



International
Women's
Association

NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31					Board Meeting 9.45 a.m. Executive Meeting 11 a.m.	2
3	10.15 a.m. Book Discussion	4 10.15 a.m. Meet Lillete Dubey	5 10 a.m. Woman of the Year Girl Child of the Year	6	7	8 9
10	11	12	13 10.15 a.m. Cooking Swapshop	14	15	16
17	18 10.15 a.m. Current Events	19	20 10.15 a.m. Philosophy & Religion	21	22 7.15 p.m. Supper Theatre	23
24	25 10 a.m. Arts & Handicrafts	26	27	28 9.30 a.m. Cooking Swapshop	29	30

IWA NEWSLETTER

Volume XVI No. 10

Chennai

MARCH, 2002

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Friday	1 st Mar	Board Meeting Executive Meeting	9.45am 11 am
Monday	4 th Mar	BD – 'A Poem of Courage'	10.15am
Tuesday	5 th Mar	Meet Lillete Dubey	10.15am
Wed'day	6 th Mar	Woman of the Year Girl Child of the Year	10 am
Thursday	14 th Mar	CS – Mudaliar morning	10.15am
Tuesday	19 th Mar	CE - Quiz	10.15am
Wed'day	20 th Mar	P&R – Radha Burnier	10.15am
Saturday	23 rd Mar	Supper Theatre	7.15pm
Tuesday	26 th Mar	A&H – IWA Art Show	10 am
Thursday	28 th Mar	CS – Taj Flight Kitchen	9.30 am

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

As we approach a new IWA year, we would like to thank all our members for their support throughout this year.

Woman of the Year and Girl Child of the Year Awards

One of the highlights of the Year –the presentation of 'The Woman of the Year Award' and 'The Girl Child of the Year Award' - will be held this month.

It is imperative that as many members as possible be present on this day to make the event a memorable one.

IWA Supper Theatre

Our Supper Theatre, scheduled for March 23rd at the Park Sheraton Hotel and Towers, promises to be a wonderful evening with the highlight, a Whodunit written especially for us by Jaspar Utley and e-mailed from the U.K. Jaspar very kindly and with great enthusiasm has written a play based in Madras with colourful characters and lots of suspense. The tickets for the evening will be available with all our Board Members and Activity Chairpersons.

Trip to Orissa

The trip to Orissa, organised by Vidya Singh and Pat Alter, was, as expected, perfectly planned and organised. There were 35 people on this trip, which was an extremely exciting one. The highlight of the trip was an Odissi Dance and Dinner hosted by Mr. Anang Singh Deo, Minister for Energy, Government of Orissa, a close and personal friend of our own member Nirmal Mirza. Thank You Nirmal.

Theatre Workshop

20 ladies attended this workshop held at the YWCA, all of whom had apprehensions initially. However, at the end of this session lasting several hours, each one of us felt like a *Star!!!!*

Come and enjoy IWA's friendship and fellowship.

RANI CHADA

SEEMA SAIT

REMEMBER!!!

You will be receiving your renewal forms soon. Please fill them in and make sure they reach us **positively** at the AGM. If you are unable to be present, please send in the completed form and the annual subscription through a friend. Your promptness will be appreciated and will help our Treasurers a great deal.

BOARD MEETING

Friday, 1st March, 2002
9.45 am

EXECUTIVE MEETING

Friday, 1st March, 2002
11 am

Both meetings at:

**The Boat Club
Chennai 600 028**



Our heartfelt condolences to:

Seema Sait – our President - on the recent demise of her father.

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR IWA TRIPS TO HYDERABAD AND ORISSA

HYDERABAD (3 nights, 2 days) ORISSA (5 nights, 6 days)

Cost Per Person :	Rs.5000	Cost Per Person:	Rs.8500
Actual Expenses :	Rs.4805	Actual Expenses :	Rs.8420
Train (RT 2nd AC)	Rs.2540	Train (RT 2nd AC)	Rs.3210
Hotel (1 night, 2 breakfasts)	1430	Tour (3nights, 4 breakfasts,	
Transport (2 days)	500	1 dinner, 4 days transport, 4 entries, guide)	4650
Entries (Exhibition & Golconda)	85	Lunches (4 days)	400
Hostess Gifts, Tips, Etc.	250	Host Gift, Tips, Etc.	160
Balance Returned :	Rs. 195	Balance Returned :	Rs.80

NOTE: On both trips, additional charges were made for single rooms and foreigners' entry fees. On both trips, reduced payments were collected and refunds were made for alternative travel, one way rail tickets, senior rail discounts and early departures.

VIDYA SINGH

PAT ALTER

BOOK DISCUSSION

Monday, 4th March 2002 - 10.15 am

At: **Pat Alter's**
'River House'
12, Turnbolls Road Ext.
Chennai 600 035



A POEM TO COURAGE — meet the author Manohar Devadoss

Manohar's first book – 'Greenwell Years' - an autobiographical novel, based on his boyhood in the ancient temple-town of Madurai, was published by East West Books in 1997. 'A Poem To Courage', his second book, is a biographical novel which deals with the aftermath of a road accident in which his wife, Mahema, was devastatingly injured. It is accompanied by an illustrated portfolio - Dreams, Seasons and Promises - which captures with imagery a brief period in Mahema's life beginning with the day she first met him. Mahema is an IWA member.

At this book release both Manohar and Mahema will speak. Copies of the books will be available for sale and some of Manohar's drawings will be on display.

We thank Pat Alter for hosting this meeting at her house. Thanks also to Eleanor Daruwalla - Nietzsche for sponsoring last month's book discussion.

GAYATHRI KRISHNASWAMI

AMULYA RAO

MEET LILLETE DUBEY

Tuesday, 5th March, 2002 – 10.15am

At: **The Ballroom - Madras Club**
Adyar Club Gate Road
Chennai 600 028



The Performing Arts as a Unifying Experience in an age of Polarisation.

Lillete Dubey is a respected theatre personality, with vast and varied experience of stage and screen. Her recent performance in 'Monsoon Wedding' earned her much critical acclaim.

A committed and passionate actress, she has performed in a number of plays from Shakespeare to Ibsen and the modern plays.

Come and meet Lillete Dubey!

Many thanks to our member **Nina Kothari** for arranging this meeting.

RANI CHADA

SEEMA SAIT

We welcome our new member:

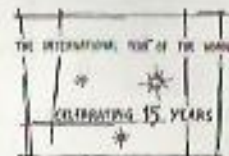
Ruth Amirthanayagam,
4, Turnbolls Road Extn.
Chennai 600035.

Tel 4345995

IWA WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Wednesday, 6th March, 2002 – 10am

At: **Hotel Park Sheraton and Towers**
Chamiers Road
Chennai



The Woman of the Year, instituted by Past President, Nirmal Mirza has been presented to women who have been selected from various fields of arts and crafts, medicine, social work, education, biotechnology and the environment. This year the Award is being presented to a lady who has reached great heights in the *Corporate World*

The Woman of the Year Award 2001-2002, is being awarded to **Ms. Lalitha Gupte**, Joint Managing Director & Chief Operating Officer, International Business, ICICI. Ms. Gupte has been responsible for guiding ICICI to become the first Indian Company and second Bank from Asia to be listed on The New York Stock Exchange, to transform ICICI from a Development Financial Institution to a diversified Financial Services Group, to build India's Technology Bank – icici.com, her accomplishments are so many, that they cannot be listed at this point. Lalitha Gupte is one of the first Indian women executives in the Fortune 50 list of the most powerful women in business in the world. She ranked 31st in the world list We hope you will all come to the Award Ceremony to meet this amazing lady who is an inspiration to all of us.

RANI CHADA

SEEMA SAIT

IWA GIRL CHILD OF THE YEAR AWARD

Wednesday, 6th March, 2002 - 10am

At: **Hotel Park Sheraton and Towers**

The **Girl Child of the Year**, an award instituted by Dr. Prithika Chary in 1997, has been given to one who has inspite of severe health disorders proved to be an achiever. Girl children with Down's Syndrome, Renal failure and Cardiac Disorders have been selected earlier. This year the category was a girl child who suffers from **Cancer**. We received 3 nominations. The Board and Dr. Prithika Chary together made the decision to honour all these 3 brave girls. **The Girl Child of the Year Award, 2001-2002**, is being awarded to: **Miss C. Malini**, 10 years old, battling with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, who scored 97% in her V Standard examination, **Miss Sarbani Das**, 14 years old, diagnosed with Embryonal Rhabdomyosarcoma when she was 8, but has lost no time in school and continues to keep pace with her class and **Miss Vijaylakshmi**, who has been suffering from Thalassemia from the time she was 8 months old, but she is determined to study and is doing her B.Com. II year.

Each of the girls will receive a citation and Rs. 10,000/-.

We thank **Dr. Prithika Chary** for instituting this award and contributing a sum of Rs. 10,000/-,

and **Sushi Natraj** for her generous gesture of giving Rs. 20,000/-, making it possible for us to present Rs. 10,000/- to each girl.

Members are requested to remain until the end of the programme.

Please switch off all cellular phones during the programme.

RANI CHADA

SEEMA SAIT

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Thursday 14th March 2002 - 10.15 am

At: **The YWCA Club Room**
1086 Poonamallee High Road,
CHENNAI - 600 084



THE DISTINCT TASTE OF MUDALIAR CUISINE

In a Mudaliar household in Tamil Nadu, the day's menu is very important - food is of prime importance. One cannot walk away from a Mudaliar wedding feast without a satisfied burp! Different occasions demand different combinations. Renowned, Versatile and Charming **SABITHA RADHAKRISHNA** will take us through the pages of her popular book 'Aharam'. Here she has compiled near scarce traditional recipes and family favourites. She will demonstrate a few choice recipes too.

IWA welcomes the multi faceted Sabitha Radhakrishna.

BEENA RAM MOHAN

CHERRY VENKATESAN

Change of address / telephone number

Josie Newman

9/3A, Satyanarayana Ave.(Off Boat Club Road)

R.A. Puram

Chennai 600028

Tel. 4343910

Mano Baktavatsalam

Tel. 4343170

Prema Kumar

Tel. 8265711, 8239904,
8252403, 8211404

CURRENT EVENTS

Tuesday, 19th March, 2002 - 10.15 am

At: **Shrikanta Jhaver's**
21, Santhome High Road
Chennai 600 018



QUIZ COMPETITION ON CURRENT EVENTS

If you read the newspaper daily, then it is time to sharpen your pencils, brush up your memory a little, join hands with two other IWA friends and form a team of three and get ready to take part in the **CURRENT EVENTS QUIZ COMPETITION**. (MARCH 2001 TO MARCH 2002.)

There are fabulous prizes waiting and just to mention a few, the first winning team of three, gets a diamond pendant each from Kirtilal's, and the other prizes are equally interesting with designer suits from Rehane, Gatsby boutiques, gift vouchers from Witco and many many more in store for you!

Well, if you are not the kind to differentiate between Vajpayee and Musharraf, don't lose heart, come as **ONLOOKERS**, for there are surprise gifts for you too!

This is a 'Quiz On Paper' program, where the results will be announced immediately and prizes distributed on the spot. Kindly be on time. Latecomers will not be able to take part.

NO GUESTS PLEASE

PRINCESS NAIK

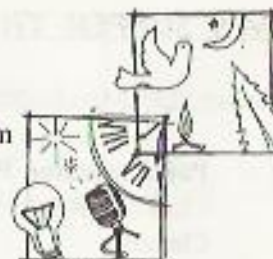
BILKIS MOOSA

CURRENT EVENTS

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

Wednesday, 20th March, 2002 - 10.15am

At: **Vidya Srinivasan's**
3 (Old No.2)
Satyanarayana Avenue,
Chennai -600028.



PEACE - NEED OF THE HOUR

War in Afghanistan? Indo - Pak border build-up? North Korea - South Korea tensions? Everywhere we look there is conflict, strife, violence. Peace today is elusive commodity - much in demand, but not easily available.

Come & hear the views of Ms. Radha Burnier, International President of The Theosophical Society, on the current situation & what can be done about it.

PRINCESS NAIK
SEEMA BHARGAVA

BILKIS MOOSA
EILEEN THOMPSON

Prithika Chary & Meena Naru join us in thanking Kalpana Sonthalia for her gracious hospitality for our 9th Feb. meeting on Tachyon.

We thank Naaz Tyebbhoy and Hayati Ibrahim Abbott for co-hosting the Id-Milan lunch on 15th February.

SEEMA BHARGAVA

EILEEN THOMPSON

IWA'S SUPPER THEATRE

Saturday, 23rd March, 2002 – 7.15pm

At: **Park Sheraton Hotel & Towers,**
Chamiers Road,
Chennai



Murder In Madras -

...intrigue, suspense and humour. A play written by Jaspur Utley, especially for IWA –IWA's Supper Theatre, is a play within a play. The play is directed by Ms. Yamuna of the renowned Madras Players, and performed by mainly IWA members and their families, and a few guest performers.

Tickets will be priced at Rs.450/- each and this will include the entertainment and dinner.

Tickets will be available from March 1st 2002 with all Committee Members and at all Meetings.

Programme:	7.15 – 8.30 p.m.	Cocktails
	8.30 - 9.30 p.m.	Supper Theatre
	9.30 p.m.	Dinner

RANI CHADA

SEEMA SAIT

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS

Tuesday, 26th March, 2002 – 10am to 12noon

At: **The Russian Cultural Centre**
Kasturi Ranga Road
Chennai



IWA ART SHOW

An art and craft show with a difference An opportunity to exhibit works of art, be it paintings, sculptures or craft items, embroidered pieces, stained glass, photographs or anything else that fits into the broad spectrum of 'talent' will be on display. The show will be on for only 2 hours so members are requested to bring in family and friends within the time frame to view the works on display.

In order for the show to be a success, members are requested to submit their works a week before the show, by March 18th.

Call Shalini Biswajit at 433 8216 between 8am and 9.30am for details.

SHALINI BISWAJIT

SUSHI GOKLANEY

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Thursday, 28th March, 2002.

Transport leaves **Taj Coromandel** at 9.30am



IN FLIGHT SERVICE – THE TAJ CATERERS

In-flight service .. A system of value addition designed by an airline to convey and demonstrate its continuing concern for its passengers' comfort and well being throughout the journey. The TAJ CATERERS serve the airlines with professional and hygienically prepared food. IWA members are privileged to be invited to view the perfection of their In-flight catering at Pallavaram..

Limit 50 persons.

Please warn-in to Beena (621 4278) or Cherry (829 3436)

BEENA RAM MOHAN

CHERRY VENKATESAN



Congratulations to:

Zubeida Asgarali for being honoured by the Lions Club of Shakthi in recognition of her outstanding Social Work for the year 2001.

Sushi Natraj who, with her partner, won fourth prize at the Madras Gymkhana Annual Ladies' Open Bridge Tournament.

Rani Chada for coming second in the Ladies Captain's Cup golf tournament held at the Cosmo Golf Annexe on 30th January, 2002

OUR VISIT TO ORISSA - 24th TO 29th JANUARY 2002.

IWA's trip to Orissa was a real smashing success. The meticulous planning and hospitality offered by our own members was overwhelming. We kept eating non-stop throughout the trip. What a variety of food. What a flow of conversation, that touched so many aspects, from Divine philosophy to mundane subjects. A peel of laughter in the bus told us 'there goes another one of those jokes'. We seniors sitting in the front of the bus had to just enjoy the sounds of laughter. A few non-IWA ladies enhanced our group with their company.

Day 1&2 was spent in Bhubaneswar visiting beautiful old temples including the famous Lingaraj temple. We had the pleasure of seeing two Odissi dancers posing for photographs. We were invited to a garden dinner with a short dance recital – kind courtesy our member Nirmal Mirza. The evening was enjoyable but the cold wind kept the ladies nearer to the log fires than the food tables.

We visited the saree weaving centre Navapatna, a quaint village where you only heard the click clack of the looms instead of the toots and hoots of city life. The ladies happily grabbed as many sarees as they could. We also visited the filigree silver bazaar, the appliqué shops, and the Patachitra village, all famous in Orissa.

Day 3:: We drove to Konarak. On the way we stopped to see and read the world famous Ashoka Edicts. Reading the English translation was sad but if the present day world Governments would learn a few lessons from these edicts, the world and the people will have a better way of life.

The Sun temple in Konarak is very awe-inspiring in spite of the ravages of time. Your heart acknowledges with respect the great

deeds of the kings who built this magnificent chariot in stone for Surya, the Sun God.

We drove on to Puri to visit the famous 12th century, temple for Lord Jagannath – Lord of the Universe. This temple is stated to have the largest kitchen in the world. Thrice a day, the food is prepared for the Lord and after the offerings, nearly 25,000 people benefit from this. On festive days, 100,000 people partake the food. 6000 priests attend to the temple needs and administration.

We were lucky to have the help of a young priest who took us inside into the Sanctum to have a great darshan. We really did not how we went in, had darshan and came out. The presiding deities are Lord Jagannath, his brother Balabhadra, and their sister Subhadra.

We spent the night in Puri very near the Beach and managed even to get a glimpse of the sunrise. We had to get back to Bhubaneswar in the afternoon to catch our train at 9.15 pm. How we boarded that train could make an interesting and amusing story by itself. Again, eating, chatting, and deciding where to go on our next tour we came back home.

Our tour guide Mr. Babu was given a warm farewell and thanks by all of us and we had a feeling that Mr. Babu had never encountered such a dynamic enthusiastic, witty and easy group as we IWA ladies were. This tour will always be a special memory.

SAROJA RAMAMRUTHAM

TEAM TO ORISSA

The six day trip to the State of Orissa
The year's History & Culture tour of IWA
Was a visit to the land of ancient Kalinga
The Konarak Sun Temple and Lingaraja
And Puri the abode of Lord Jagannatha
Some even made it to see birds at Lake Chilka
Thanks to superb organization by Pat and Vidya

From Chennai to Bhubaneswar, Panthaniwas
The itinerary tick-tocked, to and fro at all hours
With a few delays by habitual late-comers.
The bus resounded with Anthakshari numbers
Lots of bonhomie, cheer and colourful stories
Rani's raps and Shamim's mimed dances
Saroj's songs adding pathos with patriotic Bhajans

The group was fed by Naina the Quartermaster
Aby assisted by Ramani and many a helper
Valli and Alagammai were the Movers and Shakers
Visiting Raj Bhavan to hobnob with the Governor
And with intros from Nirmal, the long distance organizer
We were dined and entertained by Deo, Energy Minister
And treated to classical Odissi and tribal dancer

Nita and Padma –with her parents in company
Added charm, colour, class and harmony
Gracious was Francoise, Margaret the true lady
While occupying the front seats of the bus quietly
Were Barbara and her German cousin, Laurie
The Kamala duos shopped for many an Ikkat sari
That alas were drenched, dried and packed in a hurry

Urmila bought tribal baskets for her garden lights
Mama Lalji, Hemalatha limped, but joined all activities
Lily laughed, yet warned us about our food binges
Shobha and Asha brightened the proceedings
Non-IWA men and women added much spice
Babu the guide did confess to learning new insights
From *Bindaas* Chennai women who opened his eyes

King Ashoka the Great's spirit haunted the bus
The erotic and exotic, merged with greedy *Paandas*
With Craft, tribals, beaches, dead turtles, pearls, corals
The train trip left in astonishment other passengers
With vivacious IWA's enjoyment and exuberance
Thank God the trip ended safely, mishap-less
Thus wrote Padmini, Court Jester in attendance

PADMINI NATARAJAN

Please make a note of the corrected numbers of the following members:

Eunice Crook	461 2154
Anita Koshy	656 2152
Reena Verghese	821 7619
Geetha Iyengar	498 8962

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS

Look forward to a very interesting day trip to Kanchipuram on **Friday, 5th of April, 2002**. We will be visiting the Shakunthala Jagannathan Museum of Folk Art – the most recent venture of Nanditha Krishna, who has graciously offered to guide us through this museum which is housed in her 400 year old ancestral home.

Look for more details in the April newsletter.

VIDYA SINGH

PAT ALTER

THANK YOU to Seetha Muthiah for treating us to an authentic Pongal, to Valli Muthiah for organising a special darshan at Puri's Jagannatha Temple, and to Nirmal Mirza for arranging an unforgettable evening of Odissi dance and Oriya cuisine.

HEALTH & ECOLOGY

We would like to thank Prabha Nair, Ann Moradian, Shweta Mohapatra, Krishnambika Nambiar and Fazeela Nurdeen for their contributions that helped us with our programmes throughout this year.

A special THANK YOU to Meyyammai Murugappan, who stepped in at the last minute to host our February meeting. We enjoyed her hospitality as usual.

PRITHIKA CHARY

MEENA NARU



post script:

This IWA year has flown by. It seems like only yesterday that the AGM at the Savera gave birth to a new team of office bearers. And so soon we are at the penultimate month.

It has been a wonderful learning experience for all of us, and for me in particular.

I am very thankful for all the friends I have made along the way, especially the ones I have worked with closely.

It has been very gratifying to go to a meeting and have someone walk up to say a nice word about the newsletter. It makes the work worthwhile! Thank you all.

sushi



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2001 - 2002

THE BOARD

PRESIDENTS

Rani Chadda 234 4233, 232 4972
Seema Sait 820 6065, 824 2244

VICE PRESIDENTS

Sushi Natra) 497 1581, 467 1796
Rathi Nilakantan 826 5250, (O) 811 3691

SECRETARIES

Gita Chandrasekaran 442 1035, 442 0235
Françoise Drown 823 0412

TREASURERS

Kusum Chadda 825 4217, 823 3751
Padma Ashok 826 7801, 827 6591

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS

Shalini Biswajit 433 8216, 434 0315
Sushi Goklaney 435 3714

BOOK DISCUSSION

Gayathri Krishnaswami 827 1789 (O)826 4428
Amulya Mandava Rao 499 5434, 499 1272

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Beena Rani Mohan 6214278, 621 3923
Cherry Venkatesan 829 3436

CURRENT EVENTS

Princess Nair 441 8448, 445 3830
Bilqis Moosa 434 9934, 434 9932

HEALTH & ECOLOGY

Prithika Chary 499 7878 (O) 436 3551text 1510
Meena Nair 825 2499

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS

Vidya Singh 433 8782, 435 9035
Pat Alter 811 2000

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

Seema Bhargava 434 3129, 435 6707
Eileen Thompson 98400-30114

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Naina Shah 432 0706
Kanokwan Samdhu 496 5556, 496 1061