



**International  
Women's  
Association**

JULY 1997

# IWA NEWSLETTER

Vol.XII No.2  
CHENNAI

JULY 1997

## MONTH AT A GLANCE

Friday	4th	July	<b>PHILOSOPHY &amp; RELIGION</b> Aadi Perukku	10.15 am
Tuesday	8th	July	<b>BOARD MEETING</b>	10.30 am
Tuesday	8th	July	<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	11.00 am
Friday	11th	July	<b>COOKING SWAPSHOP</b> Salads Galore	10.15 am
Tuesday	15th	July	<b>MUSIC &amp; PERFORMING ARTS</b> Musical Chairs	10.15 am
Thursday	17th	July	<b>HEALTH &amp; ECOLOGY</b> Science of Reiki	10.15 am
Tuesday	22nd	July	<b>BOOK DISCUSSION</b> Mistress of Spices	10.15 am
Wednesday	23rd	July	<b>FOUNDERS' DAY</b>	10.15 am
Friday	25th	July	<b>CURRENT EVENTS</b> Privacy Vs. Free Press	10.15 am
Monday	28th	July	<b>HISTORY, CULTURE &amp; TOURS</b> Our Heritage	10.15 am
Thursday	31st	July	<b>ARTS &amp; HANDICRAFTS</b> Packaging as an Art	10.15 am

## FROM THE PRESIDENTS:

The Fellowship Morning turned out to be a beautiful beginning to another IWA year. The atmosphere of friendliness that filled the room made it obvious that we had all been looking forward to this day when the year's activities would begin. While greeting old friends and smiling at would-be friends, everything else was forgotten - even the heat of summer!! Seeing every one joining in the fun and getting to know the others in their group made our day. A special thanks to Megan, Shakunthala, Javanthi, Madeleine and Meyyammai for organising this lovely morning for us.

**CODE NUMBERS:** A few years ago, at the Annual General Meeting, our Founder-President Nirmal Seshadri suggested introduction of the code number system. This was approved by the General Body but not implemented. We feel it would be worthwhile to try it out. Each member will be given a code number. Writing the code number along with the signature (instead of the full name in capital letters) will certainly lessen the time taken for registration and avoid lengthy queues especially at major functions. Code numbers will have to be written legibly for easy identification. We need your co-operation to make this work.

July 15th is the cut-off date for receiving suggestions for changes in the Constitution. This will give us time to examine them and frame resolutions for circulation before the EGM.

Interesting programmes have been planned by the Activity Chairpersons. Do come and enjoy them.

**RUPA KADHIRESAN  
ANNELIESE HAZARI**

## FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

There appears to be some confusion about bringing guests to IWA meetings. Members may please note the following guide-lines :

### A. GUESTS ARE NOT ALLOWED AT:

1. Cooking Swapshop meetings, when there is a limit given on the number of IWA members who can attend due to space problems.
2. AGM, EGM, Founders' Day, Fellowship and Woman of the Year meetings. **These meetings are only for IWA members.**
3. Meetings where the Activity Chairpersons specifically mention that guests are **not** allowed.

### B. GUESTS ARE ALLOWED AT:

1. Meetings where it is mentioned that "Guests are welcome", or where there are no guest restrictions.
2. At such meetings members may bring guests on payment of Rs.30/- per guest. **However, please give the name of the guest in the Attendance Register. The same guest may not attend more than 4 times in a year.**

There are always some blank areas available in the Newsletter which we are anxious to fill in. May we therefore request members to send in write-ups, poems, jokes, limericks etc., giving other members a chance to enjoy your literary or humorous contributions.

Thanks a million in anticipation!

SHAKUNTHALA JAGANNATHAN  
MEGAN UTLEY

## TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA - A Report

South Africa brought nostalgic memories of the Mahatma, and when I.W.A offered a tour of South Africa, several of us joined it.

On arrival we heard that Johannesburg was unsafe as there was violence going on even in daylight. So we drove straight on to Pretoria, where there were well laid out boulevards and magnificent buildings. Then we motored on to Sun City, South Africa's Las Vegas, where there were casinos, slot machines and every other gambling attraction known to man! The next day we drove on the Great North Road towards Potgietersrust visiting Warmbaths hot mineral springs en-route.

In the Kruger National Park, the beautiful round huts of the camp thatched with reeds were very well equipped and air-conditioned. We were thrilled to see lionesses, a lion, hundreds of impala, kudu, waterduck, giraffe, zebra, wild bison and a hippo with a baby. Many strange African birds were also seen. But undoubtedly the highlight was the moment a huge tusker stood in the middle of the road about 100 metres from us breaking off branches from the tree!

In Durban we caught fleeting glimpses of mosques and temples. We next flew to Port Elizabeth, a beautiful seaport town with old houses of the colonial period. It is here that the British landed first in Africa. We travelled along the Garden Route through Tsitsikama Forest to the little town of Knysna. We went cruising round the Lagoon, and as it was autumn, it was cool and pleasant. The afternoon saw us chugging away on the choo-choo train going past all the greenery of Africa.

We next visited cheetah land, and those who were daring enough to touch a cheetah were given a certificate! The next stop at one of the biggest ostrich farms of Africa was pure fun. At Mossell Bay is the Bartholomew Diaz Museum which has a replica of the small ship in which Diaz came from Portugal. At Seal Island were hundreds of seals enjoying the sun.

At Cape town, the Cable Cars taking passengers up Table Mountain were grounded but the visit to the Cape of Good Hope made up for our disappointment as it was thrilling to see the meeting of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans from the top of a mountain, which we reached by a funicular train.

Of the many places we stopped at for lunch we best remember the place where we had to go literally through the bush, going over a very narrow rickety bridge with one inch clearance on both sides!

Our guides, John and Neal Frames were very helpful. Our coach drivers were superb and we had great drives on magnificent roads.

A good holiday indeed!

**SUNDARI MANI**

## FROM THE SECRETARIES

Members are requested to inform the Secretaries, Javanthi or Seema, of any changes in their addresses or telephone numbers.

This should reach us before **July 15th, 1997** as the Telephone Directory is to be printed shortly.

**JAVANTHI PRABHAKARAN**  
**SEEMA SAIT**

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### **BOARD MEETING**

Tuesday 8th July - 10.30 am

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday 8th July - 11 am  
Activity Chairpersons -  
Please bring your blurbs

Both meetings at:

Shakunthala Jagannathan's  
Convenient entrance through:  
C.P. Art Centre  
1 Eldams Road, Chennai - 18.

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### CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS

GITA CHANDRASEKARAN	-	4420235/4421035
LEILA DIRAVIAM	-	4337822
BELA KHALEELI	-	4420713 (R)
SEEMA SAIT	-	8242244

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### **HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

INDIRA SATYAMURTI on her Golden Wedding Anniversary

## PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

Friday, 4th July - 10.15 am

At: Meena Muthiah's  
'Chettinad Palace'  
R.A. Puram  
Chennai - 28



### **AADI PERUKKU**

The end of summer and the beginning of the monsoon is Aadi Perukku. The rivers swell and yield rich deposits of soil helpful for bountiful crops. Peasants all over India look forward to this welcome rain and celebrate it on the banks of rivers and lakes. In Tamil Nadu the farmers sing the praise of Goddess Cauveri while picnicking on the banks. Puffed rice is fed to the fish with joyous singing and dancing.

The students of PADMA SESHADRI SCHOOL will present a symbolic dance to celebrate this festival on the waterfront of Chettinad Palace leading down to the backwaters.

**LEELA RATNAM  
SHEELA K. SARATH**

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### **GET-TOGETHER**

A familiar friendly face  
With a beaming, welcoming smile  
Instant pleasurable recognition  
And a cheerful greeting - Hi!

A quick update of current news  
A nostalgic recollection of past meets  
Missed by either one of us  
Or attended by both jointly

My partner soon joins us  
And expects to be introduced  
I flounder and fumble distractedly  
And fill in the specifics in a mumble

Our interests are shared, I say  
And we regularly meet  
We have common friends  
Moving in the same circle or beat

I know her antecedents  
Her address and even car number  
And to conclude, I desperately peer  
At the empty left shoulder

Alas! to my discomfiture  
This is but a social get-together  
And without her identity IWA badge  
Her name, I just cannot remember!

**PADMINI NATARAJAN**

## **COOKING SWAPSHOP**

Friday 11th July - 10.15 am

At: Welcome Group Chola Sheraton  
10, Cathedral Road  
Chennai - 86



## **SALADS GALORE!**

Beat the heat with a refreshing, light, innovative and exciting range of salads demonstrated by Chef Samir Singla.

Salads can be served at the start of a meal to excite the palate and stimulate the appetite. It makes a good accompaniment for the main course, and for the calorie conscious, it is a light summer lunch. Be Adventurous - for the range and variety of salads is limited only by the imagination of the salad-maker.

We thank KANNAMMA RANGA RAO for hosting this meeting.

**NILISHA MEHTA  
MEYYAMMAI MURUGAPPAN**

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## **MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS**

Tuesday July 15 - 10.15 am

At: Leela Ratnam's  
"Sri Raj"  
20, Cenotaph 2nd Lane  
Chennai - 18



## **MUSICAL CHAIRS**

We will have a morning of fun combined with talent.

We will play Musical Chairs in two batches. Some of our members will be the chosen ones to sing a few lines in any language of their choice or recite poems or share anecdotes with all of us.

This is to spread Bonhomie - so do come prepared to get into the act. It will be fun!

**SUJAYA MENON  
SABINE ERLICH SALAM**



## HEALTH & ECOLOGY

Thursday 17th July - 10.15 am

At: Mahmooda Haja Shareef's  
"Nihal"  
17, Haddows Road, 1st Street  
Nungambakkam, Chennai - 34



## THE SCIENCE OF REIKI

Reiki is an ancient healing science practised by Tibetan Buddhist Monks. It helps to heal mental, emotional and physical pain, releasing stress and increasing self-confidence.

Our own member, USHA BAIL, qualified with a Masters degree in the art of Reiki, will enlighten us on "What is Reiki" and how this science can be practised by one and all, if trained properly.

We look forward to an enlightening morning with USHA.

**RINI KUMAR  
JANIK BAKSHI**

## BOOK DISCUSSION

Tuesday 22nd July - 10.15 am

At: Zubeida Asgarali's  
El Qamar  
19, Sivaganga Road  
Chennai - 34



## THE MISTRESS OF SPICES - CHITRA BANERJEE DIVAKARUNI

This book, published in March 1997, was third on the list of nominations for the prestigious Orange Prize for women writers of fiction at the London International Book Fair.

SABITA SHETTY, well known journalist and news reader, will lead the discussion on Divakaruni's first novel. The book deals with a cross section of the Indian community, trapped between traditional values and the American dream, in a seedy area of Oakland, California.

Readers interested in borrowing the book may contact LAKSHMI PADMANABHAN or KAMALA PRASAD between 8 and 9 am.

**MALATHI RAMACHANDRAN  
PAMELA FABIAN**

## **FOUNDERS' DAY**

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Wednesday, 23rd July - 10.15 am

At: The Park Sheraton  
132, TTK Road,  
Chennai - 18

FOUNDERS' DAY - it takes us back to that memorable day when NIRMAL SESHADRI'S dream became a reality - the day when Nirmal and six other enthusiastic ladies - NANCY DEAN, LAKSHMI PADMANABHAN, ANNELIESE HAZARI, SAROJA RAMAMRUTHAM, REWA SINGH and SUNITA SHAHANEY - gave us, women of different nationalities, an opportunity through IWA, to meet and get to know each other well enough to form lasting friendships.

Another Founder's Day has come round; another opportunity for all of us to let them know how much we appreciate them.

This year, the traditional cutting of the cake will be followed by a pantomime, directed by our member LEEI A RATNAM, of two selections from Rabindranath Tagore's FRUIT GATHERING.

**RUPA KADHIRESAN  
ANNELIESE HAZARI**

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### **IWA BOOK DISCUSSION MEMBERS .....**

#### **GIVE US YOUR IDEAS FOR TOPICS**

What kind of programs would you like to see in the Newsletter?

More fiction, classics, biography, history, travel writing, poetry, or plays?

Do you want to find out about some aspect of writing or publishing?

Can you suggest a book, an author, or a speaker that would be of interest to members?

If so, please send us your ideas or give them to us at next month's meeting, or talk to us on the phone about them. Even if you don't have anything specific in mind, let Malathi (8276995) or Pamela (4937684) know what you think the programmes should be.

## CURRENT EVENTS

Friday 25th July - 10.15 am

At: Vidya Srinivasan's  
2, Satyanarayana Avenue  
Off Boat Club Road  
Chennai - 28



## **PRIVACY VS. FREE PRESS**

Open a newspaper or magazine and you are bound to find any number of stories involving corruption and scandal.

There is always a trade-off between information which the public has a right to know and the right of individual privacy. Where is the line to be drawn and how does the journalist find the right balance?

N.RAM, our speaker today is a distinguished writer and journalist. Born into a newspaper - owning family, he is the former associate editor of The Hindu and current editor of Frontline and the Sportstar.

Join us to hear his views on this very contemporary topic.

**GITA CHANDRASHEKARAN  
MADELEINE LEONE**

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## HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS

Monday 28th July - 10.15 am

At: Mini Hall  
Music Academy  
TTK Road  
Chennai - 14



## **OUR HERITAGE**

In this International Women's Year, we are presenting a colourful tableau on Indian Women, some famous and some little known who have played important roles in history.

The pageant will focus on women from ancient times to the present day who have been role models for women through the ages.

**KAMALA PRASAD  
RITA NORDENGREN**

## ARTS & CRAFTS

Thursday 31st July - 10.15 am

At: Seetha Muthiah's  
Coromandel House  
12, Boat Club Road,  
Chennai - 28



### **PACKING AS AN ART FORM**

Sharon Appa Rao is an "art activist". She promotes contemporary Indian art and has worked simultaneously in the Arts and Crafts world for the last decade and a half.

Packaging as an art form is to enhance and present products. This is an area where keen interest is evinced by many industries.

Do come and share the experience of "packaging for marketing", highlighting craft techniques used in packaging in Asian countries.

**RADHA PARTHASARATHY  
MARTINA KLUTH**

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### CURRENT EVENTS

Net Cafe (Cathedral Road) are holding a Computer Introduction Course for beginners on Monday August 18th at 9.30 am for 1 1/2 hours. Cost Rs.200 per person.

Those interested please call Gita (4420235) or Madeleine (4340824) before 9.30 am **(by Aug.8th)**. Only 12 members can join.

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### **HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO:**

VIJAYA RANGARAJAN on the loss of her husband

NIRMAL MIRZA on the loss of her mother

NANDITHA KRISHNA on the loss of her father-in-law

## 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) 412520
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