



International  
Women's  
Association

SEPTEMBER 1996



A DECADE OF FRIENDSHIP

# IWA NEWSLETTER

Vol XI No 4  
Madras

SEPTEMBER 1996

## MONTH AT A GLANCE

Friday	6th	September	<b>BOARD MEETING</b>	10-00 am
Friday	6th	September	<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	10-30 am
Monday	2nd	September	<b>MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS</b> Singapore Surprise	10-15 am
Tuesday	3rd	September	<b>ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS</b> Chinese Brush Work	10-15 am
Monday	9th	September	<b>PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION</b> The Palm and its Fortune	10-15 am
Thursday	12th	September	<b>COOKING SWAPSHOP</b> Tempura from Japan	10-15 am
Tuesday	17th	September	<b>HEALTH AND ECOLOGY</b> The Environment and the Rights of the Citizen	10-15 am
Thursday	19th	September	<b>BOOK DISCUSSION</b> Edwina and Nehru – A book of letters	10-15 am
Friday	27th	September	<b>HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS</b> South Africa Morning	10-15 am

## FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear Friends,

The month of August ushered in India's 50th year of Independence. IWA marked the occasion with a nostalgic programme, our Guest Speakers taking us back in time to the moments of our freedom struggle and onwards to India's progress of today. We congratulate Sujaya Menon for co-ordinating this meaningful meeting and look forward to many more, commemorating fifty years of India's freedom.

Our congratulations also to our Activity Chairpersons for giving us such wonderful programme schedules each month. We were delighted to view the Singapore Surprise and learn of Sri Lankan and Japanese Cuisine. May we request our International Members to come forward with more meetings relating to their various cultures, enriching our Global Theme.

We do hope you enjoyed your Tenth Anniversary Gift from IWA - they were beautifully gift wrapped by Marina Mathias and her daughter Rasika. For those who have not collected their wallets, please do so at any IWA meeting. Thanks also to members who donated gifts for our raffle and to Mahlin Khaleeli for the bouquets.

As we approach the festive part of the year, the Committee has started planning IWA's Annual Celebration of Deepavali, the festival of lights, and Christmas. Should you have any ideas or suggestions, please do share them with us. Your active interest and participation will add so much more joy to the planning of these festivities.

For the benefit of our non-Indian friends, especially our new members, we have introduced an item, Festivals of the Month, in our Newsletters. The explanations by Shakunthala will help our friends from abroad understand the significance of Indian festivals.

**ALAGU MUTHU  
POONAM LALCHAND**

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### **BOARD MEETING**

Friday 6th September 1996 - 10-00 am

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Friday 6th September 1996 - 10-30 am

Both meetings at :  
Irene Pruller Dass'  
20, Poes Garden  
Madras - 600 086

## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP TREASURER

Hello Ladies ! You will be happy to know we now have 34 new members – a special welcome to them ! IWA membership now stands at 206 Indians and 63 non-Indians. For the benefit of the new members, and to jog the memories of some of our older members, what follows is an informal set of guidelines of what IWA would expect of you.

An active member must attend a minimum of ten meetings in an IWA year (1st June to 30th April the following year). If you plan to be away for a considerable length of time, please inform us *in writing* of your expected days of absence.

However, since you will agree that the minimum requirement is so undemanding, and there are usually about eight meetings in a month, it is very convenient to make up any shortfall on your return. Please also remember to write out your name legibly and to sign the register at each meeting.

**Do wear your name badge at all IWA gatherings.** You tend to make more friends that way !

Our morning meetings generally begin at 10-15 am. The guest speaker is introduced at 10-45 am. The time allotted to him/her is about an hour. As you can imagine, a lot of hard work goes into the organisation of each meeting. The chairpersons take great pains to see that the fare they provide is interesting. And the speaker naturally expects a receptive audience for his toils. It would be nice if members stayed till the very end, when the speaker is thanked and applauded. So, please ensure that you **do not leave** while the speaker is still speaking. Sure – we all have many demands on our time. But may we suggest that if you are not able to spare the time for a meeting you avoid attending that particular meeting.

For members who have close relatives keen to become members, as the waiting list is still very long, we cannot promise full membership immediately. We welcome such persons at meetings (on payment of guest charges of Rs.30/- per head per meeting). They may attend as many meetings as they wish to during the year, except meetings which say "No Guests".

We look forward to giving you a good year with IWA. We look forward to your co-operation. Do feel free to contact us if we can help you in any way. IWA means friendship !

**SUSHILA NATRAJ**

**WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS :**

JUDITH BARNA  
II Floor, 71-72  
Kamthar Nagar 3rd Street  
Nungambakkam, Madras - 600 034  
HUNGARIAN

ANJANA DAS-HASPER  
16, Cenotaph Road, 2nd Lane  
Madras - 600 018  
Phone : 454237  
GERMAN

FRANCOISE DROWN  
No.6, 13th Avenue  
Harrington Road, Chetput  
Madras - 600 031  
Phone : 8230412  
FRANCE

VIVIEN FARRELL  
BRITISH

ILDIKO FOLNAGY  
HUNGARIAN

HENNY de GRODE-PAAUWE  
Guesthouse Gitanjali  
22-D, Murugappa Road  
Kotturpuram, Madras - 600 085  
Phone : 4919646  
DUTCH

MOHINI A LALCHAND  
10, Lodi Khan Street  
Madras - 600 017  
Phone : 8233330, 8269560  
AMERICAN

ROSE McCARTHY  
15, Arunachalam Road  
Kotturpuram  
Madras - 600 085  
Phone : 417170  
AUSTRALIAN

KATHRYN OATLEY  
88A/4, Velachery Road  
Madras - 600 032  
Phone : 2354569  
BRITISH

RAMA RAJAGOPALAN  
No.4, Bhaskarapuram  
Mylapore, Madras - 600 004  
Phone : 4995273

LUCIE T. SAIDL  
2nd Floor, Flat No.6  
25, Ramanathan Street  
Kilpauk, Madras - 600 010  
Phone : 6441356  
CZECH

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**INTERNATIONAL MUSIC DAY** will be celebrated on Tuesday 1st October 1996 at the Sindoori Hotel at 10-15 am, when the renowned maestro, Kadri Gopalnath will speak about the adaptation of the western Saxophone to Indian music and then play the instrument. Further information in the October Newsletter.

## FROM POETIC STARS OF THE IWA FIRMAMENT

### SLEEP

You and I were friends  
We spent long hours together  
But now you don't come near me  
It is as if you are my worst enemy

Sleep

When did we part ways  
and why?

I've tried it all  
From counting sheep  
to the stars in the sky  
But you elude me !

Sleep

I'd like to spend more time with you  
Only then can I be assured  
of my dreams  
Not of my sorrow  
But a better tomorrow !

Sleep Oh Sleep

Won't you come back to me ?

Sleep Oh Sleep

Won't you spend time with me ?

I need you to be my friend  
Else my world will come to an end !

— SHALINI VIRMANI

### WITHOUT YOU

What's a rosary without its many beads?  
A peacock without its feathered pride?  
What's an intention without ensuing deeds?  
A groom without his blushing bride?  
That's what I am without you !...

What's a mirror that does not an image reflect?  
A sky whose visage isn't velvety blue?  
What's a smile that does not real warmth inject?  
A room or mind that holds no view?  
That's what I am without you !...

— PONCHIE KANWAR

### HOT SUN

Hot sun, drops of perspiration  
slowly trickling down  
I watch the cloudless sky for  
a hint of rain

Midnoon, not even a shadow  
Summer, hot and dusty  
I hide in my cool cave, my  
house, my room

A glow-worm opens its eyes  
the stars twinkle in a  
cloudless sky  
Alone I stand, gazing at the  
river with no water

Trains moving  
lights from the windows  
Faces, haggard, expectant,  
passing in a blur

— VASANTHI

### WORDS

I sit working at  
Crossword puzzles  
Words fit, blanks fill  
At repartee  
Words fail  
To mind they come  
Hours later  
With no impact  
Too late  
Powerless

— PADMINI NATARAJAN

## THREE EXCITING DAYS TO CELEBRATE

### TEN WONDERFUL YEARS — A REPORT

NIRMAL SESHADRI, a former President of Indus International at Bombay, conceived the idea of a similar sister organisation in Madras and named it the International Women's Association, IWA for short.

The seed for this new organisation was planted with loving care by NIRMAL and NANCY, Founder Presidents, and nurtured by ANNELIESE, LAKSHMI, REWA, SAROJA and SUNITA, Founder Members.

This little plant has grown and spread its branches from a membership of 7 to 269 members. To commemorate the 10th birthday of this great organisation, 3 days of celebrations were held in July.

On the first day, **Founders' Day, July 25th**, NIRMAL and ALAGU, NANCY and POONAM lit lamps to spread the glow of friendship and fellowship, which are the main themes of IWA. The Founders and the Past Presidents together cut the beautiful birthday cake designed on the 10th year logo.

This was followed by ANITA RATNAM's striking **She - In Movement**, with a backdrop of VASANTHI's poem (based on a Malayalam short story on Ahalya).

The second day was a gala evening with its theme, **Madras, its Melody, its Rhythm** based on poet Kalidasa's play, Ritu Samharam.

For those living in Madras which is either hot, hotter or rainy, the description of the six seasons was indeed soothing. Nirmal's outstanding multi-media video production interspersed with live music and dance presentations (some by our own members), made the evening a sparkling extravaganza which such an occasion richly deserved.

The members present could not but think ahead to the next decade. With apologies to Omar Khayyam, may we add :

Ah my beloved ! Fill the cup that cheers today the days gone by –  
Ten beautiful years ! Tomorrow ? Why, we'll build again,  
New friendships, fellowships, with joy and cheer !

On the last day, after a garden party hosted by SUNITA, MALAVIKA SARUKKAI presented **Srinkhala – Living Links**, based on Man and his environment.

As a finale, RITA led the audience in singing Auld Lang Syne, when IWA members held hands and ended the evening with –

And here's a hand my trusty friend,  
And give a hand of thine  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet  
For Auld Lang Syne

SHAKUNTHALA JAGANNATHAN

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## FESTIVALS OF THE MONTH

**Wednesday 4th September 1996 – Gokulashtami**

**Thursday 5th September 1996 – Sri Jayanthi**

Krishna, the 8th incarnation on earth of Lord Vishnu was born at midnight on the 8th day after the full moon. His birthday is celebrated with fasting and prayer followed by feasting and merriment. In some parts of India, his childhood pranks are reenacted and human pyramids are formed in the streets with young men reaching out to pots of butter (now substituted by money !!). Ras-Lila, folk dances of the Gopis (cow-girls) and cow-herds are the highlight of this festival in many parts of the country. In Tamil Nadu this is a festival celebrated inside homes and in Krishna temples.

**Monday 16th September 1996 – Vinayaka Chaturthi**

Ganesha or Vinayaka, the elephant - headed son of Shiva and Parvati, is worshipped first as he is believed to be the remover of all obstacles. Either plain clay or painted images of clay are worshipped in homes on this day. Paper umbrellas add to the colour. The next day, after worship, the images are immersed in the nearest well.

For visitors to Madras, interesting sights are colourful Ganesha images which are sold around temples, especially near the Mylapore Temple and Tank, for a couple of days before the festival. Do take your camera with you !

On the 11th day, Anantha Chaturdasi, large Ganeshas which are set up and worshipped for 10 days on the streets and near bazaars are taken out in procession and immersed in the sea. Immersion ensures that the clay images melt and go back to the elements, reappearing at next year's festival, signifying the concept of birth, death and rebirth, the cycle of life.



## MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

Monday 2nd September 1996 - 10-15 am

At : The Connemara Hotel  
Madras



### **SINGAPORE SURPRISE**

Thirty artistes from Singapore will make their first professional appearance in India at the Music Academy in September. The dancers are of Indian, Chinese and Malaysian origin and are members of Apsara Arts, a renowned Dance Academy in Singapore. Chinese martial arts, Malaysian and Indian dances are part of the show.

ANITA RATNAM, Founder Director of the Arangham Trust, offers IWA members a glimpse of this skilled ensemble.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME.

**GAYATRI BEWOOR  
LALINI GAUTAMADASA**

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## ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS

Tuesday 3rd September 1996 - 10-15 am

At : Madras Club  
8, Adyar Club Gate Road  
Madras - 600 028



### **CHINESE BRUSH WORK**

Meenakshi Chandmal learnt the technique of Chinese brush painting in Singapore. We are lucky to have her visiting Madras and she has consented to give our members a demonstration on the use of colour stick and the Chinese brush. Meenakshi has been deeply influenced by "The Six Techniques of Painting of HSIEN HO (around AD 490)".

GUESTS ARE WELCOME.

**RINI KUMAR  
IRENE PRULLER DAS**

Hosted by : Jatinder Bahl  
Prem Batra  
Rani Dasgupta

Bina Mathur  
Alagu Muthu  
Sherien Ryan

Rupa Sood  
Ramila Sreedhar  
Mridula Sreenivasan

## PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

Monday 9th September 1996 - 10-15 am

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



## **THE PALM AND ITS FORTUNE**

The evolution of Man – his dreams of his future – the deeply hidden secrets of the Palm – Mr. S.P. Mani a great authority on Palmistry, Astrology, Numerology and various other occult subjects will enlighten us on some of these subjects today.

Ladies! Come one and all and let us learn the secrets of palmistry, and find out if it has a scientific background.

**JAYASHREE PRABHAKAR  
MARIKO IBARA**

GUESTS ARE WELCOME.

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## COOKING SWAPSHOP

Thursday 12th September 1996 - 10-15 am

At : Nalini Acharya's  
'Gayatri', 6, Mandapam Road  
Kilpauk  
Madras - 600 010



## **TEMPURA FROM JAPAN**

Tempura or Fritters are deep-fried vegetables or seafood coated with a flour-egg-water batter. It is loved as a daily food and as a Japanese traditional dinner. Tempura as well as Sushi and Sukiyaki are popular Japanese dishes in foreign countries.

Mariko Ibara will be demonstrating Tempura along with Chicken Fry. She will be using vegetables to make Tempura for the vegetarians.

**USHA CHANDRAKUMAR  
LATA MURUGAN**

## HEALTH & ECOLOGY

Tuesday 17th September 1996 - 10-15 am

At : The C.P. Art Centre  
1, Eldams Road, Madras - 600 018



### **THE ENVIRONMENT – AND THE RIGHTS OF THE CITIZEN**

The environment is being polluted, degraded and destroyed, and the citizen looks on helplessly. However, from time to time, we hear of Court cases and major legal decisions regarding environment pollution.

What can the ordinary citizen do? What are his / her rights?

Mr. Kishore Vanguri of the Environmental Law Section of the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, will talk to us and tell us what a citizen can do within the framework of the law to protect the environment.

**BINA MATHEW  
SEEMA SAIT**

ALL ARE WELCOME.

### EXHIBITION ON ECOLOGY

The CPR Environmental Education Centre is organising an exhibition on Tamil Nadu's traditions to protect the ecology (eg. Sacred Groves, Temple of the Earth Mother, Ayyanar horses, five ancient divisions of land etc.) at the C.P. Art Centre, 1, Eldams Road, Madras - 600 018.

Dates September 3 to 14.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

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### CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBERS

MAHEMA DEVADOSS - 8546484

LEILA DIRAVIAM  
'Arulagam'  
133, Chamiers Road  
Nandanam, Madras - 600 035  
Phone : 458003

## BOOK DISCUSSION

Thursday 19th September 1996 - 10-15 am

At : Renu Jalan's  
34, Kothari Road  
Madras - 600 034



### **EDWINA AND NEHRU - A book of letters**

Mr. S. Muthiah, Journalist, author of "Madras, the Gracious City" and editor of the newly published "At Home In Madras" (a must for anyone coming to Madras) will talk to us about Catherine Clement's book, "Edwina and Nehru".

It is a fascinating book of letters which were exchanged between Jawaharlal Nehru, former Indian Prime Minister and Lady Edwina Mountbatten, wife of the last British Viceroy and first Governor-General of Free India. Mr. Muthiah will highlight the nuances of the book. So please come along even if you have not read it.

**SHYLA K RAU  
TERESA MARY KING**

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## HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS

Friday 27th September 1996 - 10-15 am

At : Shanti Karunakaran's  
108, Sterling Road  
Nungambakkam, Madras - 600 034  
(Next to Subway entrance)



### **SOUTH AFRICA MORNING**

Mr. Titus De Souza, Sales Manager, Western India, of South African Airways will give us a talk supported by visual aids, presenting the history, culture, game sanctuaries and artifacts of South Africa.

Mrs. Cathy Ignatius, a South African, will participate in the presentation.

**KAMALA PRASAD  
STINA VASU**

ALL ARE WELCOME.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### THE BOARD

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

### ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS	:	Rini Kumar	(R) 4349319
		Irene Pruller Das	(R) 4990865
BOOK DISCUSSION	:	Shyla K. Rau	(R) 8276676 / 8276899
		Teresa Mary King	(R) 4341066
CURRENT EVENTS AND CAREERS	:	Gita Chandrasekaran	(R) 412935
		Madeleine Leone	(R) 4343528
COOKING SWAPSHOP	:	Usha Chandrakumar	(R) 8275341
		Lata Murugan	(R) 6428215
HEALTH AND ECOLOGY	:	Bina Mathew	(R) 4941874
		Seema Sait	(R) 8261018
HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS	:	Kamala Prasad	(R) 6262035
		Stina Vasu	(R) 8278900
			(O) 8275792
MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS	:	Gayatri Bewoor	(R) 8264035
		Lalini Gautamadasa	(R) 6412868
PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION	:	Jayashree Prabhakar	(R) 4342147 / 453394
		Mariko Ibara	(R) 8275755