



International
Women's
Association

DECEMBER 1993



Gather round the Christmas Tree

IWA NEWS LETTER

Vol. VIII No. : 7
Madras

DECEMBER 1993

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Thursday, 2nd December	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	10-15 a.m.
Friday, 3rd December	COOKING SWAPSHOP Demonstration of Lunch Menu of Traditional X'Mas Recipes	10-15 a.m.
Tuesday, 7th December	HEALTH AND ECOLOGY Wild Life Protection Does it concern you ?	10-15 a.m.
Thursday, 16th December	PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION, MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS A Christmas Morning at the River House	10-15 a.m.
Monday, 20th December	MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS Well known Dancer Sonal Mansingh will give a lecture demonstration on the 'Odissi' dance form	3-30 p.m.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

— EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear Members,

October and November were hectic months, with Hallowe'en and Diwali a mere week apart. We were happy to see the impressive turn-out at both events, particularly since our Executive Committee had worked so hard to make the events a success.

December is more relaxed, as we move towards the New Year. We share Christmas with our international members in the serene ambience of River House.

The Woman of the Year will also be announced shortly.

As the events are few in December, and the printer had some pages to spare, our Vice-Presidents have had a lot of fun preparing this News Letter. We hope you enjoy it as much as we all have.

Finally, to end 1993 — Merry Christmas.

**ARUNA VIJAYKUMAR
NANDITA KRISHNA**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, 2nd December, 1993 — 10-15 a.m.

At : Lily Madhok
7, George Avenue
Kasturi Estate
Poes Garden
Madras-600 018
Phone : 4993125 / 452525



DOWN THE GARDEN PATH

December is the first of the 'cooler' months in Madras, and as far as the gardens are concerned one can plant out Annuals, cut our lawns and enjoy the pleasure of sitting in the garden.

O. T. Ravindran says "Landscape contractors in Madras talk about water-falls and lawns with fancy grasses, but maintenance of a lawn in water-scarce Madras is a nightmare. The weed problem and the non-availability of trained gardeners add to the struggle to maintain a lawn in shape. Instead of grass in large areas rough sand strewn in the Japanese style saves water, expenditure and much worry".

During the month of December there are many festivals to enjoy and keep us busy. We are including the two contributions to our Christmas Crackers in this issue.

"Sing hey! Sing hey!
For Christmas Day:
Twine mistletoe and holly,
For friendship glows
In winter snows,
And so let's all be jolly."



LILY & MARGARET

IWA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Change of Telephone Numbers & Addresses :

Mrs. PADMINI NATARAJAN
A-9, Grindlays Garden
1, Haddows Road
Madras-600 006
Tel. : 8277719/8279763 Extn. 409

Mrs. ANNELIESE HAZARI
34/B, Beach Home Avenue
Besant Nagar
Madras-600 090
Tel. : 4919505

Mrs. RITA SALDANHA
D-3, Madeleine Court
71/72, Spurtank Road
Madras-600 031
Tel. : 8265083

Our thanks to the members who helped to host the Health & Ecology meeting at Chola Sheraton on October 25, 1993.

Dr. SHEILA RAJARATNAM
MALATHI RAMACHANDRAN
KATY MADAN
MAHIN KHALILEE
SHERRA IRANI
KAMILINI VINCENT

RANI CHADDHA
SHARADA RAJAMANT
JAYANTI RAJARAM
DOLLY PRASAD
SHYLA K. RAU
MARGARET PACE

Thank you

Our special thanks to Marie Williams, Lalitha Krishnan and Margaret Sekhran, who worked so hard to organise the Hallowe'en evening, and to Padmini Natarajan, Franka George, Poornima Dhawan, Rani Chaddha, Bela Khaleeli, Shyla Rau, Zubi Asgarali, Vanitha Mudaliar, Shakunthala Jagannathan, Kamala Muthiah, Poonam Lalchand, Shobana Thomas, Rathi Nilakantan, Elizabeth Arafin, Javanthi Prabhakaran, Padma Ashok and Sheila Shetty for helping to make the evening a success.

We would also like to thank Lalitha Krishnan, Marie Williams, Poonam Lalchand, Lily Madhok, Naina Shah and her family, Saroj Ramamrutham, Zubaida Asgarali, Margaret Sekhran, Margaret Pace, Priya Thadani, Priya Vijayaraghavan, Anita Ratnam and her dancers and all our Executive Committee members who helped us in organising the Deepavali evening at the Park Sheraton.

Both these events were coordinated by Nirmal Seshadri to whom we owe a big "thank you".

Our thanks also to Nirmal Mirza who gifted dhurries to Thota Tharani, the art director who designed the Spook House for Hallowe'en, and to Mr. Appa Rao, the owner of Venus Studios.

Congratulations to

Amrita Bhalla and her Husband Capt. Bhalla for an excellent job done in saving the lives of the passengers of the Indian Airlines Airbus from Madras to Delhi including Sheila Rajaratnam.

Condolences to

Visalakshi Ramaswamy on the demise of her husband.

DECEMBER

A wrinkled crabbed man they picture thee,
Old Winter, with a rugged beard as grey
As the long moss upon the apple-tree ;
Blue-lipt, an ice drop at thy sharp blue nose,
Close muffled up, and on thy dreamy way
Plodding alone through sleet and drifting snows,
They should have drawn thee by the high-heapt hearth,
Old Winter ! Seated in thy great armed chair ;
Watching the children at their Christmas mirth ;
Or circled by them as thy lips declare
Some merry jest, or tale of murder dire,
Or troubled spirit that disturbs the night ;
Pausing at times to rouse the smouldering fire,
Or taste the old October brown and bright.

— R. SOUTHEY

THE FOUNDERS

LAKSHMI ON LAKSHMI

Being the eldest child in a large family made me responsible and caring from an early age. My parents shared a great interest in literature and music. It was, therefore, natural that we, their children inherited and imbibed this love for reading and melody. We were given the right type of books to acquire general knowledge; and music — classical or light, was always heard in the house — either on the Radio or Gramophone records. In school and college, English was my favourite subject — both prose and poetry for which I won many prizes.

An early 'arranged' marriage cut short my education. I moved from Madras to Calcutta where my husband was posted (11 years) and then to Bombay till we returned to Madras in 1984. In Calcutta, my husband urged me to pursue 'causerie' writing for the papers and magazines. He felt I had the flair though I wasn't so confident; but, to my surprise — no rejection slips!

When we moved to Bombay, I joined the Bhavan's College of Journalism where I won 'The Times of India Gold Medal' for best student. This was 15 years and two sons after marriage. For two years, I worked as Assistant Editor of 'The Onlooker', but left so I could be free from the rigid time schedule of office discipline and long hours at the press. To be frank, I longed for my mid-day siesta! I did short-term courses in German and Travel & Tourism too.

What I enjoy most is interacting with people and helping in Committee work. I have had ample opportunity to do this in the Mahalakshmi Ladies Club, Indus International, Bombay and IWA, Madras. Responsibility and integrity of purpose are values instilled in me as a school girl which I cherish and nurture to this day.

LAKSHMI PADMANABHAN

'THANKS TO Mr. SUBRAMANIYAM'

Anneliese came to India, for the first time, in 1956, for a three-week holiday, despite the gentleman in the Indian Embassy trying to dissuade her from coming. She was invited to India, by the family of her 'pen-pal' Dicky. She started corresponding with him to 'improve her English'. A year later, in 1957, Anneliese came and married 'Dicky'.

What has this to do with Anneliese as a Founder of IWA? It shows Anneliese to be a romantic, with determination and a sense of adventure. Anneliese said that these traits ran in her family. Though born and brought up in Frankfurt her

family came from Southern France — a Huguenot family, who had to escape from persecution in France. (The Huguenots were noted for being a very hard-working and talented Community.)

Anneliese did not have an easy childhood. She lost her mother when she was three, and her grandmother when she was fourteen. Life in Germany of the 30s and 40s was very difficult except for the favoured few. There was no thought of University — it was closed when Anneliese was ready for college, so Anneliese was trained as a Banker. (Anneliese served as the Treasurer of IWA from its inception and the subsequent four years.)

Anneliese has always loved music, and before coming to India she excelled in Formation Dancing. Now she finds relaxation in singing and has been a member of the Gita Menon Choir for many years.

Anneliese is charming, dedicated to the work she does, unassuming (why would members want to know about me) and determined. I feel we should be grateful to her Grandmother for moulding Anneliese's character, and for coming to India 'thanks go to Mr. Subramaniyam'.

DECEMBER

December was the last month of the old Roman year which was divided into ten months. The Saxons called it 'winter-monat' or winter month, and 'heligh-monat' or holy month from the fact that Christmas fell within it. The 22nd of December is the date of the winter solstice, when the sun reaches the tropic of Capricorn. For the Tamil calendar we move into the holy month of 'Margazhi'.

Saints' Days etc.

December 6	St. Nicholas Day
December 13	St. Lucia Day
December 25	Christmas Day
December 29	St. Thomas' Day
December 31	New Year's Eve

Mottos

'Bounce buckram velvets dear,
Christmas comes but once a year,
When it comes it brings good cheer,
And when it's gone, it's never near'.

'In December keep yourself warm and sleep'.

'A green Yule, makes a fat kirk-yard'.

✓ CHRISTMAS - CRACKERS

THE I-WA LADY

They join in large numbers as members,
Though some leave, I-WA is never bereft of its clan.
Its an ocean that stretches its arms out
Beckoning all ladies, COME, open your keen minds
And listen to the pleroma of subjects we explore
Ecology, History, Culture,
Health, Religion and Art,
Handicrafts, Philosophy, Literature
And Swapping Recipes Galore.

Like a fountain those learned ones pour out
Varied topics week in, and without doubt
Thus thought-provoked we find answers
To matters manifold.

We journey to places of interest
So let it not be said, that Meena
And Mary are dull'uns
For that would get'us a scold !

If you are an I-WA lady
The mind will not cloy !

'Tis said age will not wither you,
Though that might be stretching it perforce !
In this beautiful world of I-WA
As we quench our thirst for Enlightenment
But still allow time for play
Let us spread joy and friendship
In each and every way.

— LILY SWAMY

AN OLD MAN OF MADRAS

There was an old man of Madras
Who ate out of copper and brass :
He lived till a hund-red
Healthy and well-fed,
Harassing his people, Alas !

— NANDITHA KRISHNA



COOKING SWAPSHOP

Friday, 3rd December, 1993 — 10-15 a.m.

At : Vijaya Rangarajan
2, Bazulla Road
T. Nagar, Madras-600 017



CHRISTMAS FEAST

'Tis the yuletide season and the time for merry making. It is the special Christmas fare that makes the festive season complete. One of our members, Ms. Shobana Thomas, will demonstrate a few traditional X'Mas recipes such as Stuffed Turkey with the trimmings, Plum Pudding with Brandy Sauce and a Vegetarian Dish. Be there to experience the authentic X'Mas fare with us and have a feast.

Limit 50 Members

Your contribution — Rs. 25/-

R.S.V.P. : AMRITA BHALLA 419230
RATHI NILAKANTAN 8265250

**AMRITA BHALLA
RATHI NILAKANTAN**

HEALTH AND ECOLOGY

Tuesday, 7th December, 1993 — 10-15 a.m.

At : C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation
1, Eldams Road
Alwarpet
Madras-600 018



WILDLIFE PROTECTION IN TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu is the home of some of India's rare and exotic wildlife. Many of these are endangered and threatened, especially by poachers.

Mr. V. R. Chitrapu, Chief Wildlife Warden, Department of Forests, Government of Tamil Nadu, is responsible for the conservation of wildlife in the state. He has had exciting encounters with poachers and smugglers. He will talk to us on wildlife protection and its legal aspects.

**SHYLA K. RAU
MARGARET PACE**

**PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION &
MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS**

Thursday, 16th December, 1993 — 10-15 a.m.

At : Sandra Rowlands
River House
Turnbulls Road Extension
Madras-600 028



CHRISTMASTIDE

The season of Advent, celebrated in December, has many Festivals and customs. (Christmas has been described as a Religious Celebration in a pagan setting).

Come to the beautiful garden of 'River House' around the Christmas Tree and share, in prose and song, what Christmas means to some of our members. In the spirit of sharing, if members so wish, they may bring a small gift to be placed at the foot of the Christmas Tree to be given to the less-fortunate children.

Make we merry, both more and lass,
For now is the time of Christmas.
Let no man come in this hall
Groom, page nor yet marshal
But that some sport he bring withall
For now is the time of Christmas

If that he say he cannot sing,
Some other sport then let him bring,
That it may please at this feasting,
For now is the time of Christmas.

If he say he can nothing do,
Then for my love ask him no more,
But to the stocks then let him go
For now is the time of Christmas.

— ANON

**KAUSALYA JAGANMOHAN
BARBARA CORTEZ-GREIG**

**LALITHA KRISHNAN
MARIE WILLIAMS**

It is important to check-in for this meeting which is for members only.

R.S.V.P. : LALITHA 4991853
 KAUSALYA 4990201
 C. P. ART CENTRE 451249

MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

Monday, 20th December, 1993 — 3-30 p.m.

At: Merit International Academy
"Merit Inn"
(in the compound of Atlantic Hotel)
2, Montieth Road
Egmore, Madras-600 008



SONAL MANSINGH — A POEM OF GRACE

Odissi is one of the six predominant classical dance forms of India. This month we are privileged to present renowned danseuse SONAL MANSINGH in an exclusive Odissi dance demonstration. Endowed with expressive eyes, impeccable foot work, graceful hand and body movements—Sonal's interpretation of Odissi is always a connoisseur's delight. Sonal's gift of expression when it comes to explaining the subtle nuances of Odissi promises to make this meeting an afternoon to remember.

All are Welcome.

**KAUSALYA JAGANMOHAN
BARBARA CORTEZ GREIG**

A LITTLE HOPE, A LITTLE PEACE

Famine, war, pollution,
Is there no solution ?

Shell-shocked children, mothers weep,
Can you get sleep ?

What happened to peace and passion ?
Alas, that is our last reaction.

Is there a lingering hope, a passing dream ?
Or are we being a little extreme ?

And so we turn to our new generation,
To save us from inanimation.
And there far off in the distance,
A little hope, of peaceful existence.

— SARAH SEKHRAN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE BOARD

PRESIDENTS	:	Nanditha Krishna Aruna Vijaykumar	451850(R) 451249(O) 8272732 / 8271284
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