



**International
Women's
Association**

MARCH 1999

IWA NEWSLETTER

Vol. XIII No. 10
CHENNAI

MARCH 1999

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Monday	1st March	ARTS & HANDICRAFTS Talk with slides - 'Traditional Indian Jewellery'.	10.15 am
Tuesday	2nd March	BOARD MEETING EXECUTIVE MEETING	9.30 am 11.00 am
Friday	5th March	CURRENT EVENTS Talk - 'Population in the new millenium'.	10.15 am
Wednesday	10th March	MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS Face-to-Face with Javed Akhtar	4.45 am
Thursday	11th March	CURRENT EVENTS A lecture by Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, IWA's Woman of the Year	5.00 pm
Friday	12th March	"WOMAN OF THE YEAR" & "GIRL CHILD OF THE YEAR" AWARD CEREMONIES	10.15 am
Tuesday	16th March	HEALTH & ECOLOGY Trip - S.I.Flour Mill	9.30 am
Friday	19th March	COOKING SWAPSHOP Punjabi "Dhaba" Delights	11.00 am
Monday	22nd March	MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS "Cassandra"-Ranjabati Sircar	10.15 am
Tuesday	23rd March	BOOK DISCUSSION Review - "Into Thin Air:	10.15 am

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

With reluctance we must announce the departure for Italy on March 28th, of our President Megan Utley. We have enjoyed working together this year and it is a pity that we could not see things through to the end together. It was not to be. Megan's daughter's baby is due early April and she is alone in a foreign environment, namely, Italy. Childbirth is a pretty scary experience especially the first time around, so I know you will understand that the child needs her mother there for moral support. Megan is very sad to have to leave her post before the end of the year, but knows you will sympathise with her dilemma. After all, we are all family people first and foremost. She is particularly distressed to miss the Annual General Meeting which would have provided the perfect end to the year.

SHYLA K RAU
MEGAN UTLEY

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, 2nd March - 9.30 am

EXECUTIVE MEETING

Tuesday, 2nd March - 11.00 am

Both meetings at
Lalini Gautamadasa's
4/2, "Sri Lanka House,"
Dr. Alagappa Road
(Off Poonemalee High Road),
Chennai - 84

Love is that condition in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own joy.

R.A. HEINLEIN

VICE-PRESIDENTS' PAGE

Dear Members,

You will agree that through the IWA year, we have had the good fortune of listening to an array of eminent speakers and of witnessing equally absorbing demonstrations of dance, song, arts and crafts and cookery by well-known artistes. We have had record attendances most times which has indeed been heartening.

There is however, one distressing aspect which we feel, needs to be corrected. Often, members have been observed leaving the room long before the morning's programme has come to an end. This, needless to say disturbs a speaker's concentration and upsets his/her trend of thought. Common courtesy demands a certain degree of patience, we feel.

We appeal very sincerely to all of you please refrain from leaving your seat while the lecture/demonstration is in progress.

This is the best and only way we could reciprocate our speaker's kindness in accepting our invitation to them.

Thank you.

**GAYATRI BEWOOR
LALINI GAUTAMADAS**

We thank the following members who hosted the **Philosophy & Religion** meeting on **17th February**, at the **YWCA International Guest House** :

ZUBEIDA ASGARALI

FAKHIRA AYER

BILQUIS CHIDA

REHANE YAVAR DHALA

VALERIE FAHEEM

MAHMOODA HAJA SHAREEF

SUFIA HUSSAIN

ZAINAB KACHWALLA

THAYABAE KAKAR

SADIYA KHALEEL

BELA MISTRY KHALEELI

MAHIN RABI KHALEELI

MALEK BEGUM LALJI

FARIDA MAJID

FAZEELA NURDEEN

SEEMA SAIT

SABINE ERLICH SALAM

SHAMIM PADAMSEE

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS

Monday, 1st March, 1999 - 10.15 am

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



TRADITIONAL INDIAN JEWELLERY

USHA R. BALAKRISHNAN will give a slide presentation and talk on her comprehensive book on the history of **Traditional Indian Jewellery**, augmented with 500 colour photographs of jewellery taken by **Bharath Ramamrutham** from museums and private collections from all over the world.

At this meeting, Usha will give us a glimpse of her book that will shortly be released.

VISHALAKSHI RAMASWAMY
EIRA DOSHI

CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBER

NALINI ACHARYA	6449731
KANTA GUPTA	4490211 4490273
SHAKUNTALA JAGANNATHAN	4369199
PONCHIE KANWAR	4352336 4354625
DOLLY SIMON	4352276

CURRENT EVENTS

✓ Friday, 5th March, 10-15 am

At: Rekha Rangaraj's,
"Sai Griha"
81/1, Poes Gardens,
Chennai - 86.



POPULATION - THE SCENARIO IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Every few years a considerable amount of interest is evinced in India's "Population Problem". Reports appear, fears are expressed, and proposals put forward to correct the situation. And after a few weeks all is forgotten. But not by **Mr.T.V.Anthony**, our speaker on the subject. Now a retired IAS Officer, he was earlier the Chief Secretary, Tamilnadu Govt. and presently continues to be a Member of the Tamilnadu State Planning Commission, the Tamilnadu State Family Planning Council, and the Advisory Board of the Population Foundation of India. He has been associated with family planning programs since 1971 and continues to do so even after his retirement.

**KANTA GUPTA
ANJANA DAS-HASPER**

CURRENT EVENTS - An extra meeting

Thursday 11th March, 5.00 pm

At: Sangeet Chopra's
25/1 Ranjihit Rd
Kotturpuram
Chennai 600 085

Our IWA Woman of the Year Elect, Kiran Mázumdar Shaw, has kindly agreed to give us a meeting on March 11th. In order to make the Newsletter, it was not possible to get a complete title from her, but she is interested in genetic engineering, and we hope she will tell us the other side of that story. Please come and support her since she has made such an effort to oblige us.

**KANTA GUPTA
ANJANA DAS-HASPER**

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Wednesday, 10th March, 1999 - 4.45 p.m.

At: Mandapam,
Hotel Chola Sheraton,
10, Cathedral Road,
CHENNAI - 86.



FACE-TO-FACE WITH SHRI JAVED AKHTAR

From behind-the-scenes stories and screenplays of superhit films like "Sholay", "Seeta Aur Geeta", "Deewar", "Zanjeer", etc. to the multi-Award Winner lyricist of film songs and private albums - Shri **JAVED AKHTAR** is not only a well-known name but also a well-known face on Indian Television.

Shri **Javed Akhtar** will regale us with his Urdu and Hindi poetry, some English translations and his experiences in the creative medium of showbiz!

GUESTS ARE WELCOME

AT AN EXTRA CHARGE OF Rs.50/-.

**SUREKHA KOTHARI
REGINA SCHROEDER**

IWA PRESENTATION OF AWARDS CEREMONIES

Friday, 12th March - 10.15 am

At: Taj Coramandel Hotel,
Nungambakkam High Road,
Chennai - 6.

"Woman of the Year" Award - Ms. Kiran (Mazumdar) Shaw

"Girl Child of the Year" Award - Miss Sindhuja

Details in February Newsletter

HEALTH & ECOLOGY

Tuesday, 16th March - 9.30 a.m.

At: South India Flour Mill,
19/20, Royapuram Beach Road,
Near Indian Oil Corporation,
Chennai - 13.



MILLED WITH CARE

South India Flour Mills - SIF - established in Chennai in 1937 is currently producing Malda, Rava, Bran, Wheat Germ & Wheat Flour sans impurities like chaff, sticks, sand, silicate & fine dust, glass & iron particles. This was possible by importing a mini fully automatic milling plant 'Agrex' from Padova, Italy. The machine brushes each grain removing pesticide residue, E-Coli, Salmonella & bacterial count rendering the end product pollution free while retaining natural aroma, colour & nutrient value.

The SFI is a 5-minute drive from Burma Bazaar. Those interested in visiting the Mill on their own, may please do so using the above address. Transport will be arranged from **Hotel Adyar Park Sheraton**. Please gather in the Hotel Lobby by 9.30 a.m. sharp. We will be back at 12.30. Please call **Sharmila Ramji, Catherine Brunet, Lalini Gautamadasa** or **Naina Shah** to warm-in.

**SHARMILA RAMJI
CATHERINE BRUNET**

We welcome the following new members :

Pam Bates
British
A9, Sagarika,
15, 3rd Street,
Seaward Road
Valmiki Nagar,
Chennai 600 041
Tel : 4410040

Maya Reddy
Indian
13, 1st Crescent Park Road,
Gandinagar,
Chennai - 600 020.
Tel : 4912262
4918196

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Friday, 19th March - 11.00 a.m.

At: Anuradha Uberoi's
6, Sterling Road,
2nd Cross Street,
Nungambakkam,
Chennai - 34



PUNJABI 'DHABA' DELIGHTS.

With Baisakh the Punjabi festival ushering in the New Year around the corner, get ready for 'asli' Punjabi fare.

Our hostess and Chef, **Anuradha**, is full of zest and willing to demonstrate all - time favourites - **Tandoori Chicken, Kadai Paneer, Tandoori Roti and Dhal Makhani.**

So come and taste the robust flavour of a hot Punjabi meal, make believe you're in a 'dhaba' and have a finger-licking, good time!

- ◆ Wam - in essential
- ◆ Forty - five members only
- ◆ Call Rani at 2344233 and Sheela at 4938524
- ◆ Please note the change in timing

**RANI CHADA
SHEELA K. SARATH**

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Monday, 22nd March - 10.30 am (No Coffee)

At: Kalakshetra Auditorium,
Kalakshetra Foundation,
Thiruvannamiyur.
CHENNAI - 600 041.



"CASSANDRA" - THE DANCE EXPERIENCE

Her dance has been called "impressive, innovative, sensitive, eloquent, dramatic, sparkling". **RANJABATI SIRCAR** (from Calcutta), who has specialised both in modern Dance and in Indian Classical Dance forms like Bharatnatyam, Kathakali, Manipuri, Mayurbhanj Chhau and Sattvika Abhinaya, presents her latest production-a one-woman show, "CASSANDRA".

This Greek tragedy has a hauntingly beautiful musical score by a New York-based Flutist, Steve Gorn. The theme of 'CASSANDRA' focusses on the silenced female voice seeking resurgence in the modern concern for human rights. The traditionally tragic and mysterious figure of "Cassandra" created an archetype - a harbinger of bad luck. The traditional 'Cassandra' as depicted by Euripides and the fact that 'Cassandra' foretold the hard truth, instantly labelled her as a mad woman and an inherent trouble-maker.

The modern context sees 'Cassandra' more as a source of inspiration, essentially feminine in consciousness, but at the same time not gender-defined. Adapting from the works of Christa Wolf (a novel in four essays) and Ursule Molinaro (an auto-biography of 'Cassandra'), **RANJABATI** relates the 'Cassandra' story to the socio-political realities of our times where this story unfolds on a number of levels - 'CASSANDRA' as an archetype, as an individual female experience, as a historical event, as a political symbol and as a spiritual document.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

NO EXTRA CHARGE.

**SUREKHA KOTHARI
REGINA SCHROEDER**

**WE THANK THE SPONSORS FOR THIS PROGRAMME -
M/s NIPPON ENTERPRISES (SOUTH)**

BOOK DISCUSSION

Tuesday, 23rd March - 10.15 am

At: Madeleine Leone's,
5, Riverview Apartments (1st Floor, there is an elevator)
3/A Boat Club Road,
CHENNAI - 28



"INTO THIN AIR" - JON KRAKAUER

This is the author's account of his experiences in climbing Mt. Everest in May, 1996, at a time when a rogue storm set in and many perished on the mountain. It reveals the harsh realities of mountaineering - its thrills, its joys, and its perils.

PETER BRIGGS, who had climbed to the base camp at Mr. Everest, will review the book for us, and relate it to his own climbing experiences.

This year, we have tried to choose books which would be on different subjects, would be interesting to read, and might not otherwise be on our normal reading lists. This is our last book for the year, and we feel that you will read it avidly and find it interesting, and also agree with one of the critics who says: "It paints a vivid and moving picture of the courage, pride, egoism and blind determination of the men and women who set out to conquer the world's highest mountain."

DON LEONE, who is planning to climb to the Everest base camp this spring, will comment on a book written by **Anatoli Boukreev** on the same subject. Boukreev is a Russian who was with a different expedition on Mt. Everest at the same time, and his book provides a different view point of the tragedy that occurred.

Copies of "Into Thin Air" are available with us - Please contact Gale for the Adyar side and Kamala for Kilpauk, Egmore etc.,

We would like to thank **Sue Williams** for helping with the refreshments at the book discussion in January at Margaret Kelly's.

**KAMALA MUTHIAH
GALE MADSEN**

DATES TO REMEMBER

● Friday, 5th March at the **CLIVE AND DUPLEIX HALL** of Hotel Taj Coromandel "An Exhibition of Contemporary Indian Paintings."

Time - 10.00 am until 7.30 pm

● **Saturday, 6th March** at the same venue-An auction conducted by Bonhams of London.

Time - 7.00 pm

Details for entry could be had from **Meenakshi Meyyappan**

Tel 4942985

Fax 4934543

Proceeds are in aid of the Spastics Society of Tamil Nadu.

● Monday, 15th March - 4.00 pm

At: KCP Auditorium,
2, Dr.P.V.Chерian Crescent,
Chennai - 8

DR.MIRIAM STOPPARD internationally famous specialist in all woman - related health issues, is here from London for the first time. She has been invited by the FICCI Ladies Organisation to speak to them on "**How to be a well Woman**". FICCI Chairperson, **Surekha Kothari** invites IWA members to the lecture.

GUEST CHARGE - Rs.30 per head.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Meyammai Murugappan on the birth of her grand-daughter

Rita Saldanha for receiving the **outstanding Award of Excellence** for long association with All-India Radio.

Aloka Guha for receiving from the Hon. Prime Minister of India, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, the National Award for "**Best Individual in the field of Disability**" on World Disabled Day, 1998, in New Delhi.

Mano Bakthavatsalam for her re-nomination as Honorary Associate Secretary of Bhavan's Chennai Kendra for the period '99 - 2001.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

ANURADHA UBEROI
6, Sterling Road,
11 Cross Street,
Nungambakkam,
Chennai - 600 034.

PONCHE KANWAR
32 Srinam Nagar
2nd Floor North Street
Chennai - 600 018.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE BOARD

1998-99

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	: Megan Utley	(R) 4343348
VICE - PRESIDENTS	: Gayatri Bewoor	(R) 8264035
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	: Meyyammal Murugappan	(R) 4420520 / 4419680
TREASURERS	: Lalitha Krishnan	(R) 4991853
	: Chandrika Chidambaram	(R) 4611253

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	: Eira Doshi	(R) 4911126
BOOK DISCUSSION	: Kamala Muthiah	(R) 6411142
	: Gale Madsen	(R) 4901613
COOKING SWAPSHOP	: Rani Chada	(R) 2344233
	: Sheela K. Sarath	(R) 4938524
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	: Catherine Brunet	(R) 4992273
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