



**International
Women's
Association**

APRIL 1998



*Wishing the
Executive Committee
and the
TWA Membership
of 1998 - 99
a Successful and
Stimulating Year*

IWA NEWSLETTER

Vol. XII No. 11
CHENNAI

APRIL 1998

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Thursday	2nd April	BOARD & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS	11.30 am
Tuesday	7th April	COOKING SWAPSHOP Brownies, Cookies & Pastries	10.15 am
Monday	13th April	MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS Film-Kama Sutra	10.15 am
Friday	17th April	CURRENT EVENTS Challenges faced by Women	10.15 am
Tuesday	21st April	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	10.15 am

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Through this, we as Presidents, bid you farewell. Your support, encouragement and appreciation made this year a very special one for us - one which we shall always cherish. Getting to know the entire membership has been a rich experience for us. Thank you all for making our task easy.

It was a pleasure working with the other members on our Board. Ours was a team effort: sharing responsibilities and together making decisions.

Shakunthala & Megan - Thanks to both of you, we were proud of each issue of the Newsletter. Our thanks to **Javanthi** for making sure that we got our Newsletters on time and for bringing out the Telephone directory; **Seema** for taking care of the Minutes of the Board and Executive Committee meetings; **Lalitha** for keeping accurate accounts and liaising with the Auditor; **Angelika** for keeping track of members and their attendance at meetings. To all of you, our sincere thanks.

Once again, the Activity Chairpersons have proved that IWA revolves round them. Their enthusiasm and efforts resulted in quality programmes. We would like to thank them on behalf of all of us.

Radha & Martina - How wide - ranging Arts and Crafts can be! Usha Kris's tips on photography, Sabita Radhakrishnan's on textiles, Sharon Apparao's on packaging as an art. Ilango brought out the dormant artistic talents in our members; lamps and embroidery and a collage workshop.

Malathi & Pam - What a variety of books you offered us to read! Manohar Devadoss and Abraham Eraly reviewing their own books; Malini Seshadri, Mini Krishnan, Sabita Shetty, Gayathri Ravindra and Ayesha Rau kindled our interest by their excellent reviews.

Nilisha & Meyyammai - Our repertoire in cooking has certainly widened - Vietnamese and Mexican, Korean and Moplah, salads and crepes and tea time snacks and much more.

Gita & Madeleine - You brought current issues to the fore - Child labour, Hostages, Reservation for Women and the election aftermath scenario generating exchange of ideas between excellent speakers and our members.

Rini & Janik - Drs. Vijayalakshmi Acharya, Mary Abraham and Jyotsna Moorthy have widened our knowledge in their respective branches of medicine. Reiki, Yoga and Ayurveda stirred our interest. Zearscaping was fascinating; tips on waste management useful.

Kamala & Rita - Those of us with winged feet travelled to Karnataka, Nepal, Rajasthan and next month to China. The visit to S.O.S Village was interesting and the heritage tableau beautiful.

Sujaya & Sabine - Jugalbandhi and Kathakalakshepam; dance recitals of Natalia Butyrskia and Urmila Satyanarayana; the never-to-be-forgotten film, MAKING OF THE MAHATMA; Jasper Utley's equally memorable Poetry reading.

Lily & Sheela - Sikh and Vaishavite philosophy; significance of festivals like Aadi Perukku; celebrating Deepavali and Christmas with our families; discussing omens and superstitions and Astrology; witnessing a Henna ceremony - It was all so interesting.

To each and everyone of you, our sincere thanks.

The new slate of Office bearers for the next year has been announced. Our congratulations to the new Presidents **Shyla K. Rau & Megan Utley** and their Board. We wish them success in guiding IWA through another year.

**RUPA KADHIRESAN
ANNELIESE HAZARI**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the TWELPTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the International Women's Association will be held at 10-15 am on Tuesday, April 21, 1998, at the Connemara Hotel, Binny Road, Chennai - 600 002.

Agenda for the meeting will be as follows:

1. Tea
2. Welcome Address - ANNELIESE HAZARI
3. a. To approve the minutes of the eleventh Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, April 16, 1997
b. To approve the Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on Monday, October 13, 1997
4. Secretary's Report - SEEMA SAIT
5. Treasurer's Report - LALITHA KRISHNAN
6. Membership Treasurer's Report - ANGELIKA MANDAIKER
7. Appointment of Auditors for the year 1998-1999
8. Remarks by the outgoing President - RUPA KADHIRESAN
9. Introduction of the Nominating Committee
10. Presentation of the members of the new Board
11. Introduction of the members of the new Executive Committee
12. Address by the new President - SHYLA K. RAU
13. Vote of Thanks - CHANDRA PADMANABHAN

Note: Copies of Accounts and report of the various Activities will be tabled for the perusal of members.

**RUPA KADHIRESAN
ANNELIESE HAZARI**

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

We have reassessed our public address requirements in the light of assurances from the technicians that there is absolutely nothing wrong with our present system that a good upgrading cannot fix. After observing several IWA meeting this year, it became clear that to accommodate all our needs we would have to spend a great deal of money, and have a permanent technician to operate it. For normal speech purposes, our system is adequate and it has been upgraded by the purchase of a new extension lead for the microphone and a lapel microphone for hands-off speaking during cookery demonstrations. Let us hope the system does not let us down as it is really simple to use.

The Board thought it a good idea for IWA to have its own Christmas tree. This has been duly purchased and rests with Megan Utley, as does the public address system. Instead of purchasing regular decorations for the tree, it was thought a good idea for each member who wishes, to donate a personal ornament for the tree which can be used until it fades. Please think of something nice to give for it nearer to the Christmas season.

On March 8th the United Nations celebrated International Women's Day. This is a time for examining the progress of women, their development and achievements. Have we reached where we wanted to and aimed for? Are we ahead of our targets or are we sliding back?

These are some of the questions we should ponder over. We need to examine Woman's relevance in the national and international arenas, the Empowerment of Women the world over, and our efforts to raise the level of our weaker sisters in all fields.

**MEGAN UTLEY
SHAKUNTHALA JAGANNATHAN**

BOARD & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Thursday, April 2nd - 11.30 am

At: Rupa Kadhiresan's
25, Sriman Srinivasan Road
Alwarpet, Chennai - 18

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP TREASURER

IWA is a very prestigious organisation and therefore half of the female population of Madras aspires to become members. Our waiting list gets longer and longer and the file with application forms becomes thicker and thicker. Many of you are wondering: "what happened to my friend? why has she not been accepted? "Look, this person is in, she applied later!" What is going on?". And you get upset; but, please don't. The Membership Committee tries hard to fill the very few vacancies which may arise as justly as possible. We have printed new forms this year which have two new columns:

- 1) Expected duration of your stay in Chennai
- 2) Please attach a short Biodata with reference to your hobbies

We hope that these little alterations will enable us to do a still better job and take into consideration the various aspects for acceptance into IWA.

As it stands, we have a waiting list of close to 100 Indian applicants. This year we welcomed only 4 new Indian members. As far as I can see, vacancies if any, at the end of the year will be very few.

The attendance this year was very good. You all know how difficult it is at times to accommodate so many visitors in your homes. Yet we greatly enjoy "Home-Meetings" for their friendly, informal atmosphere

ANGELIKA MANDAIKER

THE IWA BOARD

1998 - 99

The NOMINATING COMMITTEE is pleased to present the following slate of Office - Bearers for the Board of IWA for the year 1998 - 1999

	<u>INDIAN</u>	<u>NON-INDIAN</u>
Presidents	SHYLA K. RAU	MEGAN UTLEY
Vice-Presidents	GAYATRI BEWOOR	LALINI GAUTAMADASA
Secretaries	JAVANTHI PRABHAKARAN	MEYYAMMAI MURUGAPPAN
Treasurers	LALITHA KRISHNAN	CHANDRIKA CHIDAMBARAM

We wish the new Board all the best

Nirmal Mirza - Chairperson

Stina Vasu

Nalini Ramakrishna

Rajni Sabherwal

Maureen Thadani

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS to the following members who were honoured with the **STREE RATNA** by the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and Director K. Subrahmanyam Memorial Trust on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, 1998:

PRITHIKA CHARY	-	Neurology & Neuro Surgery
NANDITHA KRISHNA	-	Conservation of Art & Culture
LAKSHMI VISWANATHAN	-	Dance

IMPRESSIONS OF NEPAL

Ten IWA members and their guests - six Indians and four ex-pats, eight women and two men - spent an enjoyable week together in Nepal in October.

Nepal is a small country, but within its small areas it has extreme contrasts in climate and geography, ranging from the lowlands with sub-tropical jungles to arctic conditions in the Himalayan highlands. Nepal is a Hindu kingdom, but its culture shows a unique blend of Hinduism and Buddhism.

In the Kathmandu Valley, we visited Patan and Bhaktapur, as well as the city of Kathmandu. Each of these cities has its own historic Durbar Square, with most of the buildings and monuments in these Squares dating from the 15th to 17th centuries. The architecture and workmanship on the palaces, temples, and shrines here was very impressive. The narrow streets surrounding the Squares were filled with small shops and artisans selling their works.

We saw many Hindu and Buddhist temples during our stay. The Bouddhnath Stupa and the Swayambhunath Stupa were two Buddhist temple complexes which we visited. Both of these stupas have the all-seeing eyes of the Buddha painted on all four sides.

Non-Hindus are not allowed inside the Hindu temples in Nepal. However the Hindu temple which I found most interesting was the Changunarayan temple, which is the oldest in Nepal. It is situated on a small hill, from which there is a lovely view of the valley below. To reach the temple, we walked through a small village, which gave a good view of village life - small shops, artisans working, stables for cattle, the local school, and homes where the people lived.

The Nepalese people are friendly and helpful, and generally spoke good English. School children would follow us around, wanting a chance to practice their English and acting as impromptu tour guides, and were surprisingly knowledgeable.

Chitwan is a scenic five hour drive from Kathmandu, on narrow, steep, and winding roads. There we stayed at The Island Jungle Resort, located on an island in the river. The resort has no electricity, and rooms lighted with hurricane lanterns were a new experience. The highlight of our stay at Chitwan was an elephant safari into the jungle to see the wildlife.

Nagarkot is about 32 kilometers from Kathmandu, and is a popular place from which to view the Himalayan mountains. We arrived just in time to see the sunset over the Himalayas.

On our last evening in Kathmandu, we enjoyed a cultural program of Nepali dances, followed by a typical Nepali meal. Before leaving for India the next morning, some of us did some last minute shopping, as it is indeed hard to resist buying the exquisite pieces of handicraft spread all over in shops, on the wayside etc.

Others in the group took the mountain flight to get a closer look at the Himalayas. This group was very happy when they returned, as they felt that they had had a magnificent view of the mountains. As the weather had become cloudy towards the end and they were not able to see Mt. Everest, the entire price of the flight was refunded ! This was indeed a pleasant surprise.

As we waited in the lounge to board our flight to India, all the members of the group discussed their next trip to Nepal - our holiday had indeed been a great experience !

GALE MADSEN

Our thanks to KANIKA PAREKH and URMILA AGARWAL for hosting the Current Events programme in March.

PRAMILA VENUGOPAL, President of ANAMIKA, Bangalore, an organisation which, like IWA, is founded on the lines of INDUS INTERNATIONAL, Bombay, has written to suggest that their members would like to meet IWA members when they visit Madras.

Likewise they would be happy to welcome our members to any of their Activity meetings at Bangalore. Please contact Pramila Venugopal at:

2, 2nd Main Road,
Jayamahal Extension,
Bangalore - 560 046
Phone : 3339222
3338860

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Tuesday, 7th April - 10.15 am

At: Madeleine Leone's
5, Riverview Apartments
9, 3rd Avenue,
Boat Club Road, Chennai - 28



BROWNIES, COOKIES AND PASTRIES

All three are brought to us in one morning by MADELEINE LEONE and BETH SELLERS.

A precious recipe passed down through generations, a versatile dough that is made into many mouth-watering cookies, pastries etc., is being shared with us very generously by Madeleine.

Beth shows us how to make her special brownies that just melt in your mouth.

Our numbers are limited to 40 - so please warn in early.

**MEYYAMMAI MURUGAPPAN
NILISHA MEHTA**

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Monday, 13th April - 10.15 am

At: Suprageeth Preview Theatre
304, TTK Road
(Next to Mowbrays Inn Hotel)
Chennai - 18



FILM "KAMA SUTRA" by MIRA NAIR

Mira Nair, an internationally acclaimed film maker who made "Salam Bombay", which won a few awards, has also directed "Kama Sutra".

Kama Sutra is the story of eternal love and has excellent photography, stunning visuals and imaginative costumes. In fact it is a well packaged presentation of a challenging theme **aimed mostly at a Western audience.**

This is being screened by popular demand and will run for about 130 minutes.

**SUJAYA MENON
SABINE SALAM**

GUESTS ARE WELCOME.

CURRENT EVENTS

Friday, 17th April - 10.15 am

At: Srikanta Jhaver's
10, Santhome High Road
Chennai - 4



CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN

To be successful in what is generally considered a "man's world", women face many extraordinary challenges. The gender prejudice against the "weaker sex" is often subtle, sometimes blatant, but it is always there.....

Ms. Sheela Rani Chunkath, highly successful IAS Officer, International Women's Association's "Woman of the Year" 1992-93, and presently Commissioner for Maternal, Child Health and Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu, will talk about how to face these challenges with strength and dignity and come out on top.

**GITA CHANDRASEKHARAN
MADELEINE LEONE**

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO:

SHOBHA MAHTANI on the birth of a granddaughter

GITA CHANDRASEKARAN, who came fourth in the Ceat Car Rally for the Blind.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

ANURADHA OBEROI
B-2, Alpha Residency
12, Gilchrist Avenue
Off Harrington Road,
Chetpet, Chennai - 31

CHANGE OF PHONE NUMBERS

SHARMILA RAMJI - 4422414
MAHMOODA HAJA SHAREEF -
8266522

The Moving Finger writes; and having writ,
Moves on; nor all your Piety nor Wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,
Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it.

RUBAIYAT OF OMAR KHAYYAM

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE BOARD

PRESIDENTS	:	Rupa Kadhiresan	(R) 4992847
		Anneliese Hazari	(R) 4919505
VICE-PRESIDENTS	:	Shakunthala Jagannathan	(R) 459199/4323337
		Megan Utley	(R) 4343348
SECRETARIES	:	Javanthi Prabhakaran	(R) 6411579
		Seema Sait	(R) 8242244
			(O) 8264112
TREASURERS	:	Lalitha Krishnan	(R) 4991853/4992341
		Angelika Mandaiker	(R) 611265

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS	:	Radha Parthasarathy	(R) 4340448
		Martina Kluth	(R) 4917772
BOOK DISCUSSION	:	Malathi Ramachandran	(R) 8524725/8276995
		Pamela Fabian	(R) 4937684
			(O) 8273040 Ext. 277
CURRENT EVENTS	:	Gita Chandrasekharan	(R) 4420235/4421035
		Madeleine Leone	(R) 4340824
COOKING SWAPSHOP	:	Nilisha Mehta	(R) 4990151
		Meyyammai Murugappan	(R) 4420520/419680
HEALTH AND ECOLOGY	:	Rini Kumar	(R) 4349319
		Janik Bakshi	(R) 8526699/8553302
HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS	:	Kamala Prasad	(R) 6262035
		Rita Nordengren	(R) 4929408
MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS	:	Sujaya Menon	(R) 4917464/4910044
		Sabine Erlich Salam	(R) 832670
PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION	:	Leela Ratnam	(R) 452123
		Sheela K. Sarath	(R) 4938524
			(O) 4938411