



**International  
Women's  
Association**

**DECEMBER 1997**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**



**AND A PROSPEROUS 1998**

# IWA NEWSLETTER

Vol. XII No. 7  
CHENNAI

DECEMBER

## MONTH AT A GLANCE

|          |               |  |                        |
|----------|---------------|--|------------------------|
| Tuesday  | 2nd December  | <b>BOARD MEETING</b>   | 10.15 am               |
| Tuesday  | 2nd December  | <b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING</b>   | 10.45 am               |
| Friday   | 5th December  | <b>PHILOSOPHY &amp; RELIGION</b><br>Sikh Philosophy<br>(postponed meeting) | 10.15 am               |
| Monday   | 8th December  | <b>CURRENT EVENTS</b><br>Hostage Crisis                                    | 10.15 am               |
| Tuesday  | 9th December  | <b>BOOK DISCUSSION</b><br>Malice   | 10.15 am               |
| Thursday | 11th December | <b>ARTS &amp; CRAFTS</b><br>Painting Workshop                              | 10.15 am<br>to 4.30 pm |
| Friday   | 12th December | <b>PHILOSOPHY &amp; RELIGION</b><br>Xmas Party                             | 3.30 to<br>6 pm        |
| Tuesday  | 16th December | <b>HISTORY, CULTURE &amp; TOURS</b><br>Culture Shock                       | 10.15 am               |

## FROM THE PRESIDENTS:

CHRISTMAS - a joyous occasion for all- children and grown-ups alike. Christmas that makes December so special, helping us to renew contacts and friendships and reminding us to do our bit to make this day special for others. Cards and Carols, holly and mistletoe, decorated trees and gifts, roast turkey and Christmas pudding and above all the message of Christmas - peace on earth and goodwill towards all - just what we all long for.

Our Christmas party this year is at "River House" on the 12th of this month. Members of the Overseas Women's Club will also join us. Bring your children/ grandchildren and partake of the delicacies prepared by our members and the members of the OWC. There will be lots of fun and surprises for the children.

DEEPAVALI CELEBRATIONS - Right from the start, our efforts were blessed; the rains stopped and everything fell into place beautifully. The dances were a delight as also the humorous skits. Our congratulations to the talented participants. Our thanks to our members - Megan Utley, Javanthi Prabhakaran, Lalitha Krishnan, Lily Ratnam, Sheela Sharath, Kamala Prasad, Nilisha Mehta, Sujaya Menon, Naina Shah whose efforts made these celebrations so memorable.

OUR FIRST ENDOWMENT LECTURE - The walls and the ceiling of the Centenary Hall of the Government Museum were cold and damp due to the incessant rain, but the atmosphere inside was warm and friendly. Prof. William Skelton was interesting and informal carrying his appreciative audience with him. It was a privilege to have him deliver our First Endowment Lecture - our thanks to Nanditha Krishna.

May the peace and joy of Christmas be with you.

**RUPA KADHIRESAN  
ANNELIESE HAZARI**

## FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

This year we have had many tours, thanks to KAMALA PRASAD and RITA NORDENGREN.

Starting with a tour of Karnataka, we had a tour of Nepal and now a long tour of Rajasthan. KAMALA also has a surprise tour coming up in March/April, which you will soon hear about.

May we once again request more members to host meetings in their homes, so that we have a homely atmosphere at IWA meetings.

FAKHIRA, LAKSHMI, SAROJA and SHAKUNTHALA attended the 30th Anniversary celebrations of INDUS INTERNATIONAL at Bombay. The programmes were excellent and full of fun and the cordial hospitality overwhelming. There were 4, 6 and 2 members respectively from the Madras, Delhi and Bangalore sister clubs and 26 former members from abroad, from countries all the way from Australia, the Middle East, Europe and the U.K. to America. Meeting old friends after years was great!

Greetings from IWA Presidents, RUPA and ANNELIESE, were read out at the Founders' Day luncheon.

**SHAKUNTHALA JAGANNATHAN  
MEGAN UTLEY**

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### **BOARD MEETING**

Tuesday December 2nd -  
10.15 am

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday December 2nd -  
10.45 am

Activity Chairpersons -  
please bring your blurbs

Both meetings at:

Meyyammai Murugappan's  
14/2B, Valliammai Achi Road  
Kotturpuram  
Chennai - 85

## IWA'S CONSTITUTION

Following alterations to the amended Constitution were suggested and passed at the Extra-ordinary General Meeting held on Monday, October 13, 1997. Please incorporate these changes in your personal copy of the amended Constitution. Such of those Articles which were further altered at the EGM have been reproduced in their entirety, the alterations being shown in bold type.

### Page 1 International Women's Association, **Chennai**

Article I-1 2nd line: The name of this organization shall be the International Women's Association, hereinafter referred to as IWA. The headquarters of the Association shall be in **Chennai**.

Article II-6: IWA shall do on its own all such other lawful acts as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of any of the above aims and objectives. **(The words - "or deeds or things" - to be deleted)**

### Page 2 **Senior Members**

No. 18: An active member of IWA, who has been an active member for not less than three quarters of the lifetime of IWA or ten years, whichever is less, upon reaching the age of **65** or thereafter, will have the option of applying for senior membership. A senior member will continue to pay the annual subscription of IWA, but is not subject to the rules governing attendance.

### Page 3 No. 20 Deleted and substituted by:

#### Commercial interests of members

**Commercial or business interests of IWA members may not be publicised or promoted through IWA.**

### Page 7 No. 56-b To approve the **Audited** accounts.

Page 8 No. 60 The Constitution may be amended by at least three-fifths of the votes cast (in person) at an Extraordinary General Meeting

convened by the Presidents/the Board. **Proposals for amendments to the Constitution signed by a minimum of ten members shall also be considered at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting.** Written notice of the proposed amendments shall be circulated to the members at least twentyone days prior to the meeting.

No. 62 Any resolution for the dissolution of the IWA shall require the assent of at least 3/5ths of the members present and voting at **an Extra Ordinary General Meeting** specially called for the purpose. Twentyone days written notice of such a meeting shall be given to the members.

**RUPA KADHIRESAN  
ANNELIESE HAZARI**

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### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In accordance with Article III-40 of the Constitution, the Board at their meeting held on November 5, 1997, have nominated the following members to serve on the first Advisory Committee:

LAKSHMI PADMANABHAN  
MAUREEN HUDSON MURARI  
ARUNA VIJAYKUMAR

Their term of office will be three years effective from December 1, 1997. However as specified in the Constitution, the term of office of the members of the first Advisory Committee will be decided by draw of lots so that out of three members, one member will have a term of one year, the second a term of two years and the third will have a term of three years, one member retiring in rotation every year.

Our thanks to LAKSHMI, MAUREEN and ARUNA for consenting to serve on the Advisory Committee.

**RUPA KADHIRESAN  
ANNELIESE HAZARI**

## THIS YEAR'S DIWALI CELEBRATIONS

There was a novelty about every aspect of this year's celebrations. The fact that it was not held at a five star hotel made it a charming, intimate and friendly celebration. The decorations with flowers and lamps were imaginative and aesthetically pleasing. Nilisha Mehta deserves praise. The entertainment by IWA members was very good. Especially appealing were the Maypole dance and the Mohiniyattam. The importance given to lights at the beginning and at the end of the programme was thoughtful and appealing. All the Chairpersons who organised the entertainment have to be congratulated. The food was beautifully laid out and it was very tasty.

The whole approach to Diwali was so correct. The Board and the Committee seem to have understood the real significance of such celebrations which is to bring joy and goodwill into the hearts of members, and doing so without the explicit show of pomp and riches was ideologically worthy of an organisation such as IWA. There was less attendance - may be due to other preoccupations, who knows? But to those of us who came, it was certainly an evening to remember. I strongly feel that organisations such as IWA should set examples of humility, lack of vulgar display of pomp, splendour and riches and be leaders of a social conscience. Rupa and Anneliese and their committee have set an example and a code of behaviour in this respect and certainly deserve congratulations and praise.

**VASANTHI SANKARANARAYANAN**

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## **OUR THANKS TO THE HOSTESSES OF THE VIJAY AMRITRAJ PROGRAMME IN NOVEMBER**

|                     |                      |                   |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Alagammai Alagappan | Rita Nordengren      | Shyla Rao         |
| Gita Chandrasekaran | Shamim Padamsee      | Shobha Seshasayee |
| Leila Diraviam      | Javanthi Prabhakaran | Dolly Simon       |
| Madaleine Leone     | Malathi Ramachandran | Rameela Sreedhar  |
| Shweta Mohapatra    | Rekha Rangaraj       | Nandini Srikanth  |

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## **HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**MEENA RAWLEY** on the birth of a granddaughter



## A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| DEBORAH ANNE CHRISTIE<br>A-10, Cherian Citadel<br>7-8, Dr. P.V. Cherian Crescent<br>Egmore,<br>Chennai - 600 105 | Australian<br><br><br><br><br>Phone: 8220248        |
| MARGARETA FURLONG<br>2 A, Cambrae Hall<br>72, Victoria Crescent<br>Chennai - 600 105                             | Swedish<br><br><br><br><br>Phone: 8229496           |
| LEELA LAKSHMAN RAO<br>26, Pycrofts Garden Road<br>Nungambakkam<br>Chennai - 600 006                              | Indian<br><br><br><br><br>Phone: 8279112<br>8274868 |
| UTE NAHNSEN<br>34, Bishops Garden<br>Off Greenways Road<br>Chennai - 600 028                                     | Canadian<br><br><br><br><br>Phone: 4938874          |
| MICHELE SISON<br>River House<br>No. 1, Turnbull Road<br>Chennai - 600 035  | American<br><br><br><br><br>Phone: 4321454          |

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### **CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

NANDITHA KRISHNA (res) - 4338297  
4339450

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### **OUR THANKS TO OUR HOSTESSES FOR 1ST OCTOBER - INTERNATIONAL MUSIC DAY**

|                |                 |                     |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Susan Abraham  | Mansha Bhatia   | Srikanta Jhaver     |
| Nalini Acharya | Bilquis Chida   | Brahada Kameshwaran |
| Latha Baratan  | Francoise Drown | Lalitha Krishnan    |
| Seema Bhargava | Sushi Goklaney  | Fazeela Nurdeen     |

## PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

Friday, 5th December - 10.15 am

At: The Gurdwara  
(Sikh Temple)  
127/A, G.N. Chetty Road  
T. Nagar, Chennai - 17



## **SIKH PHILOSOPHY AND SIKH HISTORY**

SANGEET CHOPRA will talk to us on Sikhism - a religion followed by about 14 million Sikhs in India. Experience the solemn rituals in a Gurdwara, where you will witness a Sikh service, Kirtan singing and recitation of shlokas from the "Adi Granth" - the Sikh holy book.

The meeting will conclude with the serving of a traditional Sikh temple meal. **Members and guests of every faith are welcome.**

THOSE ATTENDING THE SERVICE IN THE GURDWARA MUST COVER THEIR HEADS WITH THEIR SAREES OR SCARVES.

We thank NIRMAL MIRZA for hosting this meeting.

**This meeting was postponed from last month due to inclement weather.**

LEELA RATNAM  
SHEELA K. SARATH

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## CURRENT EVENTS

Monday, 8th December - 10.15 am

At: Alagammai Alagappan's  
17, Chittaranjan Road  
Teynampet  
Chennai - 18



## **THE HOSTAGE CRISIS**

At some point in our lives, we have all been hostages - of our jobs, families and even our conscience.

But how does it feel to be a hostage of a terrorist group or a dacoit? How do the various governments, the police or even the families handle a hostage crisis?

Widely travelled and experienced bureaucrat Mr. C.N. RAMDAS will address these and other questions on an issue which is becoming more and more relevant around the world.

GITA CHANDRASEKARAN  
MADELEINE LEONE

## BOOK DISCUSSION

Tuesday, 9th December - 10.15 am

At: Marina Mathias'  
462, Kilpauk Garden Road  
Chennai -10



### **MALICE - DANIELLE STEEL**

This month's selection was chosen in response to requests for a work of popular fiction. Danielle Steel is one of today's best known and most prolific writers. In Malice she explores the aftermath of family violence and the responsibility of the media and the judicial system towards victims and public figures.

GAYATHRI RAVINDRA will discuss the book and the controversial questions it raises.

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

**MALATHI RAMACHANDRAN  
PAMELA FABIAN**

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## ARTS & CRAFTS

Thursday 11th December - 10.15 am - 4.30 pm

At: The Madras Club  
Adyar Club Gate Road  
Chennai -28



### **PAINTING WORKSHOP**

SRI. A.V. ILLANGO, Professor of Mathematics and free lance artist, delivered his introduction to art at the meeting held on 6th November.

By popular request, we have decided to conduct a workshop, where SRI. ILANGO will introduce us to the basics of sketching and open to us the glorious vistas of painting and sketching.

The necessary materials will be provided. Come, give expression to your artistic talents !

Those interested in taking part, kindly warn in to:

RADHA - 4340448 (Morning 7 - 9.30), MARTINA - 4917772

**RADHA PARTHASARATHY  
MARTINA KLUTH**

## PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

Friday, December 12th - 3.30 to 6.00 pm

At: Michel Sison's  
River House  
1, Turnbull Road  
(Next to the Madras Club)



## **IWA CHRISTMAS PARTY**

This year's Christmas function will be held at MICHEL SISON'S home.

The format this year will be games on the lawn for the children in two age groups, with prizes for winners. Games like egg and spoon races, three legged races etc. will be included. These will be followed by tea, Carol singing and a visit from Santa Claus with gifts for the children. To help us to choose suitable gifts for the children, we hope you won't mind telling us the age of the child as you purchase a ticket for it.

Donation Cards (at Rs. 100/- for adults and Rs. 50/- for children) will be available with KAMALA PRASAD, LEELA RATNAM, SHEELA SARATH and the BOARD MEMBERS.

Christmas is a time for giving to others. Please, could each IWA member bring a small gift for donation to an orphanage.

**LEELA RATNAM  
SHEELA K SARATH**

We thank the following members for providing refreshments for the Xmas party:

ZUBEIDA ASGARALI  
ANNELIESE HAZARI  
RUPA KADHIRESAN  
LALITHA KRISHNAN

POONAM LALCHAND  
ALAGU MUTHU  
JAVANTHI PRABHAKARAN  
LILY RATNAM

SHEELA K. SARATH

## HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS

Tuesday, 16th December - 10.15 am

At: Rita Nordengren's  
4, Bella Vista  
Sunrise Avenue  
Neelankarai  
Chennai - 41



## **CULTURE SHOCK**

Our individual cultures and languages affect to a high degree the way we think, feel and react. However, we are all human beings and there are great similarities as well as differences between people of different cultures. Tours provide a good opportunity to understand and experience the different cultures and languages between peoples of different parts of the country and between different nations.

Our cultural heritage dictates our perception of time and space, our body language and our reaction to world events. Come and share your experiences of living abroad and the problems and joys of meeting different cultures. IWA members will tell you about their experiences.

Our thanks to RITA NORDENGREN, HENNIE VIS and BODIL FREDERIKSEN for hosting this meeting.

**RITA NORDENGREN  
KAMALA PRASAD**

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## FROM THE SECRETARIES

Some members received the October Newsletter only by the 15th of the month, though the newsletters had been posted on the 25th of September. The problem was traced to the sorting office, where the mailbag containing some of our newsletters had been ignored for sometime. Unfortunately this is an area beyond our control. We hope that this will not happen again.

Members are requested to inform the **Secretaries** if they have not received their newsletters by the **5th of the month**.

**SEEMA SAIT  
JAVANTHI PRABHAKARAN**

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### THE BOARD

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

### ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

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