



**International
Women's
Association**

FEBRUARY 1998

IWA NEWSLETTER

Vol. XII No. 9
CHENNAI

FEBRUARY 1998

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Thursday	5th February	BOARD MEETING	10.15 am
Thursday	5th February	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	10.45 am
Tuesday	10th February	PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION Henna Ceremony	11.15 am
Thursday	12th February	COOKING SWAPSHOP Moplah Cuisine	10.15 am
Friday	13th February	HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS Pottery	10.15 am
Tuesday	17th February	PRESENTATION OF AWARDS	10.15 am
Wednesday	18th February	MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS Poetry Reading	4.30 pm
Friday	20th February	HEALTH & ECOLOGY Zearscaping	10.15 am
Monday	23rd February	CURRENT EVENTS Multi-cultural Societies	10.15 am
Tuesday	24th February	BOOK DISCUSSION The Last Spring	10.15 am
Thursday	26th February	ARTS & CRAFTS Fine Handicraft	10.15 am

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Our year is drawing to a close. The time has come to think of next year's Board. Whilst the final selection lies with the Nominating Committee, the Nominating Committee looks to the membership to help them select the right people. This selection will be based on your recommendations and various other factors. We therefore request every member to be involved in this exercise - to make that little extra effort to fill in the nomination form (appearing at the end of this newsletter) and forward it to the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee well in time. Your participation at meetings has been excellent as evidenced by the attendance at every meeting. This is one more area where your active participation is absolutely necessary and will be greatly appreciated.

CONSTITUTION:- Limited number of copies have been printed in booklet form. They are available to members at Rs. 12/- per copy. However, a copy will be given to a new member upon admission.

Programmes planned for the rest of the year are equally interesting and entertaining. We hope you enjoy them.

**RUPA KADHIRESAN
ANNELIESE HAZARI**

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

Hostesses who hold meetings at their homes are often in a fix trying to locate the IWA Crockery Set and Microphone.

IWA members may please note that the crockery is kept with Shakunthala and the mike with Megan.

A piece of good news - we hope to get a new mike shortly.

So members - please use both these facilities. And don't forget to return them immediately after a meeting, so that other members can benefit from them. Thanks!

**SHAKUNTHALA JAGANNATHAN
MEGAN UTLEY**

BOARD MEETING

Thursday, February 5th -
10.15 am

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, February 5th -
10.45 am

Activity Chairpersons please
bring your blurbs

Both meetings at:

Janik Bakshi's
53/21, Srirangam Avenue
Off Pantheon Road
Egmore, Chennai - 8

ANNUAL GARDEN TEA

THE OVERSEAS WOMEN'S CLUB, CHENNAI, invites IWA members to its annual Garden Tea. This will be held this year at Cottingley, 24, Anderson Road, the home of the British Deputy High Commissioner, on February 11th, 1998. Invitations are Rs. 150.00 each, available from MEGAN UTLEY. There is a door prize, and entertainment provided by OWC members and by The Sylvia Wright School for the Deaf.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Board, at their meeting held on January 8, 1998, have appointed the following members to serve on the Nominating Committee this year.

Nirmal Mirza - Chairperson
Stina Vasu
Nalini Ramakrishna
Rajni Sabherwal
Maureen Thadani

Recommendations are invited from the membership for the various posts on the Board. As per our new constitution, **it is not necessary to obtain the consent of the concerned member while recommending her to a post on the board.** The Nominating Committee shall obtain her consent before selecting her. Your recommendations are very valuable and will help the Nominating Committee in the selection of a Board consisting of members who are efficient and also have a sense of commitment.

Guidelines for your recommendations

Presidents - should have served on at least one earlier Board. This may be relaxed in the case of non-Indians.

Other members on the Board - Should have served as activity chairpersons for at least two years. This may be relaxed in the case of non-Indians.

The last page of this Newsletter carries the tear-off nomination form. Please fill up the form and send it to Nirmal Mirza, the Chairperson, so as to reach her by February 25th, 1998.

**RUPA KADHIRESAN
ANNELIESE HAZARI**

XMAS EVE GIFTS

The President of the Women's Indian Association, Chennai, **MRS. SAROJINI VARADAPPAN** has written to thank IWA for the Xmas Eve gifts which have been distributed by them to the poor children of the Destitute Home run by that organisation at Poonamallee.

She has conveyed that the children were delighted with the gifts.

Thank you IWA members, for your generosity!

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

Tuesday, 10th February - 11.15 am

At: YWCA International Guest House
Poonamallee High Road, Chennai - 84



THE HENNA CEREMONY

The Mehendi ceremony or the Henna ceremony, is a pre-nuptial ceremony where the bride receives gifts from her would-be in-laws, jewellery, clothes etc. The most important gift she receives is henna, symbolic of marital bliss and festivity. No marriage or happy occasion is complete without it.

Produced and Directed by REHANE DHALA
COMMITTEE OF HOSTESSES

Fakhira Ayer
Bilquis Chida
Rehane Dhala
Valerie Faheem
Mahmooda Haja Shareef
Sufia Hussein

Zainab Kachwala
Thayabee Kakar
Sadiya KHaleeli
Bela Khaleeli
Mahin Khaleeli
Malek Begum Lalji
Zubeida Asgar Ali

Farida Majid
Bilkis Moosa
Fazeela Nurdeen
Shameem Padamsee
Seema Sait
Sabine Salam

**LEELA RATNAM
SHEELA K. SARATH**

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Thursday, 12th February - 10.15 am

At: Meenakshi Arunachalam's
Chamundeswari Baugh
1, Bishop's Garden
Off Greenways Road, Chennai - 28



MOPLAH CUISINE

UMMI ABDULLAH is the authoress of two well known cookery books, Malabar Muslim Cookery and Epicure Cook Book.

To Ummi cooking is an art, her speciality being Kerala Muslim cookery. She will let us in on some traditional Moplah recipes, made simple for the busy housewife.

Please warn in as the number is limited to 45. Call (before 9 am)
Meyyammai - 4420520/419680 or Nilisha - 4990151

**MEYYAMMAI MURUGAPPAN
NILISHA MEHTA**

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS

Friday, 13th February - 10.15 am

At: Saroja Ramamrutham's
Beach Court Penthouse
47, Arundale Beach Road
Kalakshetra Colony
Chennai-90



POTTERY THROUGH THE AGES

The pot, so ordinary and innocuous, has played a very crucial role in the life of civilisations through the centuries. What makes it so versatile and useful? Let us try and trace some facts-historic, modern and religious, presented to us by IWA members.

There will be a display of pots followed by a ten-minute programme of music on the pot, the **ghatam**.

**KAMALA PRASAD
RITA NORDENGREN**

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Tuesday, 17th February - 10.15 am

At: The Taj Coromandel
Nungambakkam High Road
Chennai - 34

REKHA RAMACHANDRAN of Mathru Mandir, a special mother of a special child and our "Woman of the year" for 1997-98 will receive the Award instituted by Nimal Mirza for the remarkable success she has achieved with her child and also other Down's Syndrome children.

BABLI RAMACHANDRAN, a Down's Syndrome child, and our "Girl-child of the year" for 1997-98 will receive the Award instituted by Prithika Chary. Babli has risen above all the pain and suffering, problems and frustrations that beset a Down's Syndrome child and is today, cheerful, confident and quite independent. Overcoming tremendous odds, she leads a normal life; winning awards and accolades, Babli is a bright ray of hope for children with similar problems.

**RUPA KADHIRESAN
ANNELIESE HAZARI**

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Wednesday 18th February - 4.30 p.m.

At: Sharda Khemka's
4, Rutland Gate, 6th Street
Chennai-6.



READINGS FROM DRAMA AND POETRY BY JASPER UTLEY.

JASPER UTLEY is a well-known figure in Madras as he is the Regional Director of the British Council looking after Madras, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Trivandrum.

During his tenure with the B.C. he has lived in exciting countries like Hongkong, Thailand, Ghana, Greece, China etc.

He is an author too, and has many short stories and poems to his credit, and has also written a book on the Rani of Jhansi. He is an actor and a dramatist and has appeared in several productions of the Madras Players and in pantomimes.

Jasper will read today from a selection of plays and poems.

As you may have guessed, he is the husband of our Vice-President, MEGANI

**SUJAYA MENON
SABINE SALAM**

HEALTH & ECOLOGY

Friday, 20th February - 10.15 am

At: Vikram Thambuswamy's
6, Manon Mani Ammal Road
Off Mocham Theater
Kilpauk, Chennai - 10



ZEARSCAPING, AND A UNIQUE CACTII COLLECTION

Vikram Thambuswamy has nurtured a hobby of collecting cactii from all corners of the globe. In his home he has a cactus garden which boasts of these succulent plants from Mexico, Malaysia, Arizona, Sarovik, Australia & Indonesia. Along with this he also has various kinds of Palms from different parts of the world.

Mr. P. Mukundan, horticulturist, will give a talk on the usage, type of soil and the ecological value of cactii. IWA members can walk through this unique cactus garden and learn the art and technicalities of growing cactii. Please carry your sunglasses and straw hats if you don't get along with the sun !!

**RINI KUMAR
JANIK BAKSHI**

CURRENT EVENTS

Monday, 23rd February - 10.15 am

At: Gita Chandrasekaran's
39, I Main Road
Indira Nagar
Adyar, Chennai - 20



ARE MULTI-CULTURAL SOCIETIES POSSIBLE?

With increasing globalisation, nations have become culturally and ethnically mixed. All over the world people of different religions and cultures, speaking different languages, live and work together. However, incidents of racial and religious discrimination and violence are on the increase. Is it possible for different communities to live together in peace?

ANJANA DAS-HASPER, our speaker, has worked on an extensive research project at the Oxford University and has recently published a book on racially motivated crimes. She will talk to us on how peaceful co-existence could and should be possible.

**GITA CHANDRASEKARAN
MADELEINE LEONE**

BOOK DISCUSSION

Tuesday, 24th February - 10.15 am

At: Meera Jayakar's
2/1, 6th Avenue
Harrington Road, Chennai - 31



THE LAST SPRING - ABRAHAM ERALY

The Last Spring, the first of a series of four books Abraham Eraly plans to write on India, is a fascinating reconstruction of the Mughal era portraying life rather than attempting to merely chronicle history. Eraly has quoted extensively from Mughal chronicals giving immediacy and authenticity to the narrative. The book goes a long way in correcting the misconstrued popular image of the Mughal rulers as being tyrannical and unabashedly Islamic. The author also brings alive several historical figures like Babar, the adventurous Akbar and the impulsive Humayun.

Abraham Eraly who will review his own book with us, taught history for several years at Madras Christian College and for a couple of years in the U.S. From 1977 to 1992 he edited the well-known Chennai magazine, "ASIDE".

The book is available at all leading book stores and libraries.

**MALATHI RAMACHANDRAN
PAMELA FABIAN**

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Thursday 26th February - 10.15 am

At: Luz House
18, Baliah Avenue
Off Luz Church Road
Chennai - 4



FINE HANDICRAFT - A WAY OF LIFE

Jean Francois belongs to the Lesage family who have raised embroidery from one of the loveliest traditional French crafts to an incomparable international art. He, along with a representative of his father's company, Patrick Sovouret, has chosen to live in India to develop exclusive handmade embroideries for interiors.

Living and working with their team in a 160 year old mansion in the heart of Mylapore, they are surrounded by history and an environment of peace. This helps them express their creativity to the fullest extent.

Jean Francois will explain how his success in terms of sales to the most exclusive shops in the West does not only depend on efficient management - but is a success born out of the way of life - which includes their work, their relationship with the craftsmen working with them and a determination to get the best results. Involvement, originality, hard work and respect for the Indian heritage are the keys to their success.

Come discover the ambience of the environment and the excellence of their work at Luz House.

Attendance will be limited to 50 people only.

Please warn in to:

Sujaya Menon 4917464, 4910044

Rupa Kadhiresan 4992847

**RADHA PARTHASARATHY
MARTIN KLUTH**

HOW TO GET THERE:

Turn on to Luz Church Road, go past the Dept. Store, Vitan. Baliah Avenue is the road to your left between Bombay Dyeing and the Bank of India.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE BOARD

PRESIDENTS	:	Rupa Kadhiresan	(R) 4992847
		Annellese 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
		Meyyammal 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