



International  
Women's  
Association

AUGUST 1995

# IWA NEWSLETTER

Vol X No 3  
Madras

AUGUST 1995

## MONTH AT A GLANCE

Friday	4 August	<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	10-15 am
Tuesday	8 August	<b>CURRENT EVENTS AND CAREERS</b> The refugee problem in India	10-15 am
Thursday	10 August	<b>PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION</b> "Form" and "Formless" worship	10-15 am
Friday	11 August	<b>ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS</b> Photography & Poetry of Ramesh Gandhi	10-15 am
Monday	14 August	<b>COOKING SWAPSHOP</b> Stay Cool with Exotic Cuisine	10-15 am
Friday	18 August	<b>MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS</b> "PURUSH — Expressions of Man"	10-15 am
Tuesday	22 August	<b>HEALTH AND ECOLOGY</b> Vermicomposting — from Waste to Wealth	10-15 am
Friday	25 August	<b>HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS</b> Tour of RANGANATHITTOO — SRIRANGAPATNA — SOMNATHPUR — SIVASAMUDRAM	
Monday	28 August	<b>BOOK DISCUSSION</b> George Orwell's "Animal Farm"	10-15 am
Thursday	31 August	<b>MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS</b> "The Music of the Commonwealth" — an illustrated talk	10-15 am

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

It is indeed very heartening to see a lot of members at our meetings. We would like them to also share some of their special talents with us.

We are in the process of finding volunteers to help update the **Telephone Tree**. Those of you who would like to help us with this, please contact any of the board members. The **Telephone Tree** is very useful when the occasion demands — when we have a special meeting or there is a cancellation and the Newsletter has already gone. We would appreciate your support — this is true participation.

We would like you to think of this quote "The longer we live and the more we think, the higher the value we learn to put on the friendships, tenderness and compassion of friends"; so go out and make friends ; cherish them as they cherish you.

ZUBEIDA ASGARALI  
KIN THI DA LWIN

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday 4 August 1995 — 10-15 am

At : Lalitha Krishnan's  
38-A Oliver Road  
Madras-600 004



Activity Chairpersons, please bring your blurbs, **TYPED**.

## FROM THE VICE PRESIDENTS

We have more exciting meetings this month for you. Do remember though that registers will be removed promptly at 10.45 so please make an effort to arrive on time. Also, don't forget that hostesses have been requested only to provide simple food such as coffee, biscuits or cake.

The 1995 / 1996 Membership Sub Committee is as follows.

Past Presidents	—	MARGARET SEKHRAN LILY MADHOK
Founder President	—	NIRMAL SESHADRI
By Invitation	—	LAKSHMI PADMANABHAN
Two members not on Executive Committee	—	VANITHA MUDALIAR ANNELIESE HAZARI
Membership Treasurer	—	ANGELIKA MANDAIKAR
Treasurer	—	RUPA KADHIRESAN
Ex-Officio	—	ZUBEIDA ASGARALI KIN THI DA LWIN

**SHYLA K. RAU  
TERESA KING**

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## FROM THE TREASURERS

In view of the recent amendments to IWA's Constitution with regard to the Annual Membership Fee it has been decided to extend the deadline for payment to 10 August 1995. After this date, if payment has not been received, in full, membership will cease.

## CURRENT EVENTS AND CAREERS

Tuesday 8 August 1995 — 10-15 am

At : Sheela Sarath's  
"Sharan"  
29 Bishops Garden  
Madras-600 028



### THE REFUGEE PROBLEM IN INDIA

Mr Sunil Thapa, Officer-in-Charge, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, will talk to us about the Afghan, Sri Lankan and Bangladesh refugee problem in India.

Guests are welcome

PADMINI NATARAJAN  
CHANDRIKA CHIDAMBARAM

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### CONGRATULATIONS

We have two new grandmothers this month — **Alagu Muthu** and **Devaki Muthiah**. Congrats on the new arrivals and may their sleep be peaceful!!

We also congratulate the following members in their new posts.

**Leela Ratnam**, President, Altrusa International Madras Club

**Rathi Nilakantan**, President, Ladies Circle, India

**Gita Chandrasekaran**, President, Inner Wheel Club of Madras Central

**Sushi Nataraj**, Secretary, Inner Wheel Club of Madras

**Mano Baktavatsalam**, Vice President, Music Academy, Madras

**Lakshmi Viswanathan**, Member, Executive Committee,  
Music Academy, Madras

## PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

Thursday 10 August 1995 — 10-15 am

At : Naina Shah's  
7-B Sathyanarayana Avenue  
Off Boat Club Road  
Madras-600 028



### **"FORM" AND "FORMLESS" WORSHIP**

The importance and place of Image Worship in the Hindu Religion is one of the most misunderstood and misinterpreted aspects of Hinduism throughout the world.

**Smt Jaya Srinivasan**, a well known orator famed for her knowledge of the ancient Hindu Scriptures, her Musical Religious discourses and her mastery of the Sanskrit language, will share with us her views on this very soul searching thought — taking us to higher levels of understanding in our worship of the Divine.

All are welcome

**ALAGU MUTHU  
IRENE PRULLER DAS**

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### **NEWS . . . NEWS . . . NEWS**

The Overseas Women's Club of Madras are holding a **WILD WEST NIGHT** as their annual fundraising event on Tuesday 15 August 1995 at 8 pm at the Taj Coromandel Hotel, Nungambakkam.

IWA members are invited and tickets are Rs. 300 per head which includes dinner with appropriate "Wild West" style food and door prizes. Dress is casual (jeans are acceptable but not shorts).

For more information or tickets please call Chandrika (491 7609) or Aruna (827 2730).

## ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS

Friday 11 August 1995 — 10-15 am

At : No 6 MRC Nagar  
RA Puram  
Madras-600 028



## PHOTOGRAPHY AND POETRY

A morning for viewing thought provoking imagery through photography and poetry by **Ramesh Gandhi**. He has had several solo exhibitions in Madras, Bangalore, Bombay and the USA. His interests also include philosophy, music and film. However, it is his preoccupation and devotion with the aesthetic that gives his poetry and photography their uniqueness and beauty.

Guests are welcome

**NANDITA CHAUDHURI**  
**SANGEETA THAPA**

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## WELCOME

We welcome the following new members :

**Fabienne De Meyer** from Belgium and **Bernice Jarvis** from Ireland.

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Do all the good you can  
In all the ways you can  
In all the places you can  
At all the times you can  
To all the people you can  
As long as ever you can

**John Wesley**, Rules of conduct

## ***COOKING SWAP SHOP***

MONDAY 28th August — 10-15 A. M.  
AT CONNEMARA HOTEL  
MADRAS.

" Through the kind courtesy of the Indonesian Consulate we have the unique privilege of presenting exotic cuisine from this part of the World ".

**LALITHA KRISHNAN  
BRITT JACKSON**

### ***NO GUESTS PLEASE***

Our grateful thanks to our own member Shamuin Padamsee (Indonesian Consul) and Sujaya Menon for making this meeting possible.



## COOKING SWAPSHOP

Monday 14 August 1995 — 10-15 am

At : 26 Thiruvencatam Street  
Raja Annamalaipuram  
Madras-600 028



## STAY COOL WITH EXOTIC CUISINE

**Mallika Badrinath** a gourmet cook par excellence is the author of eight cooking books; all best sellers. She will demonstrate the following for us.

**INDIAN MINT APPETIZER**, to quench your thirst.

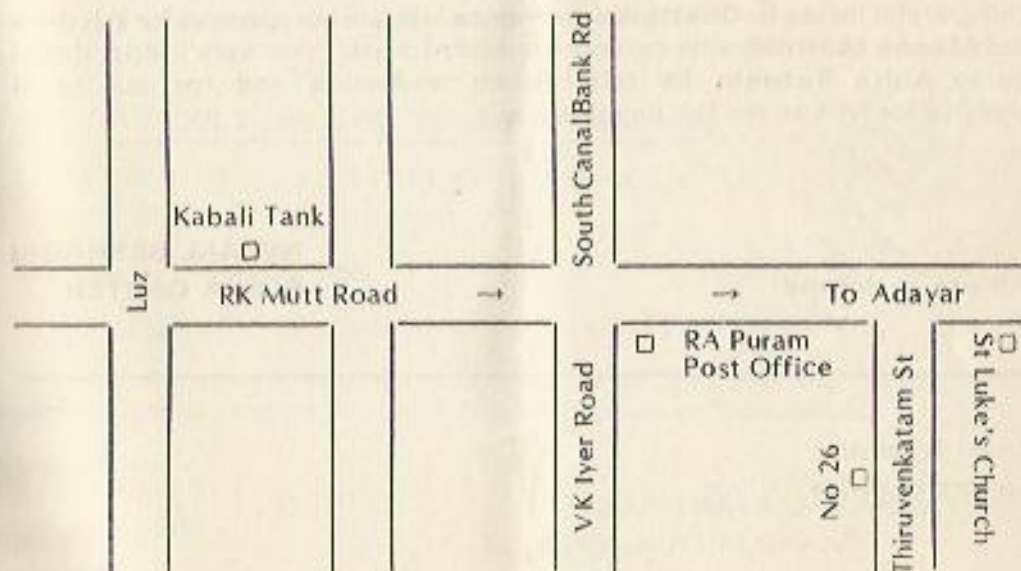
A cold **SWISS CHEESE SOUP**, to refresh you in the hot summer.

**YAM YAM, MUSHROOM MANCHURIAN** and a delicious

**AMERICAN EMBASSY PUDDING.**

**LALITHA KRISHNAN**  
**BRITT JACKSON**

No guests please



## MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

Friday 18 August 1995 — 10-15 am

At : Rani Seethai Hall  
Anna Salai  
Madras-600 002



“PURUSH - EXPRESSIONS OF MAN” — A fusion of classical dances of India and contemporary dances of America.

Curated and presented by **Anita Ratnam**, “PURUSH” will feature India’s most brilliant male dancers along with four artistes from New York’s **Battery Dance Company**, and will for the first time offer an opportunity to explore the various aspects of male dancing. It ventures to highlight, revive and underscore the strong male, dancing traditions of India. At the same time it also elevates to a universal, humanistic dimension by erasing the barriers arising out of structural, gender specific and specialised traditions. “PURUSH-EXPRESSIONS OF MAN” will for the very first time in India, explore and celebrate the plurality and multiplicity of the arts. Directed and produced by **Anita Ratnam** it strengthens Arangham Trust’s commitment to the myriad cultural traditions of India and the citizens of Madras.

Our grateful thanks to **Chettinad Cements** who are our sponsors for this show and **Meena Muthiah** who co-ordinated this for us. Our very special thanks go to **Anita Ratnam** for this brilliant production and for making it possible for IWA to see this unique show.

All are welcome

**NIRMAL SESHADRI**  
**SONIA CARTER**

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To err is human  
To forgive divine

## HEALTH AND ECOLOGY

Tuesday 22 August 1995 — 10-15 am

At : Meera Jayakar's  
17 Saffee Mohamed Road  
Madras-600 006



### **VERMICOMPOSTING—AN ECO FRIENDLY WAY OF TURNING YOUR GARBAGE FROM WASTE TO WEALTH — A TALK AND DEMONSTRATION**

It's easy, inexpensive, adaptable in flats and houses, pollution-free and highly advantageous. All you need is a pit or container, some sand and straw, a few earthworms, and your garbage turns into food for greener, healthier plants.

Mr Sathyanarayan, an expert on solid waste management who is in charge of this special project for Exnora International will address us and show us step by step how to go about this innovative method of gaining from garbage.

All are welcome

**BELA MISTRY KHALEELI  
PADMA ASHOK**

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### HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS — Reminder

3 DAY TOUR OF RANGANATHITTOO - SRIRANGAPATNA -  
SOMNATHPUR - SIVASAMUDRAM

Departure - 25 August 1995

Details of the tour have already been given in the July Newsletter.

In case there are any cancellations, those who have not registered in July could be accommodated. Please contact Poonam or Shakunthala.



**SHAKUNTHALA JAGANNATHAN  
POONAM LALCHAND**

## BOOK DISCUSSION

Monday 28 August 1995 — 10-15 am

At : Anna Abraham's  
c/o Dr N T Mathew  
7 Royal Enclave  
Besant Avenue  
(near Aavin milk bar)  
Madras-600 020



### ✓ ANIMAL FARM - GEORGE ORWELL

Orwell's ability, to imagine the world as she may be, is legendary! In his all-time classic **Nineteen Eighty Four**, he showed his uncanny knack for gazing into the crystal ball. In this work, his insight into the nature of men and all creatures is amazing. Truly a book for discussion in today's 'rat' race.

From now on, our books will be circulated well ahead of time, so that everyone has a reasonable length of time with them. Please help us to keep the books from stagnating in any one place! Thanks!

No guests please

SUSHI NATRAJ  
SEEMA SAIT

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There is only one thing in the world  
worse than being talked about,  
and that is not being talked about

— Oscar Wilde

## MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

Thursday 31 August 1995 — 10-15 am

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



### **MUSIC OF THE COMMONWEALTH — AN ILLUSTRATED TALK**

The study of Ethnomusicology, a new discipline that has developed in the 20th century, has produced new insights into our understanding of the musical cultures of the world. The 50 countries of The Commonwealth together demarcate a geographical span in which the various idioms of music existing in the world are well represented. This talk will highlight the strength of music as a medium of unity emphasising the interculturalism, in music. The talk will be supported by a video presentation of The Commonwealth. The Kora music from Gambia, Inunit throat singing from Canada, music from the Solomon Island, Chinese music from Hon Kong, music of India, Western music from Singapore, Malta and an avant-garde intercultural composition by a Malaysian composer performed by the musicians of The Commonwealth Countries, which provides a clue to the underlying unities that exist in the music of The Commonwealth to understand the notion of unity in diversity.

Dr SAK Durga, Director, Center for Ethnomusicology, Madras, will present this illustrated talk. An erudite musicologist and scholar, Dr Durga is the recipient of several national and International Awards. She is the Indian representative of The Commonwealth Music Association, London. Awarded the title "Skylark of India" in 1986 — Dr Durga's wealth of knowledge is rare to achieve.

Please join us and revel in the musics of the world.

All are welcome

**NIRMAL SESHADRI**  
**SONIA CARTER**

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I have spread my dreams under your feet,  
Tread softly because you tread on my dreams.

— W B Yeats

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### THE BOARD

Presidents	:	Zubeida Asgarali	8271614
		Khin-Thi-Da-Lwin (Dawn)	4347961
Vice-Presidents	:	Shyla K. Rau	8276893
		Teresa Mary King	4341066
Secretaries	:	Sujaya Menon	4917464/4910044
		Ellen Sorensen	4919291
Treasurers	:	Rupa Kadhiresan	4992847
		Angelika Mandaikar	611265

### ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

Arts & Handicrafts	:	Nandita Chaudhuri	452720/4347871
		Sangeetha Thapa	4913078
Book Discussion	:	Sushila Nataraj	4911015
		Seema Sait	8261018
Current Events & Careers	:	Padmini Natarajan	8280844
		Chandrika Chidambaram	4917609
Cooking Swapshop	:	Lalitha Krishnan	4991853/4992341
		Britt Jackson	8281701
Health & Ecology	:	Bela Khaleeli	418653
		Padma Ashok	8276591
History, Culture & Tours	:	Shakunthala Jagannathan	459199
		Poonam Lalchand	8272947
Music & Performing Arts	:	Nirmal Seshadri	4913820
		Sonia Carter	4345995
Philosophy & Religion	:	Alagu Muthu	4937050
		Irene Pruller Dass	4990865