



International
Women's
Association

JANUARY 1995



CURRENT EVENTS

Monday, 9th January, 1995 — 5-30 p.m.

At : The Madras Club
Chamiers Road, Madras-600 028

Surprise ! Surprise !

Guess who is in town? Endowed with beauty and brains in abundance, with ready replies and ever in command of the situation, who is she? AISHWARYA RAI, Miss World 1994, that's who.

Be there for a close encounter with the beauty queen. It is your New Year treat !

SUJAYA MENON

IWA NEWS LETTER

Vol. IX No. : 8

Madras

JANUARY 1995

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Friday, 6th January	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	10-15 a.m.
Monday, 9th January	MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS Film 'A Few Good Men'	2-30 p.m.
Tuesday, 10th January	COOKING SWAPSHOP Cake Decorations — Mrs. Anjana Sunil of Harrisons demonstrates	10-15 a.m.
Thursday, 12th January	ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS Visit to Film City	10-00 a.m.
Tuesday, 17th January	HEALTH AND ECOLOGY 'Heredity and Disease' — Talk by Dr. Ratnasabapathy, Founder Director of the Department of Medical Genetics at Madras Medical College	10-15 a.m.
Wednesday, 18th January	BOOK DISCUSSION 'The Spirit Land' by Pepita Seth	6-30 p.m.
Thursday, 19th January	CURRENT EVENTS 'Star TV versus Doordarshan' Mani Ayer, Former Managing Director of Ogilvy & Mather will tell us all about it	10-15 a.m.
Friday, 20th January	MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS Amelia Cuni, an Italian artiste, renders a Dhrupad recital	10-15 a.m.
Friday, 27th January	HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS Visit to Dakshinachitra — A Centre for the Craft and Performing Arts of South India	9-00 a.m.
Saturday, 28th January	CURRENT EVENTS AND HEALTH AND ECOLOGY Purposeful life after 60 — The Swedish Way	10-15 a.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear Members,

Both the Presidents wish IWA members a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Have you made a New Year Resolution? We hope you have, and that you intend to keep them.

Our Vice-Presidents particularly would like you to inform them of your correct address and telephone number, so that we can bring out a new IWA Telephone Book immediately.

The Chairpersons would like all members to remember that when we have a Speaker, the Speaker is the one to speak at the meeting, and not the members, who can speak if the Speaker opens the meeting to members.

The Presidents suggest the following Resolution for all members.

A PERFECT LADY

"I knew a girl who was so pure
She couldn't say the word 'Manure',
Indeed, her modesty was such,
She wouldn't pass a rabbit-hutch,
And butterflies upon the wing,
Would make her blush like anything.

That lady is a gardener now,
And all her views have changed, somehow.
She squashes greenfly with her thumb,
And knows how little snowdrops come.
In fact, the garden she has got,
Has broadened out her mind a lot".

Come to meetings and learn!

— REGINALD ARKELL

LILY MADHOK
MARGARET SEKHRAN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, 6th January, 1995 — 10-15 a.m.

At : Sandra Rowland's
1, Turnbolls Road
Madras-600 035



Do NOT delay giving in the blurbs, PLEASE; February is a short month, we have to catch the mail early.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

GITA RAM, well-known for her deep commitment and involvement with the crafts and craftspersons of India has been chosen as 'Woman of the Year'. She will receive the award at the Chola Sheraton Hotel on 14th February 1995.

Our exquisite handicrafts have captivated admirers worldwide and captured international markets, thanks to the many Festivals of India held abroad. Yet, behind the glitter in gleaming glasscases at Cottage Industries and other Handicrafts Emporia everywhere, lies a sad tale of Woe. The talented craftspersons whose deft fingers fashion these 'things of beauty' often wallow in poverty; their needs unheeded, their skills unsung; many struggling even to make both ends meet. With the setting up of the Crafts Council of India and other Handicraft Development Boards much has been done to ameliorate their plight.

It is in this context that GITA RAM stands out as a 'Woman of Today', aptly qualifying to be chosen as the 'Woman of the Year'. Married into the affluent TVS family, she could have opted to bask in the lap of luxury but she chose to use her better social status to help these less fortunate people. For over two decades she has identified herself with the cause of craftspersons through the Crafts Council of India and recently through the Madras Crafts Foundation. It has been her constant endeavour to give them a name and face, a voice and power. She has toiled unflaggingly to alleviate their hardships; get them better wages, health care, training facilities and improve their lot — all this with a rare human touch. There is not a gifted craftsman in any state covered by the Crafts Council whom she does not know personally or whom she has not encouraged. She has travelled to remote villages to unearth hidden talents and bring them to light. In Indian and international arenas, on field trips and research, in documentation of craft detail and design, Gita has worked doggedly to preserve and protect the fabled heritage of our handicrafts.

She was Secretary of the Crafts Council of India from 1979 - 93; Secretary of Madras Crafts Foundation from 1987 — 94; Deputy Vice-President for South Asia of the World Crafts Council from 1984 - 93. She is a Director of Poompuhar and is also on the Board of other Handicrafts Development Boards. She has read erudite papers on Indian Crafts in many countries. She is also an environmentalist.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee has appointed the Nominating Committee for this year. The members of this Committee are :

VANITHA MUDALIAR	—	Chairperson
GAYATRI BEWOOR	—	Indian
RITA SALDANHA	—	Indian
ANNELIESE HAZARI	—	Non-Indian
ISSY SANDERSON	—	Non-Indian

They will go through the nominations received from members and prepare a suitable slate of office-bearers to form the Executive Board for 1995-96.

ALL members are requested to fill in the form attached at the end of the news letter and send it to Vanitha Mudaliar (Chairperson of the Nominating Committee) before **1st FEBRUARY 1995**. Forms received after this date will not be considered.

While it is your proud privilege to belong to IWA it is also your bounden duty to help in getting the right people at the helm, by sending in your suggestions. Your prompt response in sending in your nominees for the Executive Board (1995-96) will show the measure of your interest in the organisation.

For the newer members we repeat our guidelines :

- a) Please obtain prior consent from whomsoever you wish to nominate ;
- b) Those who have served on earlier committees as Activity Chairpersons will be preferred merely because of their experience. This is relaxable in the case of Non-Indians.

Well, this time keep your newsletter carefully and get started rightaway to fill in the nomination forms and send them **BEFORE 1st February 1995**.

MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

Monday, 9th January, 1995 — 2-30 p.m.

At : USIS Auditorium
220, Anna Salai
Madras-600 006



'A FEW GOOD MEN' — a riveting film !

Tom Cruise, Jack Nicholson and Demi Moore star in Rob Reiner's unanimously acclaimed drama about the dangerous difference between following orders and following one's conscience. Cruise stars as a brash Navy lawyer who is teamed with a gung-ho litigator (Moore) in a politically explosive murder case. Charged with defending two Marines accused of killing a fellow soldier, they are confronted with complex issues of loyalty and honour — including its most sacred code and its most formidable warrior (Nicholson). Superbly directed with a trio of brilliant performances — this film is "a stirring, rousing, riproaring success".

Viewing time — 138 minutes

All are welcome. Please be in your seats by 2.15 p.m. Limited parking will be available. Please call Nirmal before 8th of January (between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. only) and give your car numbers.

NIRMAL SESHADRI
ISSY SANDERSON

Kudos to :

Issy Sanderson for her most enjoyable and hilarious production of the, pantomime 'Cinderella' and to Barbara Cortez-Greig and her whole family who took part in the show. Most commendable is the fact that the entire proceeds of all the shows goes for the Self Help Project of the Institute of the Mentally Handicapped.

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Tuesday, 10th January, 1995 — 10-15 a.m.

At: Pushpa Chary's
95, Harrington Road
Chetpet
Madras-600 031



CAKE DECORATING

Everybody loves cakes. It is also everyone's dream to be able to ice and decorate cakes the professional way.

Mrs. Anjana Sunil of the prestigious house of Harrisons, who has considerable practical experience in this field, will demonstrate some beautiful decorations for us. She has done specialised courses in catering technology here and in the United States.

Limit — 40. No guests, please.

R.S.V.P. : Usha Bail — 6412621
Irene Dass — 4990865

USHA BAIL
IRENE PRULLER DASS

CHANGES IN ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MEYYAMMAI MURUGAPPAN
14/2-B, Valliammai Achi Road
Kotturpuram
Madras-600 085
Phone : 41 96 80

REKHA RANGARAJ
'Sai Griha'
81/1, Poes Garden
Madras - 600 086
Phone : 499 38 79

Alagammai Alagappan	—	434 32 40
		434 46 23
Ranjini Manian	—	434 24 66
Meenakshi Meyyappan	—	494 29 85
Valli Murugappan	—	434 03 22
Dolly Prasad	—	483 87 87
Visalakshi Ramaswamy	—	493 98 29
Rekha Rangaraj	—	499 38 79
Bharathi Suresh	—	483 87 87

ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS
MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

Thursday, 12th January, 1995 — 10-00 a.m.

At : J. Jayalalitha Film City
Tharamani



VISIT TO FILM CITY

At the request of members, we have arranged a visit to the newly built Film City to see The Village, Mughal Gardens, Italian Castle front, Japanese buildings and Children's Garden built for film shooting.

As a prelude, the veteran film actor of Tamil, Kannada, Telugu and Malayalam films, S. Charuhasan, who is also a producer and director, will speak to us about the Indian film industry.

This will be followed by a tour of Film City.

Please let Shakunthala know before January 10th, with your car number, if you are coming, as she has to inform Film City Security in advance. Phone her between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. only please.

WE MEET AT THE CANTEEN IN FILM CITY AT 10 SHARP

NIRMAL SESHADRI
ISSY SANDERSON

SHAKUNTHALA JAGANNATHAN
SANDRA ROWLAND



HOW TO GET THERE : Drive to Madhya Kailas Temple on Gandhi Mandapam Road. At the traffic signal there is a blue arrow pointing out the road to J. Jayalalitha Film City. Turn in on this road, and drive on for 1 km. till you come to the first turning on the right. Turn right and drive past four gates. Drive in at the fifth gate and ask the guards the road to the Canteen (which is next to the jaws of the Whale).

HEALTH AND ECOLOGY

Tuesday, 17th January, 1995 — 10-15 a.m.

At : The British Council Auditorium
737, Anna Salai
Madras-600 002



HEREDITY AND DISEASE

Our genes and chromosomes determine not only our physical appearance, but also our susceptibility to various diseases ; from diabetes to hypertension to various other microbial infections. Congenital birth defects, mental retardation, muscular dystrophy — all these represent avoidable genetic diseases that could be prevented by genetic testing and genetic counselling. The miracles of modern medicine have brought us antibiotics, open-heart surgery and organ transplants, but the new frontier would be genetic engineering and gene therapy.

Dr. Ratnasabapathy, Founder Director of the Department of Medical Genetics at Madras Medical College, and an authority on the subject, with several publications to his credit, will talk on the fascinating subject of Genetics and Disease. How do genes cause disease ? Can these genetic diseases be cured by Gene Therapy ?

These are some of the issues that will be addressed in his talk.

**RUPA KADHIRESAN
VIJAYA RANGARAJAN**

The trouble with losing weight is that you can find it again without even offering a reward.

In response to several members' requests for publishing details of Mr. O. T. Ravindran's talk on 'Herbs Around Us' on 22-11-94, we give below some names of plants and their medicinal properties. His book on Medicinal Herbs will be on sale soon. As he is unable to compile the details owing to time constraints, we have put them together with the help of Vijaya Balu. We wish to record our deep appreciation for Vijaya's assistance.

Colloquial names

Medicinal properties

1) Vallarai (Tamil)	improves memory
2) Keelanalli (Tamil)	cures jaundice
3) Hibiscus (Shoe Flower) (English)	for luxurious growth of hair
4) Castor (English)	laxative
5) Thulasi (Tamil)	cures colds & coughs ; effective as an insect repellent
6) Red Sanders (Sandalwood) (English)	for clear skin
7) Ordinary Turmeric & Kasturi Turmeric (English) Manjal & Kasturi Manjal (Tamil)	for removal of facial hair
8) Manathakkali (Tamil)	source of Vitamin C — cures duodenal ulcer
9) Datura (English) but the plant is poisonous, so please do not experiment	leaves are used for curing asthma
10) Karisilanganni (Tamil)	cures jaundice
11) Curry Leaves (English) (Karuvepilai) (Tamil)	for luxurious growth of hair & healthy glow in the eye
12) Hariyali Grass (English) (Arugampullu) (Tamil)	for kidney problem, piles
13) Latex of the papaya (English)	for removing skin blemishes
14) Musumusukkai (Tamil)	for respiratory ailments
15) Sensitive Plant (English) (Thotta Sinungi) (Tamil)	stops blood flow from cuts & wounds

RUPA KADHIRESAN
VIJAYA RANGARAJAN

BOOK DISCUSSION

Wednesday, 18th January, 1995 — 6-30 p.m.

At : British Council Auditorium
737, Anna Salai
Madras-600 002



THE SPIRIT LAND — by Pepita Seth

An unusual and interesting first novel set in the twilight world of good and bad magic.

We are fortunate to have PEPITA SETH to discuss her book with us. Pepita Seth was born in London and is married to actor Roshan Seth and lives in Delhi.

This programme is jointly organised by the British Council Division and the International Women's Association.

**SULOCHANA ALEXANDER
ROSA MARIA SRIDHARAN**

Congratulations to :

The newly-weds, Gitanjali, daughter of Ponchie Kanwar and Prashant, son of Jayashree Prabhakar.

Poonam Lalchand whose daughter Lena weds Vinod and

Brahada Kameshwaran whose daughter Shreevidya weds Harish this month.

The tour to Israel leaves on 7th March 1995. Five more can join the group. Please call 8271532 or 8276406 before 10th January 1995 if you are interested.

CURRENT EVENTS

Thursday, 19th January, 1995 — 10-15 a.m.

At : The Taj Coromandel Hotel
17, Nungambakkam High Road
Madras-600 034



THE TV WAR — STAR TV-VERSUS DOORDARSHAN

MANI AYER, an adman of 35 years standing, former Managing Director of Ogilvy & Mather and member of the governing body of the Mudra Institute for Communications, Ahmedabad, will speak to us about the TV age in India. Millions of viewers with varied tastes are glued to their TV screens everyday. How does Doordarshan cater to their demands? How do Star TV and other networks flood our TV with innumerable programmes? Mani Ayer will give us a Socio-economic perspective and its impact on our society.

Regular TV watchers please come armed with your queries so question time can be very exciting.

SUJAYA MENON

CHRISTMAS KALEIDOSCOPE

The sumptuous fare at the Christmas party was contributed by a very committed group of members. We wish to thank them for their willing support.

They are :

Zubeida Asgar Ali	Usha Bail	Usha Chandrakumar
Shobha Hebbar	Leelamani John	Lajitha Krishnan
Lily Madhok	Ranjini Manian	Sujaya Menon
Sosamma Thampy	Shobana Thomas	Reena Verghese
Aruna Vijay Kumar	and last but not least,	Sandra Rowland,

who hosted the tea and gave us the generous use of her house. We also would like to specially thank Sujaya Menon for the extra chairs she provided.

MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

Friday, 20th January, 1995 — 10-15 a.m.

At : The Dupleix Room
Taj Coromandel Hotel
17, Nungambakkam High Road
Madras-600 034



AMELIA CUNI — in a Dhrupad recital

Amelia Cuni, an Italian artiste, has been trained in classical music and dance in North India. She started her voice training and Dhrupad singing from Ustad Rahimuddin Dagar. Since 1987, she has been teaching and performing in various artistic centres of India and Europe. She is engaged in several projects aimed at the preservation and fostering of Dhrupad as well as at researching, integrating and elaborating various artistic traditions and tendencies.

Dhrupad, the most ancient style of North Indian classical music — will today be rendered by this delightful Italian artiste who lives in Berlin. A true international! All are welcome.

We thank Bilquis Chida, the sponsor of this unusual programme and also our hostess of this morning, Surekha Kothari.

R.S.V.P. :

Please call Mr. Swaminathan (Surekha Kothari's Secretary) 8257145 if you plan to come.

**NIRMAL SESHADRI
ISSY SANDERSON**

HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS

Friday, 27th January, 1995 — 9-00 a.m.

Meet at : Sushila Natraj's
E-110, 16th Cross Street
Madras-600 090



VISIT TO DAKSHINACHITRA — A CENTRE FOR THE CRAFT AND FOLK PERFORMING ARTS OF SOUTH INDIA

Dakshinachitra literally means 'a picture of the south'. A project of the Madras Craft Foundation, it portrays the traditional crafts and performing arts of South India, within their cultural contexts. It is situated on 10 acres of land at Muttukadu, 28 km. from Madras. Construction began in February '92, and is still on. Ms. V. R. Devika of the MCF will take us around and also treat us to a performance of "therukoothu", a vibrant theatre form of Tamil Nadu.

Transport will be arranged from the meeting place to Dakshinachitra and back. Please call Sabine Salam (832670) to confirm your interest, before 20th January, '95. (Rs. 35/- per head)

**SUSHILA NATRAJ
SABINE SALAM**

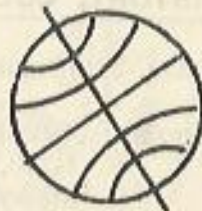
River House Crafts Demonstration and Sale

Members and friends who make handicrafts for fun or profit are invited to show their work at an IWA Arts and Handicrafts meeting on Thursday, 9th February, 1995 at River House, 1, Turnbolls Road, Madras-600 035. Please call Sandra Rowland — 434 18 88 to arrange for your presentation.

CURRENT EVENTS
HEALTH AND ECOLOGY

Saturday, 28th January, 1995 — 10-15 a.m.

At : Arcot Greenways Hall
Park Sheraton Hotel
132, T. T. K. Road
Madras-600 018



PURPOSEFUL LIFE AFTER 60 — THE SWEDISH WAY

A group of senior citizens from Sweden are in Madras on the first lap of their tour of South India. Our meeting with them is intended to discuss and exchange views on life in our two countries with special reference to senior citizens. There will be a slide presentation to illustrate the meaningful and purposeful lives senior citizens lead in Sweden and in India proving how true are the words of the poet Robert Browning :

‘Grow old along with me
The best is yet to be’.

From our side, Margaret Sekhran and Sundari Mani will lead the discussion.

RUPA KADHIRESAN VIJAYA RANGARAJAN SUJAYA MENON

Our thanks to :

Fakhira Ayer
Aloka Guha
Princess Naik

Dolly Prasad
Visalakshi Ramaswamy
Kalpana Sonthalia

for graciously hosting this meeting.





NOMINATION FORM 1995-96

I nominate

N^o 004

Indian

Non-Indian

Presidents _____

Vice Presidents _____

Secretaries _____

Treasurers _____

Signature _____

Date _____ Name _____

(Block Letters)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE BOARD

PRESIDENTS	:	Lily Madhok	4993125/4990661(R) 4994101(O)
		Margaret Sekhran	6213692(R)
VICE-PRESIDENTS	:	Lakshmi Padmanabhan	8264334(R)
		Barbara Cortez-Greig	4344884(R) 8273040/208(O)
SECRETARIES	:	Shyla K. Rau	8276676(R) 8276893(O)
		Seema Sait	8261018(R) 8264112(O)
TREASURERS	:	Zubeida Asgarali	8271614
		Angelika Mandaiker	611265

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS	:	Shakunthala Jagannathan	459199(R)
		Sandra Rowland	4341888(R)
BOOK DISCUSSION	:	Sulochana Alexander	8262410(R)
		Rosa Maria Sridharan	417289(R)
CURRENT EVENTS & CAREERS	:	Sujaya Menon	4910044(R)
COOKING SWAPSHOP	:	Usha Bail	6412621(R)
		Irene Pruller Dass	4990865(R) 417233(O)
HEALTH & ECOLOGY	:	Rupa Kadhiresan	4992847(R)
		Vijaya Rangarajan	8284334(R) 4992653(O)
HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS	:	Sushila Natraj	4911015(R)
		Sabine Salam	832670(R)
MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS	:	Nirmal Seshadri	413820(R)
		Issy Sanderson	4343348(R)
PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION	:	Ranjini Manian	453085/4342466(R)
		Joanne Grady Huskey	4347888(R)