



International
Women's
Association



NOVEMBER 1996

A DECADE OF FRIENDSHIP



Wish you a Very Happy Deepavali

IWA NEWSLETTER

Vol XI No 6
Madras

NOVEMBER 1996

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Saturday	2nd	November	DIWALI MELA	10-00 am
Monday	4th	November	BOARD MEETING	10-30 am
Tuesday	5th	November	BOOK DISCUSSION PAULA by Isabel Allende	10-15 am
Wednesday	6th	November	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	10-30 am
Thursday	14th	November	CURRENT EVENTS & HISTORY CULTURE & TOURS Cross-Cultural Marriages – How they work	10-15 am
Friday	15th	November	COOKING SWAPSHOP Makaanan Malaysia	10-15 am
Monday	18th	November	PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION Good Health and Gems	10-15 am
Thursday	21st	November	HEALTH AND ECOLOGY Vegetarianism	10-15 am
Friday	22nd	November	HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS Tour to Swamimalai	
Thursday	28th	November	MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS Bandit Queen	10-15 am

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear Friends

International Music Day on October 1st was lovingly dedicated to the memory of our dear NIRMAL. It was her birthday. We were sure that her spirit shared with us the rapturous melodies created by world-renowned saxophonist KADRI GOPALNATH. His scintillating performance was followed by a delicious lunch of traditional Sindhi fare prepared by the ladies of the Sindhi Community of IWA. Our "Tribute to NIRMAL" was also released on that day by Founder Members, Annaliese Hazari and Lakshmi Padmanabhan. Our appreciation goes to Rupa Kadhiresan for having put together the fond thoughts and happy memories of NIRMAL, contributed so lovingly by her friends.

It is time now to think of the '1997 - Woman of the Year Award'. Friends, do read carefully the note on this subject in this Newsletter. We look forward to receiving your suggestions for candidates latest by December 15th.

We are proud of our Activity Chairpersons, who are working so hard to give us such wonderful programmes each month. We are also equally proud to see the enthusiastic response to our meetings. Thank you members, for your encouragement, support and participation - we hope it continues through the year.

The month of November offers you an exciting weekend trip to Swamimalai and Kumbakonam, and also plans for tours during the next few months - so there is much for us to look forward to.

The DIWALI MELA on 2nd November is the IWA family's celebration of this joyous festival - Do come and enjoy it with us in a spirit of joy and fellowship. May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Diwali - May the festival of lights bring prosperity and happiness to each and everyone of you, your families and your homes.

**ALAGU MUTHU
POONAM LALCHAND**

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

Activity Chairpersons have been complaining about some of our members who come in late, talk to one another during the lecture and leave early. This also happens at special music programmes by top-ranking artistes, which disturbs the artiste and fellow members.

Ladies ! Please cooperate with IWA so that we may all enjoy our meetings, and the speaker or artiste feels that he / she is properly respected.

May we also request members for suggestions on how to rectify this situation, as repeated appeals in the Newsletter have not helped.

**SHAKUNTHALA JAGANNATHAN
MEGAN UTLEY**

BOARD MEETING

Monday 4th November - 10-30 am

At : Megan Utley's
7 ABM Avenue
Madras - 600 028

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 6th November - 10-30 am

At : Teresa King's
3-B Sathyanarayana Avenue
Off Boat Club Road
Madras - 600 028

Activity Chairpersons -
Please bring your blurbs.

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS :

MICHELLE KUNG
5A Senthil Andavar Street
Vadapalani
Madras - 600 026
Phone : 98410-13887

RITA NORDENGREN
Scheme No.4, Bella Vista
Sunrise Avenue, Neelangarai
Madras - 600 041
Phone : 4929408

GISELA WIEMER-SCHMIDT
19/2A, Murugappa Road
Kotturpuram
Madras - 600 085
Phone : 415162

CHINESE

SWEDISH

GERMAN

DIWALI MELA

Saturday 2nd November - 10-00 am to 2-00 pm

At : The Trident Hotel

IWA's Diwali Mela 1996 will be a participative festival, with everyone joining in the music and dancing, in shopping in the bazaar and tasting the lovely food at the Diwali brunch.

Details of this celebration have already been given in the October Newsletter. Those who have not bought tickets should do so early.

Do come and bring your family and friends with you !

ALL ARE WELCOME !

DIWALI MELA COMMITTEE

BOOK DISCUSSION

Tuesday 5th November - 10-15 am

At : Madeleine Leone's
River View Apartments, Apt. No.5
9, 3rd Avenue, Boat Club Road
Madras - 600 028



'PAULA' by Isabel Allende

The book we have chosen for November is Isabel Allende's "PAULA". She worked for many years as a journalist before writing the internationally best-selling novel, "The House of Spirits". In 1991 her daughter Paula fell gravely ill and sank into a coma. This book is a tender, moving and vivid record of a mother's agony at the bedside of a loved one. It begins as a long letter as a way of giving her back the life that is ebbing away..... the result is a memorable story, in flawlessly rich prose. We smell the countryside, hear the sounds, see the bright birds, everything comes alive for us.

This discussion will be led by Radha Gopalakrishnan. Your involvement in the discussion will be welcomed.

**SHYLA K RAU
TERESA KING**

THE WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD 1996-97

The International Women's Association's "WOMAN OF THE YEAR" Award was instituted by Past President NIRMAL MIRZA in the year 1988-89. She has since sponsored this award annually, honouring the most deserving candidate in the category chosen.

This year a Committee headed by Nirmal Mirza and comprising of Board Members of the current IWA year, have decided to present the award to a person of the international community (other than Indian) who has dedicated herself to the service of the people of Tamil Nadu, in her own special field. (IWA members are not eligible to receive the Award).

Please send in your nominations, with the complete bio-data of your candidate, to the Vice-Presidents, Shakunthala Jagannathan or Megan Utley, latest by December 15, 1996.

CURRENT EVENTS

HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS

Thursday 14th November - 10-15 am

At : Mahmooda Haja Shareef's
17 Haddows Road, 1st Street
Nungambakkam, Madras - 600 034

CROSS-CULTURAL MARRIAGES – How they work

With today's opportunities for Global Travel to distant shores, marriages between different nationals and people of different cultural backgrounds have become increasingly common.

How do these work, especially when one partner is living in a totally alien environment ? Our members, Stina Vasu and Irene Das, as also Ute Brunn (of the German Consulate) will share with us their first-hand experiences.

**GITA CHANDRASEKARAN
MADELEINE LEONE**

**KAMALA PRASAD
STINA VASU**

FESTIVALS OF THE MONTH

Sunday 10th November - DEEPAVALI OR DIWALI

Deepavali, meaning 'rows of lights', is the most popular of all Indian festivals. It was on this day that Lord Rama re-entered Ayodhya after 14 years of exile. His wife, Seetha, lit the first lamp, bringing joy and light to a grieving kingdom. From then on Deepavali has been celebrated every year, for over 3000 years, all over the country.

Deepavali is also celebrated as the day when the demon of the underworld and of darkness and dirt, Narakasura, was destroyed by Krishna. The celebrations therefore begin with a purificatory oil-bath, wearing of new clothes, visiting friends, feasting and the lighting of lamps.

The business community worship Lakshmi, the Goddess of Prosperity, and open new account books on this day.

The main celebration is the lighting of lamps, symbolic of the spiritual light pervading the earth and the destruction of the darkness of ignorance.

The firing of crackers is an unfortunate innovation of the last 100 years.

Sunday 24th November - KARTHIKAI DEEPAM

This day is sacred for the worship of Murugan, the special deity of the Tamils. Lights, music and celebrations galore abound in temples all over the state for three days. Homes, lighted with mud lamps, present a joyous picture.

SHAKUNTHALA JAGANNATHAN

Our thanks to the hostesses for the Singapore Surprise morning :

Gayatri Bewoor
Mahin Khaleeli
Shweta Mohapatra

Princess Naik
Mridula Narasimhan
Meena Rawley
Anita Reddy

Neena Sanghavi
Rukku Seshasayee
Vimal Shivdasani

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Friday 15th November - 10-15 am

At : Umayal Chettyappan's
9 Adyar Club Gate Road
R.A. Puram, Madras - 600 028



MAKAANAN MALAYSIA

Malay food is a mixture of Indian and Arabic food. It is less spicy and special ingredients which are grown in that country like coconut, pandan leaf (screw pine), lemon grass, legkuan (wild ginger), palm sugar etc. are used. Malay cooking is very similar to the Malabar style of cooking.

Umayal's forte is Malay Cuisine and in substituting Indian ingredients where necessary. She will be demonstrating Claypot chicken, Nasi lemak and Sago pudding.

**USHA CHANDRAKUMAR
LATHA MURUGAN**

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

Monday 18th November - 10-15 am

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



GOOD HEALTH AND GEMS

"Healing through gem stones - a hand analysis and the related gem stones to correct the deficiencies noticed"

This is the subject on which Mr. Krishnamurti will be talking to us. He will tell us how we can handle our health and lives through precious stones.

**JAYASHREE PRABHAKAR
MARIKO IBARA**

HEALTH AND ECOLOGY

Thursday 21st November - 10-15 am

At : Raji Manian's
2 Venus Colony 2nd Street
Alwarpet, Madras - 600 018



VEGETARIANISM

Doctors have to provide scientific evidence to help us lead a healthy life. This includes the type of food which is most suited to the human body.

The question of whether vegetarian or non-vegetarian food is better suited to human beings from the point of health will be discussed by Dr. P.K. Bhaskar, Director of the Sri Vivek Institute of Dental Health.

As this is a much-discussed topic today, do come, armed with questions !

**BINA MATHEW
SEEMA SAIT**

We thank our Sponsors of the International Music Day :

Nation Wide Finance Ltd.
Data Software Research

Bharat Overseas Bank
Shri Bombay Halwa House

Alagu Muthu and Gayatri Bewoor

Also our hostesses for a wonderful traditional Sindhi lunch :

Mansha Bhatia	Rohini Jhuremalani	Poonam Lalchand	Lila Shahaney
Sushi Goklaney	Malini Krishna	Chandra Lulla	Sunita Shahaney
Anneliese Hazari	Koshu Lalchand	Shobha Mahtani	Vimal Shivdasani
	Mohini Lalchand	Kamala Muthiah	

WE REGRET

Erratum in New Telephone Book : SARAH CHANDA - 8278349

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS



Tour to Swamimalai, Kumbakonam, Darasuram and Thanjavur

Departure - Friday November 22nd night.

Return - Monday November 25th early morning.

The accomodation will be at the Sterling Swamimalai, a 100 year old traditional home which has been converted into a resort hotel in a rural ambience.

The tour includes visits to the Swamimalai bronze-making centre, Kumbakonam (the temple town of Tamil Nadu), the unique Chola Darasuram temple and Thanjavur (temple, palace and handicraft centres). It also includes Yoga and meditation classes, herbal massages (optional) at the hotel.

Cost - Rs.3,400/- per head (maximum - 15 pax) includes hotel charges, all meals, sightseeing in a/c. cars, 2nd class a/c. sleeper on train, transfers etc. (The hotel room is given at a 50% discount in view of the recent opening of the hotel).

Bookings to be made before November 5th with a deposit of Rs.1000/- (FAMILY AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME, if there is space).

**KAMALA PRASAD
STINA VASU**

NOTE : There will be an informal get-together at Stina Vasu's on 13th November at 3 pm. to view some slides from the Scandinavian trip. Those who could not make the trip, as well as those who would like to join another time are welcome.

Warn in to Priya (8275792)

OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO :

Meenakshi Arunachalam on the loss of her husband, Mr. M.V. Arunachalam. The Emperor of Japan has posthumously conferred on Mr. Arunachalam the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Star, one of the highest decorations of Japan.

ATTENTION IWA MEMBERS

FASCINATING TOURS ! TOURS ! TOURS !

(for members, families and friends)

We are organising interesting tours, two to Singapore, two to Myanmar (Burma) and one to South Africa, between November 1996 and April 1997. Given below are short write-ups, but interested persons may please contact us for further details.

TOURS TO SINGAPORE – 4 days and 3 nights - Minimum 4 persons -

Dep. November 17th and November 24th, 1996. Cost - Airfare - Rs.10,900/-. Ground arrangements - US \$200. (This includes airport transfers, twin sharing room, breakfast only and one half-day sightseeing).

TOURS TO MYANMAR (Burma) – There will be two departures, one on January 25th, 1997 and the other on February 22nd, 1997, lasting for 9 nights and 10 days.

This fascinating tour includes visits to Yangon (Rangoon) Bagon, Mandalay and boat trips at Heho.

All-inclusive cost per head for 30 persons will be US \$940 plus international airfare of Rs.17000/- plus domestic air fare, US\$260.

This will be inclusive of air & local transportation, accomodation, all meals, sightseeing, airport transfers etc.

TOUR TO SOUTH AFRICA – 10 nights and 11 days - 3rd week of April 1997, visiting Johannesburg, Pretoria, Kruger National Park, Sun City, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town, specially prepared for IWA members, incorporating the culture, history and adventures of South Africa.

The detailed itinerary will be ready by end October. It would include travel by air, road and train on scenic routes, visiting a Zulu village for a day to experience their customs and lifestyle.

All - inclusive total cost including airfare, accomodation and all meals, sightseeing etc. will come to Rs.60000/- to Rs.65000/- (minimum 30 persons)

**KAMALA PRASAD
STINA VASU**

MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

Thursday 28th November - 10-15 am

At : The Goodluck Preview Theatre
18, 5th Cross Street
(Near Padma Seshadri School)
Lake Area, Nungambakkam
Madras - 600 034



BANDIT QUEEN

Revenge was her reply is the trite headline of a cinema claimed to start a revolution of sorts in the world of Hindi films. It is not just the violence and the nude scenes that are bold and brutal but the theme of women's exploitation in our male chauvinistic society.

'Bandit Queen' moves us, touches us and disturbs us - above all sears our memory. That the Actress Seema Biswas in acting the role went through a trauma herself is a reflection of the character she portrays. She won the National Award for this film.

Details of this film, directed by Shekhar Kapoor with Seema Biswas in the main role has already been written about in the August Newsletter. This controversial and gripping film, based on a true story, has excited much comment all over the world.

It has sub-titles in English.

GAYATRI BEWOOR

LALINI GAUTAMADASA

GUESTS ARE WELCOME

Directions to the theatre : Take the first right after Valluvarkottam. Then take the second left. No.18, is the last house on the right.

CONGRATULATIONS TO :

Rehane Yavar Dhala on the birth of a son and to Zubeida Asgarali on the arrival of a grandson.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE BOARD

PRESIDENTS	:	Alagu Muthu Poonam Lakhand	(R) 4938683 / 4937050 (R) 8257157 / 8272947 (O) 8559110 / 8559108
VICE-PRESIDENTS	:	Shakunthala Jagannathan Megan Utley	(R) 459199 (R) 4343348
SECRETARIES	:	Sujaya Menon Elra Doshi	(R) 4917464/4910044 (R) 4911126
TREASURERS	:	Sushila Natraj 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
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MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS	:	Gayatri Bewoor Lalini Gautamadasa	(R) 8264035 (R) 8412868
PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION	:	Jayashree Prabhakar Mariko Ibara	(R) 4342147 / 453394 (R) 8275755