



International
Women's
Association

OCTOBER 1997

IWA NEWSLETTER

Vol. XII No. 5
CHENNAI

OCTOBER 1997

MONTH AT A GLANCE

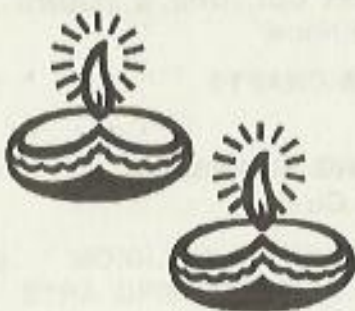
Wednesday	1st October	MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS International Music Day	10.15 am
Friday	3rd October	BOARD MEETING	10.15 am
Friday	3rd October	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	10.45 am
Thursday	9th October	HEALTH & ECOLOGY Nagarhole Park	10.00 am
Monday	13th October	EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING	10.15 am
Tuesday	14th October	CURRENT EVENTS Vijay Amritraj	5.00 pm
15th to 21st	October	HISTORY CULTURE & TOURS Tour of Nepal	
Thursday	16th October	ARTS & CRAFTS Lamps	10.15 am
Monday	20th October	COOKING SWAPSHOP Korean Cuisine	10.15 am
Friday	24th October	PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS Diwali Festivities	6.00 pm
Tuesday	28th October	BOOK DISCUSSION The Survivor	10.15 am

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

DEEPAVALI - The festival of lights - to some, the beginning of a prosperous New Year; but to all a time for rejoicing, for greeting and sharing irrespective of caste and creed. This year, IWA presents "RHYTHM-97" - an extravaganza of Song and Dance where IWA's wealth of talent will be in the forefront. The entertainment will be followed by dinner. From 1st of October, 250 Donation cards will be available for IWA members and their families. For further details, turn a few pages and you will find everything spelt out for you by the Chairpersons of Philosophy & Religion, Music & Performing Arts, History, Culture & Tours.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES:

Javanthi Prabhakaran has singlehandedly brought out the Telephone Directories and in record time too. The allotting of code numbers has also been done by her. Our special thanks to you, Javanthi.



We wish all of you a happy Deepavali. May the lamps of this festive season bring light and cheer into our hearts and homes.

**RUPA KADHIRESAN
ANNELIESE HAZARI**

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

The loss of Mother Teresa plunged the whole world in grief and we in India were particularly affected. Such persons, "punyaatmas", appear on earth but rarely, and, like the early morning Sun, brighten the sky and the lives of the people around them. From time immemorial this country has traditionally revered saints. It is only hoped that the life of service and love of this living saint will be a lesson to all of us, and that we follow her concern for humanity and suffering in our own small ways.

Coming to more mundane matters, we have some of the most talented women of Chennai as our members and are indeed proud of this fact. We only hope that they would come forward and share their talents and knowledge with us.

We are particularly anxious to receive short sketches, "quotable quotes", writings in a lighter vein and poems from members. IWA members have expressed how much they enjoy reading such material in the Newsletters. Therefore please, dear Members - Do come forth!

**SHAKUNTHALA JAGANNATHAN
MEGAN UTLEY**

BOARD MEETING

Friday October 3rd -
10.15 am

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday October 3rd -
10.45 am

Activity Chairpersons -
please bring your blurbs

Both meetings at:

Seema Sait's
3-A, Madeleine Court
71, Spur Tank Road
Chetpet, Chennai-31

HOLY BASIL (Thulasi)

Modern science has established that this modest aromatic shrub perceptibly purifies the air within a wide radius of it's vicinity, proving most effective just before sunrise, the time when it is ritually circled by the devout.

Any domestic courtyard which is centered around the Holy Basil is considered in India a place of peace, piety and virtue.

The plant's roots symbolise religious pilgrimage, it's branches divinity, it's crown an understanding of the scriptures. Young girls pray to the holy basil for husbands, married women for domestic peace and prosperity.

Medically, the plant provides a pharmacopoeia for the entire household. Its leaves are crushed in honey and used to cure coughs, colds and bronchitis, and to reduce fevers. An infusion of basil leaves and ginger is India's most popular remedy for stomach aches in children. Its essential oil is an antiseptic and insect repellent, while its root, reduced to paste, soothes bites and stings, acting even as an antidote to snake venom and scorpion bites.

COURTESY - DAKSHIN - PARK SHERATON HOTEL
Contributed by RINI KUMAR

THE THULASI LEGEND

Thulasi was a great devotee of Krishna but as she was a "fallen woman", her neighbours derided her that she had no hope of the blessings of the Lord. However, Krishna appeared before her, when she asked Him for a boon - that she should always be with Him after death.

When she died, Krishna turned her into a plant and said that He should be worshipped with Thulasi leaves, and that this plant should be grown in the courtyard of every home. This is done to this day, and the devout walk around the plant in reverence every morning.

Once a year, to honour her devotion, women perform the marriage of Thulasi, and sing and dance around the Thulasi plant.

SHAKUNTHALA JAGANNATHAN

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that an Extra-ordinary General Meeting of the International Women's Association will be held at 10.15 a.m. on Monday, October 13, 1997 at the Connemara Hotel, Binny Road, Chennai - 600 002, to consider and if thought fit, to pass the following special Resolution to read as under:

"RESOLVED to amend the Constitution as per the amended Constitution enclosed".

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The recommendations of the Adhoc Committee, duly approved by the Board, were also considered at a meeting of the Founder Members and the Past Presidents and their recommendations have also been incorporated.

ANNELIESE HAZARI

RUPA KADHIRESAN

(This is for purpose of record. The notice along with the amended Constitution has been circulated to the members twentyone days before the EGM)

A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Kausalya Jaganmohan "Sri Vaishnavi" 16, Kasturi Ranga Road Chennai - 600 018 Phone	- Indian - 4990201	Regina Schroeder 10, Crescent Street Chennai - 600 028 Phone	- German - 4346599
Priya King 8A, Chittaranjan Road Teynampet Chennai - 600 018 Phone	- American - 4322026	Sabita Shetty F 88, Anna Nagar East Chennai - 600 102 Phone	- Indian - 6260231
	Sunanda Sundaram Swathi Apts, Flat No.6 5 Binny Road, Poes Garden Chennai - 600 086 Phone	- Indian - 4984191	

THE HOYSALA EXPERIENCE

Six eager ladies, Kamala, Ruth, Rita N., Rama, Mary Jane and I left for Bangalore, where Rita S. joined us. We drove to Shraavanabelagola through verdant green scenery dotted with clumps of trees and rounded boulders. The streaks of red earth and the shadow of distant hills on the horizon completed the typical Deccan landscape.

Shraavanabelagola lies nestled between the Vindhyagiri and Chandragiri hills. The initial shock on learning we had to climb 650 steps without footwear to see the Gomateswara statue on the Vindhyagiri was replaced with a determination to see him. Huffing and puffing (but not Ruth or Rita N.) we reached the summit spurred on by the pitying glances of the agile footed villagers. Bahuballi or Gomateswara, stands 17m high. Entwined by just a creeper, his serene stillness enthralled us.

The temples built during the reign of the Hoysalas rest on a raised platform with a star shaped base with varying number of projections. The intricacy and detail of the sculptures, particularly in jewellery, garments and emblems that identify the various manifestations of the gods is both exquisite and unbelievable. Friezes run all round the exterior of the temples starting with a row of elephants at the lowest level symbolic of strength, followed by horses, decorative scrolls and scenes from the epics. Another distinguishing feature of these temples are the pillars inside, which are different from one another in design and polished to appear like metal. Bracket figures exquisite in detail and design and delicate stone screens to let in light and air add to the uniqueness of the Hoysala school of architecture. Finally, the ceilings are also divided into sections and worked in painstaking detail such that no two sections are alike.

The temples at Belur, Halebid and Somnathpur encompassed all these features and yet were unique in their own way. Belur excelled in the number and variety of the bracket figures, while Halebid had the largest number of exterior sculptures and two adorable nandis or bulls. Somnathpur which we reached from Mysore, was the gem of the three with shikaras for the three deities within. In appearance it looked as if carved from wood since the work was so intricate and sharp.

Our respect for the artisans of that great era cannot be expressed in words. It was an intensely moving experience shared by the seven of us.

JAVANTHI PRABHAKARAN

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Wednesday, 1st October - 10.15 a.m.

At: Taj Coromandel Hotel
Chennai - 34



INTERNATIONAL MUSIC DAY

In the IWA tradition of encouraging the talent of youth and to commemorate our Founder President Nirmal's birthday, we present a short recital of Carnatic music by T.M. Krishna.

After being trained by Sitaram Sharma, Krishna has performed and won acclaim and prizes in many sabhas in Chennai and other Indian cities. He has also performed abroad. Gifted with a sonorous voice and a fine technique, he will sing in 4/5 different languages and also some semi-classical pieces which have a certain appeal. He will be accompanied by 2 other musicians.

GUEST CHARGES - RS. 50

**SUJAYA MENON
SABINE SALAM**

HEALTH & ECOLOGY

Thursday, 9th October - 10 am

At: British Council
737, Anna Salai
Chennai - 2



NAGARHOLE: TALES FROM AN INDIAN JUNGLE

Nagarhole, in Karnataka, is one of the finest National Parks in Asia. Protected with exemplary zeal for the last 25 yrs, it has bloomed into a paradise where elephants, gaur, tigers, leopards and other wild life thrive.

This 52 minute documentary from Eco Media Madras captures the essence of changing seasons at Nagarhole. Premiered on Discovery Channel in USA in June 1997, this film is slated for Indian television telecast as well.

Our thanks to ANNA LOCKWOOD, Ruth Lockwood's daughter, for allowing us to see this special preview.

KINDLY NOTE THAT THE MEETING WILL COMMENCE AT 10 AM.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME

**RINI KUMAR
JANIK BAKSHI**

CURRENT EVENTS

Tuesday, 14th October - 5.00 p.m.

At: Madras Club

MEET VIJAY AMRITRAJ

Join us for 'Tea' at the Madras Club, to meet India's most famous and fascinating sports celebrity - VIJAY AMRITRAJ.

Widely travelled, Tennis star (Past president of ATP), TV personality, Actor and much more, Vijay is looking forward to a lively question-answer session with IWA members. So ladies, do come prepared for a little tennis gossip!

GUESTS ARE WELCOME. (Children over 14 years may attend)

GUEST CHARGES - RS.50

**GITA CHANDRASEKARAN
MADELEINE LEONE**



HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS

October 15th to 21st - Tour of NEPAL visiting Kathmandu, Pokhara, Nagarkot and Chitwan Sanctuary.

November (dates to be finalised) - Tour of RAJASTHAN visiting Jaipur, Pushkar Udaipur etc.

Please contact KAMALA (6262035) for details regarding tour itinerary and cost.

**KAMALA PRASAD
RITA NORDENGREN**



For an actress to be a success, she must have the face of Venus, the brains of Minerva, the grace of Terpsichore, the memory of Macaulay, the figure of Juno, and the hide of a rhinoceros.

ETHEL BARRYMORE

ARTS & CRAFTS

Thursday, 16th October - 10.15 am

At: Rupa Sood's
5, Adyar Club Gate Road
Chennai - 28



LAMPS-LAMPS-LAMPS!

LILY VIJAYARAGHAVAN is a veteran art collector and a true devotee of art who hails from a family of art collectors.

Lamps find a favourite place in ancient literature and the carvings of Amaravati prove its popularity with the sculptors. Lamps have always been considered sacred and auspicious. Once its august function was accepted by man, it was but natural that he should adorn it with beauty and grace.

LILY will discuss different lamps from the four Southern States.

On show will be a collection of beautiful lamps.

**RADHA PARTHASARATHY
MARTINA KLUTH**

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Monday, 20th October - 10.15 am

At: Thayabae Kakkar's
6-A, Chandrika Towers
8, College Lane, Chennai -6



Korean cuisine consists of almost raw vegetables and lightly cooked meat - a very healthy way of eating.

Autumn is a time for making KIMCHI which is a spicy, peppery vegetable pickle served as an accompaniment at all meals. Kimchi might be prepared from cabbage, raddish, cucumber, red pepper, spring onions, garlic, oysters, white fish, chestnuts etc. The Kimchi is left to ferment over a period of time, getting pungent by the week.

Mrs. Soon Hee Jun of Korea House, demonstrates to us a variety of Kimchis and Korean specialities like Bulgogi, Pajeon Osingo Bok UM, and Jap Chae.

WARNING IN IS NECESSARY AS NUMBER IS LIMITED TO 60.

Call: MEYYAMMAI - 4420520} before 9 am
NILISHA - 4990151}

**MEYYAMAI MURUGAPPAN
NILISHA MEHTA**

**PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION
MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS
HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS**

Friday, 24th October - 6 p.m.

At: Russian Cultural Centre
Kasturi Ranga Road
Chennai - 18



RHYTHM - 97: SONG AND FESTIVITY

Diwali - the festival that delights us is here! Come, light the lamp of festivity and spend a joyous evening filled with bonhomie and cheer - A scintillating medley, an interfusion of Indian and Western songs, swirling dances, rib-tickling interludes of mirth - a dazzling array of home talent that'll keep you captivated.

Partake of a delicious dinner after the entertainment and go back delighted. Soft drinks will be available with the caterers against cash payment.

Donation cards, at Rs. 200/- each are available with the Board and Chairpersons of the above Activities on a first-come basis. Book early to avoid disappointment.

**SUJAYA MENON
SABINE SALAM**

**KAMALA PRASAD
RITA NORDENGREN**

**LEELA RATNAM
SHEELA K. SARATH**

ARTS & CRAFTS

We will be organising a talk and one day workshop by well-known artist ILANGO in November. Those who are interested in participating, please give in your names to MARTINA - 4917772

GUESTS ARE WELCOME

**MARTINA KLUTH
RADHA PARTHASARATHY**

A woman can never be too rich or too thin !

DUCHESS OF WINDSOR

(Contributed by MADELEINE LEONE)

BOOK DISCUSSION

Tuesday, 28th October - 10.15 a.m.

At: Nalini Ramakrishna's
36, Harleys Road
Kilpauk, Chennai-10



THE SURVIVOR (DANAPANI) - GOPINATH MOHANTY TRANSLATOR - BIKRAM KESHARI DAS

There are many ways to survive - the clerk in a private firm has chosen his. Life is a struggle but every step up the ladder is a thrill, although Balidatta has to compromise both dignity and self-respect.

Gopinath Mohanty was perhaps the greatest Oriya writer of this century having published over 25 novels and 200 short stories besides many critical works.

Bikram Keshari Das was born in Patna, India and currently lives in Singapore where he teaches Applied Linguistics at the National Institute of Education.

Both are the recipients of several awards

MINI KRISHNAN, Project Editor of Macmillan India Ltd., will briefly discuss English translations of post independent works in Indian languages, focussing on the above novel.

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

**MALATHI RAMACHANDRAN
PAMELA FABIAN**

Of all God's creatures, there is only one that cannot be made the slave of the lash. That one is the cat. If Man could be crossed with the cat, it would improve Man, but it would deteriorate the cat.

MARK TWAIN

The rain it raineth on the just
But also on the unjust fella
But mainly on the just because
The unjust steals the just's umbrella !

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 Salt	(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
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		Sabine Erlich Salam	(R) 832670
PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION	:	Leela Ratnam	(R) 452123
		Sheela K. Sarath	(R) 4938524
			(O) 4938411