



International  
Women's  
Association

MARCH 1997



A DECADE OF FRIENDSHIP

# IWA NEWSLETTER

Vol XI No 10  
Chennai

MARCH 1997

## MONTH AT A GLANCE

Tuesday	4th March	<b>MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS</b> Alarmel Valli	10-15 am
Friday	7th March	<b>BOARD MEETING</b>	10-00 am
Friday	7th March	<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	11-00 am
Tuesday	11th March	<b>BOOK DISCUSSION</b> Steps from Paradise	10-15 am
Wednesday	12th March	<b>HEALTH AND ECOLOGY</b> Bypass Surgery Vs. Angioplasty	10-15 am
Friday	14th March	<b>COOKING SWAPSHOP</b> A taste of Malabar	10-15 am
Monday	17th March	<b>MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS</b> Johanathan Hollander	10-15 am
Tuesday	18th March	<b>AWARDS PRESENTATION</b>	10-15 am
Thursday	20th March	<b>ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS</b> Table Settings	10-15 am
Tuesday	25th March	<b>PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION</b> Eid Milan Lunch	11-00 am
Thursday	27th March	<b>HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS</b> A Caribbean Morning	10-15 am

## FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear Friends,

As we approach the close of IWA's 'Decade of Friendship', your Board and Executive Committee are busy planning the year's closing events. Please note that the Annual General Meeting is slated for Wednesday, 16th April 1997.

The 'Woman of the year' Award Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18th and is to be held at the Ballroom, Connemara Hotel. In addition to this, and as part of the Tenth Year Celebration, the Board have decided to present an 'Award of Honour' to Mrs. Daisy Victoria Armstrong, a British National, who for the past 30 years has lived in the Nilgiris, uplifting the Adivasis. The Celebration Committee also met and have decided that the Heritage Fund be used to establish an annual Endowment Lecture at the Madras Govt. Museum and to give a donation to Dakshinachitra. Details of the programme follow in this Newsletter. We do hope you will all be present at the function to make it a resounding success.

We plan to hold a fellowship meeting on Tuesday 25th March at which we invite members to come forward with any suggestions they might have for the improvement and good of IWA. This will be followed by an Eid Milan lunch. Friends, IWA is your organisation and you alone are responsible for its success, so do attend this get-together and give us your support.

We have decided to build up an Archives section of IWA papers. Vanita Mudaliar has kindly agreed to keep the papers with her.

Looking forward to your full participation in the year-end events,

**ALAGU MUTHU  
POONAM LALCHAND**



## FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

IWA is fortunate to have wonderfully talented persons among its membership. Yet, since the number of members has been increasing, not many are aware of the special interests of most of our members, especially of new members.

May we therefore appeal to IWA members to come forward and offer their services as Activity Chairpersons to next year's Presidents, as soon as the latter's selection is announced in the Newsletter. By this, we will not only be able to tap hidden talent but also give new members a chance to actively participate in IWA programmes.

**SHAKUNTHALA JAGANNATHAN  
MEGAN UTLEY**

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### **BOARD MEETING**

Friday 7th March - 10-00 am

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Friday 7th March - 11-00 am

Activity Chairpersons -

Please bring your blurbs without fail

Both meetings at :

Sujaya Menon's  
52A Beach Road  
Kalakshetra Colony  
Chennai - 600 090

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### **AU REVOIR**

MARGARET SEKHRAN, a former IWA President, is moving away to Kodaikanal from Chennai. She looks forward to attending meetings as a guest on her visits to our city. We will miss you Margaret, so its Au Revoir, and not Good-bye!

Margaret's address in Kodai will be,

"Shenbagam", Convent Road, Kodaikanal - 624 101

## MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

Tuesday 4th March - 10-15 am

At : Narada Gana Sabha Mini Hall  
TTK Road, Chennai - 600 018



### ✓ **ALARMEL VALLI - Lecture Demonstration**

Acclaimed not only for her exquisite perfection in dance, Alarmel Valli is a famous exponent of the Pandanallur tradition in Bharata Natyam and is hailed as a creative artist who brings to everyone of her items a depth of feeling, intensity and emotion which makes her not only a paragon among dancers, but the essence of dance itself. She is the recipient of many awards including the Kalaimamani and Padma Shri.

Alarmel Valli will talk to us on her experiences in performing this wonderful dance form, Bharata Natyam.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME

**GAYATRI BEWOOR  
LALINI GAUTAMADASA**

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## BOOK DISCUSSION

Tuesday 11th March - 10-15 am

At : Maureen Hudson Murari's  
32 Landons Road, Kilpauk  
Chennai - 600 010



### ✓ **STEPS FROM PARADISE by TIMERI N MURARI**

A highly acclaimed novelist his books have received rare and appreciative reviews. STEPS FROM PARADISE is the bittersweet story of the Naidu family's decline and fall.

A rare occasion when the author himself will discuss exclusively to our members about his experiences in writing this interesting book in his own home which has inspired him in many ways.

**SHYLA K RAU  
TERESA KING**

## HEALTH AND ECOLOGY

Wednesday 12th March - 10-15 am

At : Hotel Sindoori (Auditorium - Sarahan)  
21 Greams Lane  
Chennai - 600 006



### **BYPASS SURGERY Vs. ANGIOPLASTY – When & Why ?**

Dr. M.R. Girinath and Dr. Mathew Samuel Kalarickal would both be addressing this topic. Both of them have the largest experience in this part of the world in Bypass Surgery & Angioplasty and they would enlighten us on the current status of these important fields of medicine with Audiovisual and Video presentation.

**BINA MATHEW  
SEEMA SAIT**

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## COOKING SWAPSHOP

Friday 14th March - 10-15 am

At : Coconut Grove  
Harrington Road  
Chennai - 600 031



## **A TASTE OF MALABAR**

BINA RAVIKRISHNAN runs a popular restaurant that goes by the name of Coconut Grove. The restaurant serves ethnic Kerala food and is famous for its appams, chicken and fish curry. Bina, a creative entrepreneur, has also recently opened up a boutique of designer wear.

She will be demonstrating to the IWA members Appam and Kerala ulli thiyal.

**USHA CHANDRAKUMAR  
LATA MURUGAN**

Our thanks to NILISHA MEHTA for hosting HAPPY BARBECUEING last month.



## MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

Monday 17th March - 6-30 pm

At : Music Academy  
TTK Road, Chennai - 600 014



### **JOHANATHAN HOLLANDER & THE BATTERY DANCE COMPANY**

IWA is very privileged to present JOHANATHAN HOLLANDER and THE BATTERY DANCE COMPANY in the "SONGS OF TAGORE". Words and music of Tagore animated by movements of Western dance form show the Company's Asian influence and repertoire and Johanathan Hollander's great love for India, going back to the summer he spent here as an exchange student.

Art in all its forms is a celebration of Culture, encouraging us to gain a deeper understanding of our place in the world. Dance challenges us to explore our boundaries and to appreciate our diversity in uniting people, in a common expression towards all humanity.

In "SONGS OF TAGORE" the Artist celebrates the culture of India through the poetry and songs of its Nobel Laureate, Rabindranath Tagore.

Invitations for this programme are available with Lalini & Gayatri

**GAYATRI BEWOOR  
LALINI GAUTAMADASA**

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### **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

3 films shown at the Film Festival with Woman as the theme will be presented by Anita Ratnam's Arangham Trust at the Film Chamber of Commerce (near Anna Flyover) on Tuesday 8th March.

The films are Sardari Begum (by Shyam Benegal), Yugant (by Aparna Sen) and Adajya (by Santwana Bordoloi). All have English sub-titles.

Contact 8524917 / 8525288 for invitations.

## **WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD**

### **AWARD OF HONOUR**

### **HERITAGE FUND ENDOWMENTS**

Tuesday 18th March - 10-15 am

At : The Ball Room  
Connemara Hotel

1. The **WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD** will be presented to Dr. ELIZABETH VOMSTEIN whose work and achievements we have written about in detail in our February Newsletter.

Dr. VOGEL, Consul General for Germany, will introduce Dr. Vomstein and NIRMAL MIRZA will present the award.

2. The Board have also decided to present an **AWARD OF HONOUR** to Miss DAISY V. ARMSTRONG. Born and educated in England, Miss Armstrong taught schools at various levels till she took premature retirement and came to India in 1966. She has been working as a Voluntary Social Worker in Kotagiri with tribal women and children, helping the women pursue income-generating activities and teaching children towards leading a better life. She is Chief Administrator of the Nilgiri Adivasi Welfare Association and Hon. President of the Kotagiri Women's Cooperative Cottage Industrial Society.

She has lived in India since 1966 and has never once returned to the U.K. She lives entirely on her pension from the U.K. and has not earned a single rupee in India.

She was awarded the M.B.E. in 1976 by Queen Elizabeth for her work amongst the Adivasi Tribals of South India.

3. **IWA HERITAGE FUND**

The money remaining after expenditure on the 10th Anniversary celebrations was put by as a Heritage Fund.



- a. As decided by the 10th Anniversary Celebrations Committee, Rs.20,000/- of this fund will be given to the MADRAS GOVT. MUSEUM as an IWA Endowment Lecture Fund to hold a public lecture once a year at the Govt. Museum. This endowment will ensure a permanent and recurrent contribution of IWA to the City of Chennai, and will be IWA's contribution to the promotion of the cultural heritage of the city. The Press coverage of the lecture will acquaint the public each year of IWA's contribution.
- b. The remaining Rs.10,000/- of the Heritage Fund will be given to the Madras Craft Foundation towards their DAKSHINACHITRA PROJECT located in Muttukadu. In this project of the Crafts Foundation, are houses reconstructed from rural Tamil Nadu and the other southern states (still under construction) for the preservation and presentation of the cultural heritage of South India.

Mrs. DEBORAH THYAGARAJAN who has been the moving spirit behind this project, will receive the donation.

**ALAGU MUTHU  
POONAM LALCHAND**

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## RELIGIOUS DAYS / FESTIVALS

Good Friday – March 28th

Easter Sunday – March 30th

Good Friday commemorates the day of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ who died for the salvation of Mankind. It is a day of penance and prayer.

Easter Sunday celebrates the joy of His resurrection when Jesus arose from the dead, signifying the triumph of life over death. This is a day of feasting and rejoicing. Easter eggs which children love to receive on this day, are an introduction from the West.

**SHAKUNTHALA JAGANNATHAN**

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## HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES to :

ALAGU MUTHU on the loss of her father and to MEENAKSHI MEYYAPPAN on the loss of her husband

MRIDULA SREENIVASAN on the demise of her mother-in-law

## ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS

Thursday 20th March - 10-15 am

At : Mandapam  
Chola Sheraton



### **TABLE SETTINGS**

While all of us are geared for hosting dinner parties, we sometimes need to add that little touch of "Being Different". One such way is to add a little exclusivity to the way we set our tables, the theme of the evening.

Banquet experts from Chola Sheraton will be showing our members different ways in which table setting can enhance the entire evening, giving the hostess and her guests some food for thought!

Chola Sheraton also opens its doors after renovation to IWA members. Thanks to the Hostesses for this morning - Shalini Virmani and Rini Kumar.

**RINI KUMAR**  
**IRENE PRULLER DASS**

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### **CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Franca George	4901544
Shobha Mujumdar	4321164
Anuradha Uberoi	4812126

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### **CONGRATULATIONS to :**

**AMRITA BHALLA** on being placed 3rd in the TNGF Golf Tournament held in Chennai recently (Total number of Competitors - 115 men and 5 women)

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### **HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS to :**

**RUPA SOOD** on the wedding of her daughter

## PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

Tuesday 25th March - 11-00 am

At : YMCA International Guest House  
1086 Poonamallee High Road  
Chennai - 600 084.



### **FELLOWSHIP MORNING - EID MILAN LUNCH**

This will be a Fellowship Morning for members, old and new, to get to know one another.

This will be followed by an Eid Milan lunch, marking the end of the holy month of Ramzan. It is a get-together for rejoicing and expressing our goodwill towards our friends.

So, IWA members, do attend this happy get-together.

Your hostesses for this morning are :

ZUBEIDA ASGARALI	VALERIE FAHEEM	THAYABAE KAKKAR
FAKHIRA AYER	MAHMOODA HAJA SHAREEF	SHAHLA VINITA KARIM
BILQUIS CHIDA	SUFIA HUSSAIN	SADIYA KHALEEL
REHANE YAVAR DHALA	ZAINAB KACHWALLA	BELA KHALEELI
MAHIN KHALEELI	FAZEELA NURDEEN	
MALEK BEGUM LALJI	SHAMIM PADAMSEE	
FARIDA MAJID	SEEMA SAIT	
BILQUIS MOOSA	SABINE ERLICH SALAAM	

ALL ARE WELCOME

**JAYASHREE PRABHAKAR**  
**MARIKO IBARA**

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We thank the following hostesses for hosting last month's meeting with Swami A. Parthasarathy :

PADMA ASHOK	MOHINI LALCHAND	SHEELA SHETTY
AMRITA BHALLA	RATHI NILAKANTAN	NISHA SOOD
RANI DASGUPTA	SHEILA RAJARATNAM	ANURADHA UBEROI
MEERA JAYAKAR	SHYLA RAU	



## HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS



Thursday 27th March - 10-15 am

At : British Council  
737 Anna Salai  
Chennai - 600 002

### **A CARIBBEAN MORNING**

Cruises to the Bahamas are romantic reminders of exotic areas of the world. Aruna Reddy will present a Caribbean morning with slide presentations on leisurely cruises.

So do join in for a morning of excitement.

**KAMALA PRASAD  
STINA VASU**

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### **TOUR TO NEPAL**

At the request of some members we are planning a tour of Nepal in the 3rd week of April.

It will be a 6-day tour visiting Kathmandu, Patan, Bhadgan, Pokhra and Nagarkot. Interested members may please contact KAMALA (6262035) or SHAKUNTHALA (459199) for details.

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Thanks to the following hostesses of the "Euthanasia" meeting at the C.P. Art Centre :

GITA CHANDRASEKARAN	MADELEINE LEONE
ROHINI JHUREMALANI	RAJINI SABHERWAL

And to

NANDITHA KRISHNA for giving us the hall for the meeting

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### THE BOARD

PRESIDENTS	:	Alagu Muthu Poonam Lalchand	(R) 4938683 / 4937050 (R) 8257157 / 8272947 (O) 8559110 / 8559108
VICE-PRESIDENTS	:	Shakunthala Jagannathan Megan Utley	(R) 459199 (R) 4343348
SECRETARIES	:	Sujaya Menon Eira Doshi	(R) 4917464/4910044 (R) 4911126
TREASURERS	:	Sushila Natra  Anneliese Hazari	(R) 4911015 / 4910707 (R) 4919505

### ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS	:	Rini Kumar Irene Pruller Das	(R) 4349319 (R) 4990865
BOOK DISCUSSION	:	Shyla K. Rau Teresa Mary King	(R) 8276676 / 8276893 (R) 4341066
CURRENT EVENTS AND CAREERS	:	Gita Chandrasekaran Madeleine Leone	(R) 412935 (R) 4340824
COOKING SWAPSHOP	:	Usha Chandrakumar Lata Murugan	(R) 8275341 (R) 6428215
HEALTH AND ECOLOGY	:	Bina Mathew Seema Sait	(R) 4941874 (R) 8261018
HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS	:	Kamala Prasad Stina Vasu	(R) 6262035 (R) 8278900 (O) 8275792
MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS	:	Gayatri Bewoor Lalini Gautamadasa	(R) 8264035 (R) 6412868
PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION	:	Jayashree Prabhakar Mariko Ibara	(R) 4342147 / 453394 (R) 8275755