



International
Women's
Association

DECEMBER 1998



THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
IWA

1998 - '99

WISHES ALL IWA MEMBERS

A

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

IWA NEWSLETTER

Vol. XIII No. 7
CHENNAI

DECEMBER 1998

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Tuesday	1st December	BOARD MEETING	9.30 am
		EXECUTIVE MEETING	11.00 am
Friday	4th December	COOKING SWAPSHOP Fusion Cooking	4.00 pm
Monday	7th December	ARTS & HANDICRAFTS Christmas decorations -Workshop	10.15 am
Thursday	10th December	MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS Teleplay - "Final Curtain"	10.15 am
Saturday	12th December	CHRISTMAS PARTY	3.00 pm
Monday	14th December	CURRENT EVENTS Talk - Computers & women	10.15 am

PRESIDENTS PAGE

Dear Friends,

Christmas is a joyous occasion marking the birth of Lord Jesus Christ. It is a festival celebrated all over the world, be it in cold or warm countries and it is a time when the spirit of caring, sharing and spreading kindness and goodwill is universal.

We want peace on earth and pray that good health and happiness will prevail.

Christmas is also very special since it is a time to renew old friendships as well as reach out to the less fortunate ones around us.

It is a time when we enjoy roast turkey, Christmas pudding and eggnog by the warm fireside or at a bar-be-que garden party. It is also a time to pray for peace on earth and to let all share the goodwill. The Christmas party this year is designer-made to suit all ages. Members of OWC (Overseas Women's Club) will also be joining us.

Please bring your family - grandchildren too - and enjoy the delicacies prepared by our members of IWA and OWC.

GUIDELINES for the Women of the Year and Girl Child of the Year were announced in the last newsletter. Please send us your nominations.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas.

**SHYLA K RAU
MEGAN UTLEY**

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, 1st
December 1998 - 9.30 am

EXECUTIVE MEETING

Tuesday, 1st
December 1998 - 11.00 am

Lunch 12.30 Noon

Both Meetings at : Shyla K Rau's
No.5, Chandra Bagh Avenue
Second Street, Mylapore
Chennai - 600 004.

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

The new, revised telephone directory will soon be available to members. This is hence an opportune moment to stress that it is meant **only** for internal circulation and its main purpose is to facilitate communication amongst ourselves.

We shall appreciate your help, members, in preventing the directory getting to **individuals or organisations outside of IWA**, who, we note with a sense of regret, seem to be using it for purposes other than what it is meant for - **a ready reference for our members** -

We hope you will appreciate our concern in this respect and co-operate with us to avoid embarrassment caused to several IWA members in the recent past. Thank you.

Our good wishes to all of you for the coming festive season.

**GAYATRI BEWOOR
LALINI GAUTAMADASA**

FESTIVALS AROUND THE WORLD

The observance of Christmas is not older than AD 200 and did not become widespread until the 4th Century. The date undoubtedly was chosen for its nearness to Epiphany, which in the East, originally included a commemoration of the nativity.

The date of Christmas nearly coincides with the winter solstice, a time of rejoicing among many ancient cultures.

Among ancient peoples, the New Year on January 1, frequently corresponded to the vernal or autumnal equinox or to the summer or winter solstice. In the Middle Ages, the New Year was celebrated among Christians, usually on March 25. After the adoption of the Gregorian calendar, the date was observed on January 1.

FROM THE SECRETARIES

The telephone directories will be available at the Activity Meetings. Members are requested to sign for their copy. The printing of the directories has been made possible by the sponsorship of the Sri Lankan organisations in Chennai, to whom we are deeply grateful. Extra copies of the directory cost Rs.50/- each. Please do not misplace your directories as only a limited number are available.

Members please contact

- **Meyyammai Murugappan** for non-receipt of Newsletter.
- **Javanthi Prabhakaran** for change in address or telephone number.

**JAVANTHI PRABHAKARAN
MEYYAMMAI MURUGAPPAN**

CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBER

UMAYAL CHETTYAPPAN	4351227 / 4320871
KANIKA PAREKH	8212751
RITA NORDENGREN	8241312

LAUGH AWHILE

"What would you call a wicked old woman who lives by the sea?"

"A sandwich."

"What did one beggar say to another?"

"I beg your pardon?"

"What do you get when cows go to a discotheque?"

"A milk shake."

We welcome the following new members:

Padmini Subramaniam (Indian)
'Saraswathi'
2, 6th Cross Street,
C.I.T.Colony, Chennai - 600 004
Tel: 4994915

Sue Herzog (American)
1, Riverside Apartments,
9/A, Boat Club Road,
3rd Avenue, Chennai - 600 028
Tel: 4346203

I. Bala Rao (Indian)
15, Raghava Veera Avenue
Poes Garden, Chennai - 600 086
Tel: 4993295

Elke Krause - Hannak (German)
28, Rukmani Road,
Kalakshethra Colony,
Chennai - 600 090,
Tel: 4902506

Krishnambika Nambiar (Indian)
6, Haddows Road,
Ilnd Street, Chennai - 600 006
Tel: 8271551

Maria Glaser (British)
77, Gulmohar Avenue,
Velachery Road,
Chennai - 600 032

Bernadette Macdonald Raggett (British)
'Ragalia Towers' (21st Century)
Apartment 501, 4th Floor,
3, Sardar Patel Road,
Adyar, Chennai - 600 113
Tel: 2300715

Tel: (R) 2353417
(O) 98400 23193

AN APPEAL

The Voluntary Health Services (VHS Hospital in Adyar) urgently need contributions by way of clothes and household items in reasonably good condition, for their annual sale in January. Please send in yours between 1st and 20th December to Alagu Muthu, Tel: 4937050 or 4938683.

COOKING SWAPSHOP



Friday, 4th December 4.00 p.m.

At: 'Sagar'
Hotel Chola Sheraton, Chennai - 86.

"FUSION COOKING" - Tasteful Blend of Cuisines.

The world is getting smaller everyday. People are far more adventurous and are willing to experiment with new cuisines. This trend has caught up with Chennaiites as well.

COME AND WATCH A DEMONSTRATION OF FUSION COOKING that comprises a blend of the tastes of the East with that of the West by integrating ingredients, spices and sauces in one platter.

This demonstration is brought to you by the renowned **CHEF KHANTWAL**, the Chef who has catered for the Miss World Pageant held at WELCOMGROUP WINDSOR MANOR in Bangalore in 1995. Chef Khantwal created 88 dishes, one on each participant's name. Chef Khantwal who is President of South India's Culinary Federation, has catered for various visiting Heads of State - such as Queen Elizabeth, Ronald Reagan, Hosni Mubarak as well as our local luminaries, too many to recount.

Chef Khantwal will in the future be introducing this form of FUSION CUISINE to Chennai. Come and let your tastebuds be tickled with this experimental cuisine.

Warn-in essential : First fifty members ONLY

Call Rani at 2344233 or Sheela at 4938524

**RANI CHADA
SHEELA SHARATH**

Our Thanks to the following hostesses who sponsored the prizes for the IWA Cookfest '98 held on 23rd October at the Madras Club.

RITA NORDENGREN
BODIL FREDERIKSEN
HENNIE VIS
ELEANOR DARUWALLA NITZSCHE
EIRA DOSHI
JAVANTHI PRABHAKARAN
LALINI GAUTAMADASA
SUJAYA MENON
POONAM LALCHAND

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS

Monday, December 7th - 10.15 a.m.

At: Meyyammal Murugappan's
27E Ranjith Road,
Kotturpuram,
Chennai - 85.



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS:

Come and get into the spirit of Christmas and have the satisfaction of making your own tree trimmings with **ROMA ALBERTS**, who has had many years of experience making decorations and fancy goods, and runs a Christmas Stall for the Guild of Service Charities held every year in December. She will show us at a workshop how to make our own decorations. All you will need is a pair of scissors and the cost will be Rs.50 for the materials. **Please warn in no later than the 2nd December.**

**VISALAKSHI RAMASWAMY
EIRA DOSHI**

Munnar - the land of three rivers

It was not until we reached Munnar that we realised it was Moonaar. The three rivers Kanya, Madurapuzha and Nallathanni wind and loop around the hills in Munnar and merge to become river Munnar. Verdant green slopes, rolling mists, the glint of water and winding roads make Munnar an idyllic spot for a quiet getaway. Tea bushes cover every inch of the slopes and lifestyles are centered around the tea industry. The High Range Club, comfortable yet retaining the charm of plantation life, boasted of a "Men Only" Bar much to our amazement! We were taken on a tour of a tea factory and bought more tea than we could possibly need. The Nilgiri tahr, an endangered species today, was viewed at close range on Rajamalal. Large quantities of film were expended in trying to get just that right shot with the goat. Sitting, standing, crawling we were all over the slopes until the mist and decreasing visibility forced us into the van for a nail-biting ride through the mist.

Cochin, the Venice of the East, was our next halt. Shopping for jewellery, a boatride on the backwaters, pottering in antique shops in Jew town, a visit to the Dutch palace, Vasco da Gama's original grave in St. Francis Xavier Church and the picturesque dinners by the backwaters all added up to make our stay in Cochin memorable.

New friends, experiences and adventures make IWA holidays unique. Our thanks to Sujaya for a well planned and enjoyable holiday.

JAVANTHI PRABHAKARAN

MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

THURSDAY, 10th December - 10.15 a.m.

At: The British Council Auditorium,
737, Anna Salai,
Chennai - 2.



A SHOCKINGLY THOUGHT-PROVOKING TELEPLAY - "FINAL CURTAIN".

Based on the Sahitya Akademi Award winning author **Ashokamitran's** Tamil short story, "**The Ending of the Play**", this T.V.adaptation takes off from the skeletal idea of a playwright's infatuation with the heroine he has created and her devotion to her lover who is destined to die in the play.

This film examines brutally and frankly the layers around the "self", the conscious and sub-conscious factors at play within the "self", the external facade vis-a-vis the true nature of the "self" and also expresses concern that our deepest and most honest interpretation of ourselves may also present a false picture of ourselves, convenient and acceptable to the ego!

After the 30-minute screening of "Final Curtain", **CHETAN SHAH** and the hero of this film, the senior well-known actor of Bengali, Hindi and English cinema, **DHRITIMAN CHATTERJEE** will speak to us on the various aspects of this amazing teleplay.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME AT AN EXTRA CHARGE OF Rs.30 PER HEAD.

**SUREKHA KOTHARI
REGINA SCHROEDER**

CLARIFICATION

At the **Health and Ecology** meeting hosted by **Zubeida Asgerally** on 15th September, the hostesses mentioned in last month's Newsletter were responsible for providing the microphone system for that meeting.

**Philosophy and Religion
Music and Performing Arts
History, Culture and Tours**



Saturday - 12th December 1998 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm

At : Chettinad Vidhyashram Auditorium
Chettinad Palace
R A Puram
Chennai - 28.

IWA CHRISTMAS PARTY

The true spirit of Christmas is spreading good will, joy and happiness. Keeping this in mind we have organised various games and entertainment to suit all age groups. We are sure you and your family would enjoy Housie-Housie, Face Painting Games, and Little Bazaars not forgetting the tradition of Choir Music organised by our members and also a short but enjoyable skit which again is by our IWA talent.

May we remind you once again that a gift be donated by you with the age group (1-12 years) clearly mentioned on the gift. This will be given to a worthy orphanage after the party.

If you wish to contribute a Christmas decoration for our brand new IWA Christmas Tree, please do so.

Donation Cards (at Rs.100/-) will be available with the Board members and the Activity Chairpersons at all meetings **from 20th November 1998.**

Come and enjoy the lovely X'mas Party

**MRIDULA NARASIMHAN
HENNY de GROOTE PAAUWE**

**SUREKHA KOTHARI
REGINA SCHROEDER**

**SUJAYA MENON
RITA NORDENGREN**

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO

JAYA NAIDU on the loss of her beloved son.

RUPA KADHIRESAN on the demise of her dear husband.

CURRENT EVENTS

Monday, 14th December, 1998 - 10.15 am

At: "The Cricketeer,"
1, Bells Road,
Chepauk, Chennai - 5.

"COMPUTERS AND WOMEN" - MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION BY NIIT

Computers are an inherent part of life today. NIIT will make a half-hour multimedia presentation to enlighten us on how computers can play a major role in our daily lives. Topics that will be covered are, how we could

- ★ Manage our busy schedule efficiently.
- ★ Use the Internet to do shopping and tax information.
- ★ Help our Children do assignments.
- ★ Turn our computer into a powerful business tool.
- ★ Help our husbands in office.

A demonstration on "Browsing the Internet" will be part of the presentation.

KANTA GUPTA
ANJANA DAS - HASPER

OUR TOUR TO CHINA AND MONGOLIA

May this year, saw a group of us IWA members embark on a 15-day tour through China and Mongolia. Four cities in China, and Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia, were on our itinerary.

Our first stop was Shanghai in Central China, which boasts of being one of the world's great seaports. The city with its modern architecture and skyscrapers coupled with old Buddhist temples and lush gardens was a culture shock. An excellent acrobatic show was the highlight of our two-day sojourn here.

Guilin, our next destination, was exquisite, with its 20,000 or so "Karst" (limestone) hills of extraordinarily unique shapes. Interestingly enough, some

of them, based on their shape, had names given to them. One of them, I remember, was called "Two Old Men Playing Bridge"! A boat ride through this range of majestic mountains, along the Yijiang River, ended in an antique bazaar, a haven for lovers of old things. Our hotel faced the river front where each morning, men and women performed their daily T'ai Chi Chuan (shadow boxing), fencing, aerobics and even ballroom dancing! We joined a group of them once and had a lot of fun. The minorities of this area gave a striking display of their traditional dance forms on our final evening with them. Incidentally, these minority tribes were permitted to have more than one child per family - an exception to the standard policy of "one family, one child."

Xian (pronounced Shian), in N.E. China had this magnificent museum built around an entire excavation carried out in 1987, revealing a whole army of soldiers, horses, carriages, all of finely crafted terra cotta. Declared the eighth wonder of the world, and rightly so, the sight was breathtaking.

China's capital, Beijing, was full of historic sights - the Tiananmen Square; Mao Tse Tung's mausoleum; the Forbidden City where China's emperors lived in arrogance and grandeur but where the common man was forbidden to enter; the Summer Palace, equally exciting with its unbelievably long corridors (the longest, mentioned in the Guinness Book), whose ceilings were covered with paintings from Chinese history and mythology; and finally, that masterpiece of architecture - the Great Wall of China - which has to be seen to be believed.

An evening at the world renowned Beijing Opera - and we left for Mongolia, a country of friendly people, mostly dressed in their traditional costumes of long coats and high boots; whose main source of food was the Yak (Yak milk, sweets made of the milk and Yak flesh). Mongolian men have a passion for drinking, wrestling and horse riding while the women use sheep's wool to knit woollen garments for a living. Nomadic tribes still live in tents called "Ghers", specially equipped for withstanding the long and rigorous winters.

The Mongolian people treated us to a cultural show, which gave us a glimpse of their colourful costumes, traditional dance and music, not forgetting their gorgeous masks.

So ended a very unforgettable and enjoyable tour, during which we not only saw some of the principal sights of China and Mongolia but also got a brief insight into the history, way of life, culture and tradition of the people of the two countries. Thank you, Radhika, for making it all possible.

NALINI RAMAKRISHNA

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE BOARD

1998-99

PRESIDENTS	: Shyla K. Rau	(R) 8594578
	: Megan Utley	(R) 4343348
VICE - PRESIDENTS	: Gayatri Bewoor	(R) 8264035
	: Lalini Gautamadasa	(R) 6412868
SECRETARIES	: Javanthi Prabhakaran	(R) 6411579
	: Meyyammai Murugappan	(R) 4420520
TREASURERS	: Lalitha Krishnan	(R) 4991853
	: Chandrika Chidambaram	(R) 4917609

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS	: Visalakshi Ramaswamy	(R) 4939829
	: 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
CURRENT EVENTS	: Kanta Gupta	(R) 4926273
	: Anjana Das-Hasper	(R) 4320737
HEALTH AND ECOLOGY	: Sharmila Rarhji	(R) 4422414/4918135
	: Bodil Frederiksen	(R) 4425434
HISTORY, CULTURE AND TOURS	: Sujaya Menon	(R) 4917464/4910044
	: Rita Nordengren	(R) 8241312
MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS	: Surekha Kothari	(R) 8257145/8257198
	: Regina Schroeder	(R) 4346599
PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION	: Mridula Narasimhan	(R) 8269630
	: Henny de Groote Paauwe	(R) 4331640