of Living". An organisation founded by Manda - carried on by Martin Exeter member of House of Lords, England and now headed by Michael Exeter also a member of the House of Lords. A world wide organisation of human beings who take responsibility for their living as whole persons.

Number of people (ladies and gents) is limited to only 30 - on a first come first serve basis.

Dates : Monday 12th November to Friday 16th November
(last date to check in 30th October)

Time : 3.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. break for refreshments.

Fees : Rs.300/-

Venue : 23 Greenways Road, Madras.

Inquiries: Male Anand Tel: 83 95 62

Check in : Sangeet Chopra Tel: 41 07 59

YOUNG TALENT TO THE FORE

Madhurika, the talented young daughter of I.W.A member, Chandra Sarkar will be presenting a Bharathnatyam recital on Saturday, 13th October '90 at 7.15 p.m. at the Kasturi Srinivasan Hall, the mini hall of the Music Academy, 306 T T K Road, Madras 600 014. This is part of the spirit of youth festival of music and performing arts under the aegis of the Music Academy.

All are welcome.

AN INVITATION TO THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS IN INDIA

CALICUT

DECEMBER 28-31, 1990

Dear friends

We send this invitation to all women and women's groups/organisations all over the country. We send it with a hope that you will respond by participating in the 1990 Calicut Conference and also in the preparations towards the Conference.

We are on the threshold of another decade. The last two years have witnessed the proliferation of women's organisations. Each with its own emphasis—reflecting the different specificities and the cultural pluralities. Perhaps the ten years have not changed the oppressive conditions of most women's lives. But it has made visible the crimes against us. It has shattered the great silence that enveloped us. Some women's groups have made responses from within the existing frameworks, others have attempted to break new ground, over the years... years which have often been filled with anguish, with anger. But also years of courage, of celebration. For there were always the women; women who find strength in the dailiness of our lives 'to rummage in the rubble for light and new poetry'.

We (what has been referred to as the autonomous women's groups), have met three times over the last ten years. Twice in Bombay, 1980 and 1985, and the last time in 1988 in Patna. So our Calicut 1990 Conference will be Fourth National Conference. We look towards the Conference as a time to reflect on the beginning years of the Women's movement(s), to share experiences, to proffer support and solidarity to one another. It is also a time to listen to the different resonances of women in song, in folk tale, in grandmother's stories, in symbols; a time to create new spaces; to seek new knowledge; to find new possibilities for our times.

The broad theme of all the National Conferences so far has been 'Perspectives For the Women's Liberation Movement in India.' In the first Conference issues such as rape, domestic violence,

prostitution, sexism in media, women and work, legal reforms were discussed. The second Conference concentrated on the problems faced by Women's organisations in terms of structure, methods of functioning, support to individual women versus campaigns and relationship of the Women's Movement with the State. The Conference in 1988 in Patna was a departure from the earlier two in the sense that hundreds of rural and tribal women participated. Fundamentalism, drought, ecological crisis, health and land rights for women formed some of the major sub-themes. The Conference concluded with a large rally of nearly 12,000 women: The rally was addressed by women speaking the different regional languages. The women were militant. And joyful. Patna or the Women's movement(s) perhaps, can never be the same again.

Two preparatory meetings have been held so far to discuss the themes and logistics of the Conference. The first one was held in June 1989 in Calicut and the second was held in October 1989 in Bangalore. Representatives from Hyderabad, Calicut, Cannanore, Trichur, Thiruvalla, Madurai, Madras, Nagapattinam, Calcutta, Singhbhum, Allahabad, Raipur, Dahanu, Bombay and Bangalore attended the meetings. Nine themes emerged through our discussions which included both sharing of experiences as well as more general concerns confronting the Women's Movement(s) today. The themes are:

1. Women and Politics
2. Religious fundamentalism/Casteism
3. Health perspectives within the women's movement
4. Feminism and women's studies
5. Cultural context for the women's movement
6. Media
7. Women and National Planning Policy
8. Women and Property Rights/Law
9. Violence Against Women

While we have tried to include as many issues as possible, we have perhaps missed out some important themes that you wish the Conference to consider. Please send your suggestions as soon as possible. The next Preparatory meeting will be held in Dhanu, in Maharashtra on April 20-21, 1990.

Structure:

A word on the proposed structure of the Conference. It was decided that the Conference be open only to women. In order to reach a deeper understanding of the above themes we suggest that each participant choose a theme/workshop on which she will work on all three days of the Conference. No papers are to be presented; only guidelines for discussions will be circulated in advance. We would have to arrange for translations in different languages.

At the end of each day, we propose a brief plenary session during which a summary/main points of the discussion in the various workshops would be shared. It is also suggested that there be a 'cultural space' (for song, poems, street plays, dance, music) everyday for the Conference - preferably after workshops and before the Plenary session.

Funds:

To host a national event would mean mobilising much funds. This would have to suffice for the food and shelter for the participants. Perhaps even for posters, pamphlets and other publicity material. Since most of us function on very modest budgets we need to make a collective effort to raise the resources for the Conference. At the preparatory meetings, we suggested that the following minimum commitments could be made by all groups: For rural groups, a minimum of Rs.100 (plus grains); for small towns - Rs.500/- or more; for Cities - Rs.1,000/- or more; for Metropolitan Centres Rs.5,000/- or more.

Some of the other ideas for fund-raising discussed during the preparatory meetings were a feminist film festival; staging feminist plays in educational institutions; poster-exhibitions with entrance tickets; contributions from the proceeds of the sale of posters, cards, badges, literature produced specially for the National Conferences; publication of souvenirs with non-sexist advertisements; collecting funds from friends and sympathizers. We also decided to print donation tickets, which can be collected from Vimochana in Bangalore.

We have sent a more detailed letter on the deliberations of the October Preparatory Meeting held in Bangalore to all the

participants of that meeting. However, if you would like to receive a copy please let us know.

Soon it will be a new year beginning. We send many good wishes for the year ahead.

Warm regards,

From:

Kerala Co-ordination Committee
C/o Bodhana
28/895 May Day Road
P.O. Cherayur
Calicut - 673 017

STOP PRESS NEWS

As we go to press, we have just learnt that Dr L Subramaniam has been awarded the prestigious Sangeet Natak Academy award. We look forward to facilitating him when he performs for I.W.A on 12th October '90.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a very warm welcome to

(a) Catrine Brown (France)
6, Boat Club Road,
Madras 600 028.

(b) Ernestine Heck (USA)
"River House"
1, Turnbolls Rd. Extn.,
Madras 600 035.

Tel: 456355

Tel: 452640

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

THE BOARD

PRESIDENTS	:	Sunita Shahaney Janet Picken	450759 451505
VICE-PRESIDENTS	:	Nirmal Mirza Janet De Penning	415672/455834 456529
SECRETARIES	:	Lakshmi Padmanabhan Aruna Vijaykumar	864334 472732
TREASURERS	:	Vijaya Balu Seema Sait	72589 612800

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS	:	Malini Vijayaraghavan Vijaya Rangarajan	865798 444334
BOOK DISCUSSION	:	Anna Abraham Maureen Hudson Murari	416818 662627
CAREERS	:	Usha Kris Pat Johnson	414250 476727
COOKING SWAPSHOP	:	Rani Chada Sheila Pride	434233 452273
CURRENT EVENTS	:	Sarah Chanda Lulu Cohen	454265 471700
HEALTH & ECOLOGY	:	Nanditha Krishna Maureen Thadani	451850 411694
HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS	:	Sujaya Menon Sigrun Neumann	417464 413294
MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS,	:	Nirmal Seshadri Christina Engvall	413620 454419
PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION	:	Sangeet Chopra Claire Talwar	410759 868551

EDITED AND COMPILED BY THE VICE-PRESIDENTS.

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Sitar maestro PANDIT RAVI SHANKAR'S 70th birth anniversary contribution to the world of creative art is - "GHANSHYAM - a broken branch" - a unique musical theatre, a creative fusion of dance, drama, mime, movements and music with choreographical contributions from stalwarts like the DHANANJAYANS and the late DURGALAL with the best of Dhananjayans' Bharatha Kalanjali artistes, and Smt Kumudini Lakhia's (one of our great Kathak exponents) dance troupe participating.

Only two shows in Madras on

Dates : Friday 23rd November & Saturday 24th November 1990

Time : 6.30 p.m.

Venue : Narada Gana Sabha, TTK Road, Madras.

Advance booking opens at the Sabha on 1st October 1990.

Rates : Rs.1,000/- & Rs.500/- (Donors)
Rs.250/-, Rs.150/-, Rs.100/-, Rs.50/- & Rs.25/-
balcony daily.

IWA has been offered special discount on block bookings and we propose to do block booking for Friday 23rd November 1990.

Those who are interested please call Nirmal Seshadri (413820) only between 8 & 10.00 a.m. The concession provided is for Rs.100/- block booking - we will be accommodated in the Rs.150/- rows.

NIRMAL SESHADRI

CHRISTINA ENGVALL