



IWA
Chennai

Newsletter

DECEMBER 2005

Month at a Glance		DECEMBER 2005					Vol. XX No.7 CHENNAI	
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
				10.15 a.m. Arts & Handicrafts	1	2	3	
4	9.45 a.m. Mtg. Comm. Mtg. 10.30 a.m. Exec. Comm. Mtg.	10.15 a.m. Book Discussion	7	10.15 a.m. Christmas Celebrations	8	9	10	
11	12	10.15 a.m. Health and Ecology	14	15	10.15 a.m. Music and Performing Arts	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	31	

IWA NEWSLETTER

Volume XX No. 7

Chennai

DECEMBER 2005

Month At A Glance

Thu.	1 st Dec.	Arts and Handicrafts <i>Gift Wrapping Magic!</i>	10.15 a.m.
Mon.	5 th Dec.	Managing Committee Mtg. Executive Committee Mtg.	9.45 a.m. 10.30 a.m.
Tue.	6 th Dec.	Book Discussion <i>Bible as Literature</i>	10.15 a.m.
Thu.	8 th Dec.	Christmas Celebrations	10.15 a.m.
Tue.	13 th Dec.	Health and Ecology <i>Avian Influenza</i>	10.15 a.m.
Fri.	16 th Dec.	Music and Performing Arts <i>Meet Prasanna</i>	10.15 a.m.

MANAGING COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

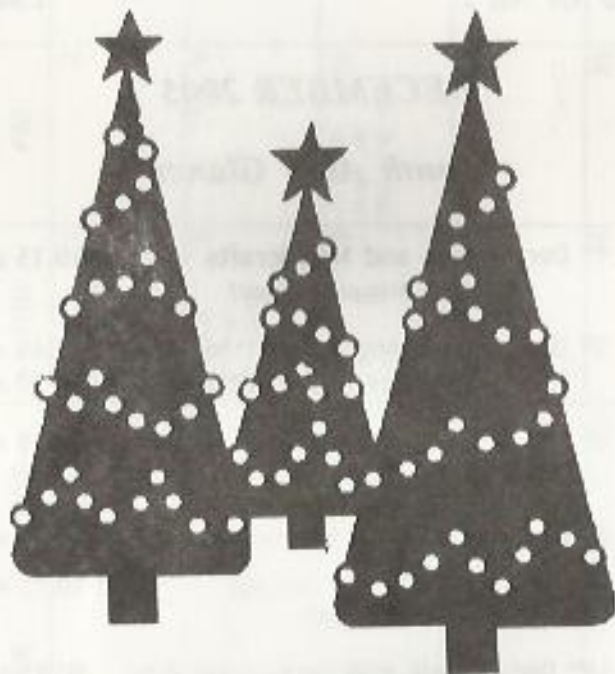
Mon. 5th December 9.45 a.m

Mon. 5th December, 10.30 a.m

Both Meetings hosted by Bernadette Mcewen

28, Bishop Garden, R.A. Puram,

Chennai 600 028.



*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year*

From the Presidents

It is the time of the year to deck the halls with holly and the courtyards with colourful "kolams"; time to bring out the silks and enjoy the fine weather too!

Chettinad trip: We truly experienced the meaning of the word, "hospitality", and understood why this culturally rich area has been rightly crowned the "heritage" title. It was an awesome trip, altogether.

We welcome Nandita Krishna to the Advisory Committee.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas, a good vacation and look forward to the New Year 2006.

PRINCESS NAIK

RATHI NILAKANTAN

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

IWA is thankful to Sunita Shahaney for her excellent service as a member of the "Advisory Committee", as she steps down from this committee.

A job well done, Sunita!

We welcome Nandita Krishna who steps in this month.

Nandita, we are sure, will be an asset with her intelligence and willingness to guide us.

The Advisory Committee members are Zubeida Asgarali, Eira Doshi and Nandita Krishna.

Arts and Handicrafts

Thursday, 1st December, 10.15 a.m.

At : Urmilla Agarwal's

No.7 (Old 3A), Giri Road
T. Nagar, Chennai 600 017

(Giri Road is off G.N. Chetty Road,
diagonally opposite Food World.)



GIFT WRAPPING MAGIC!

Get set to put on your creativity hats Ladies! We have a special gift wrapping competition organized for you! You get to display your talent and ingenuity!

You need to bring your own "Gift" (just an empty gift box) and materials (paper, pair of scissors, cello tape, ribbons, embellishments, etc.,) to wrap it up with. You will be given 15 minutes to wrap and display your creation and the best 'gift' shall of course win!



This will be followed by a brief talk cum demonstration by IWA member Alison Wards and the prize distribution.

Those of you who are interested please call Merete Koefoed at 5215 4358, Princess at 98406 77703 & Rathi at 98410 73060.

Come on Ladies, participate in this 'feast for the eyes'!

URMILLA AGARWAL

MERETE KOEFOED

IWA thanks Urmilla Agarwal for hosting the Gift Wrapping Meeting, Mahin Rabi Khaleeli and Farida Majid for co-hosting the Eid Milan Lunch.

Book Discussion

Tuesday, 6th December, at 10.15 a.m.

At : Loyola College Chapel

Loyola College

Sterling Road

Nungambakkam

Chennai 600 034



THE BIBLE AS LITERATURE

Across the English speaking world The Holy Bible has, for centuries, been a principal resource for writers, actors and others looking for core themes. Consciously or otherwise, we all use expressions that have their origins within these works and the names of characters are used to describe human traits, thus, the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job...a traitor as a Judas. The legal systems of many countries are based on Mosaic Law. The Bible has adventure, mystery, romance, heroism, drama, pathos and many of the world's great tales come from within its pages.

In this month of the birth of Christ we have invited Rev. Dr. Peter Francis, Head of the English Department at Loyola College, to introduce us to a view of the Holy Bible as Literature.

SHALINI BISWAJIT

RADHA GOPALAKRISHNAN

CONGRATULATIONS TO

- Dr. Mano Bhaktavatsalam on being elected Vice President of Madras Music Academy.
- Surekha Kothari on the birth of her grand daughter.

*THERE IS A SONG IN THE AIR!
THERE IS A STAR IN THE SKY!*

Thursday, 8th December at 10.15 a.m.

*Festivities start at 10.15 a.m.
followed by brunch.*

At : Madras Club
Adyar Club Gate Road
R.A. Puram
Chennai 600 028



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

IWA Choir is getting ready to greet you and the Christmas tableau, bringing the message of Love under the able directorship of Rita Saldanha, awaits to meet you all. Fun games to take part in, too.

A variety of cakes, cookies and gift hampers available on lucky draws. Do bring a purse full of 100 rupee notes and we promise each note / gift will reach a needy child, bringing cheer to her / his lovely face!

Cash gifts are also welcome!!

So, shall we meet dressed in the choicest Christmas colours Red, Green, Gold and Silver, to take part in the celebrations?

MEMBERS ONLY

PRINCESS NAIK

RATHI NILAKANTAN
THE BOARD

Members are welcome to contribute towards the Christmas Programme and can contact the Presidents, Princess and Rathi regarding this.

Health and Ecology

Tuesday, 13th December, at 10.15 a.m.

At : Alagu Muthu's
Beau Rivage
97, Santhome High Road
Chennai 600 018



BIRD FLU AND YOU : WHAT IS THE FLAP ALL ABOUT?

Come join us at the last Health and Ecology meeting of 2005, where our very own IWA member and Infectious Disease Consultant Dr. Jyoti Somani will be giving us the straight facts on Avian Influenza. Dr. Jyoti will explain why there is such world-wide concern about Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) and how this could lead to the next great Flu pandemic. She will also discuss whether there are any ways that we can prepare against a possible Flu pandemic.

We thank Alagu Muthu for hosting this meeting.

MRIDULA SRINIVASAN

JYOTI SOMANI

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO:

- Shanti Verghese on the sudden demise of her son-in-law.
- Shobha Hebbar on the passing away of her father.
- Cherry Venkatesan on the loss of her mother.

Music & Performing Arts

Friday, 16th December, at 10.15 a.m.
At : Madras Cricket Club
1, Babu Jagjivanram Salai
Chennai 600 005



TRADITIONALIST? MODERNIST? - MEET PRASANNA!

The only internationally acclaimed performer of traditional Carnatic music on the guitar, a world class Jazz/Rock guitarist and a composer who integrates a myriad of contemporary musical styles into a unique voice, this engineering graduate from IIT Madras is all this and more!

In this special program for IWA ladies, Prasanna will speak on **NEW DIRECTIONS IN CONTEMPORARY MUSIC AND GUITAR** and follow it up with a performance.

Be ready to be mesmerized by the versatile genius of this young maestro!

We thank Anita Kapoor for hosting this programme.

GEETA VASUDEVAN

SANDRALECOZ

PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

IWA thanks all the children who took part in the Halloween celebrations and congratulates the winners, Lita Srinivasan's children and Manisha Singhee's daughter

History, Culture & Tours

February 17th to February 25th 2006

KANDID KHAJURAO



Khajurao, world heritage site, magnificent architecture, beauty crafted in stone, pulsating in the heartland of India. Indulge in the lap of luxury, royale palace hotels, heritage properties, the best star accommodation in Central India.

IWA at its opulent best!

Shopping in an old market place or -"chowk"- synonym with old Nawabi culture. Pre historic cave paintings!!!! Discovered only after India's independence at Bhimbetkar, as enigmatic as its name.

Gwalior visited

Orcha unravelled

Buddhist structures

Shiva temples

Panna - studded with diamond mines

Coupled with train journeys and jaunty bus rides.

Cost of the trip around Rs. 22,000/-

Travel by trains a/c sleeper, a/c chair car and a/c buses.

Ladies, this trip has a limit of only 25.

Warn in by Dec. 10th, 2005 with Thayabae at 98407 66135 / 28268018, Princess or Rathi.

Non-refundable advance Rs. 10,000/- by Dec. 15th, 2005.

Balance by Jan 15th, 2006.

THAYABAE KAKAR

BONNIE KING

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENTS

Members are requested to give in the corrections / change of addresses / cell numbers / phone numbers to Amulya Rao before the New Year. This will help us in bringing out the new telephone book.

SEEMA BHARGAVA

AMULYA RAO

NOTE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE:

To the Non-Indian Members of IWA: If you are planning to leave Chennai permanently, please send a note to the Membership Treasurer, Uma Ganesan so that we can revise the IWA rolls accordingly.

WARM WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Merete Kaalund Denmark
The Atrium, C-401 98407 77360
Kalakshetra Road
Tiruvanmiyur
Chennai 600 041

Alison Wards Great Britain
4B, Gayathri Apartments 2436 1301
16, Sriram Nagar
South Alwarpet
Chennai 600 018

History, Culture & Tours



Chettinad Trip - IWA Members at A.M.M. House, Pallathur.

CHETTINAD TOUR

A very grateful thank you to Meenakshi Meyyappan, Visalakshi Ramaswamy, Umayal Chettyappan, Seetha Muthiah, Meenakshi Arunachalam, Valli Murugappan and Alagammai Alagappan for their hospitality.

A big THANK YOU to our most generous and gracious hostess, Meyammai Murugappan for organizing and hosting our entire stay, our sumptuous meals and much more in Chettinad.

History, Culture & Tours

The IWA Chettinad Heritage Trip. Oct. 2005



This activity group certainly lived up to its name on the recent Chettinad Trip. Historic homes, magnificent temples, tempting shops, fascinating crafts, delicious food, and the warmest and most thoughtful hospitality possible - the perfect ingredients for an IWA excursion.

In the evenings after dinner the group would relax in the cool of the courtyard with Meyammai and her notebook! She would give the meticulously planned itinerary for the following day and then reminisce about her life in these houses in times gone by. This sense of fun and generosity of spirit so willingly shared by our hostesses, Meyammai, Umayal and Laxmi is what we will remember as much as all that we saw and did.

The trip started off slowly so we are still in the dark about what the Pichavaram mangroves really look like. But later that night our experience of the Nataraja temple in Chidambaram was one of rightness and joy, revitalising us after the long bus trip. We visited several wonderful temples through the week, including the Pillaiyarpati temple where Vedic chanting by a group of young boys was a special treat as it rang through the stone corridors. Next was the Shiva temple with its magnificent stone carvings, and as a complete contrast we braved the puddles down a long pathway lined with hundreds of terracotta horses to the open air Ayyanar temple beneath an enormous tree. Against the backdrop of a huge black tree trunk, was a profusion of mud deities artistically decked out in bright garments, with small offerings from the villagers and flocks of children who followed our every move. For us urbanites it was a heart warming experience.

Many of Meyammai's family and friends generously agreed to share their heritage, opening their beautiful ornate mansions, for us at her request. The intricately carved doors (one took 2

years to complete), the imposing pillars of teak and granite, the colourful tiles, the chandeliers, mirrors, and the lovely marriage halls delighted us.

Both imported and local craftsmanship enhance the imposing architecture of these grand homes. We saw the making of patterned cement tiles and visited a timber establishment, where the tradition of fine carpentry continues. We saw steel and brass vessels being produced, and watched the ancient technique of wax bronze casting at Swamimalai.

Delicious meals served on banana leaves were another highlight of Chettinad heritage. Every meal featured numerous tasty specialities of the area - pepper chicken, roasted fresh water fish, panniyaram, dry mango kernel rasam, mutton a la Chettinad - ambrosial! A fabulous lunch was served to us at The Bangla in Karaikudi, courtesy Umayal Chettyappan, Laxmi Chockalingam and Meenakshi Meyappan. The olde worlde charm of The Bangla; the decor; the artifacts..... The table settings were the last word in elegance, the theme being lime green and lemon yellow, coordinated down to the napkin rings! The "Honeymoon Suite" caused a romantic flutter among most of the ladies, while the Gift Shop drew them in crowds.

Of course it wouldn't be an IWA trip without a bit of shopping - colourful saris, wonderfully practical baskets, local pickles and snacks, an antique or two and a peek at a village market.

All in all an excellent trip, thanks to the efforts of our Chettinad hostesses, Chairperson Thayabae, and of course Princess and Rathi - may their tribe increase!

RITA SALDANHA with ELAINE WOOD

HEALTH AND ECOLOGY

We thank Kanika Parekh for sponsoring the LCD equipment for the November 17th meeting.

DIWALI MELA - STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

INCOME	AMOUNT (RS.)
Sale of tickets	
512 Tickets @ Rs.250	128000.00
Stalls - 35 Stalls @ Rs.1500 each	52500.00
Khazana Stall	13600.00
Net Receipts	194100.00
EXPENSES	
Taj Coromandel	112565.57
Prithvis-Lights, Audio systems & others	20000.00
Kreeda	15000.00
Travel Allowance	1000.00
Flowers	1000.00
Friends Orchestra	1000.00
Printing & Stationery Items	296.00
Net Payments	150861.57
Excess Income Over Expenditure	43238.43

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2005 - 2006

MANAGING COMMITTEE

PRESIDENTS	
Princess Nalk	2441 8448 / (O)5205 4989 98406 77703
Rathi Nilakantan	(R) 2822 9932 / 2826 5250 (O) 2811 3691 / 98410 73060

VICE PRESIDENTS

Seema Bhargava	2434 7062 / 2435 6707
Amulya Rao	2499 5434 / 98409 25434

SECRETARIES

Rekha Rangaraj	2499 4756 / 5211 0761
Nalini Panday	2461 0944 / 98410 48629

TREASURERS

Nina Kothari	2827 5859 / 2827 8888
Uma Ganesan	2452 9276 / 98410 34449

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS

Urmilla Agarwal	2820 5327
Merete Koefoed ✓	5215 4358

BOOK DISCUSSION

Shalini Biswajit	2433 8216 / 2434 0315
Radha Gopalakrishnan ✓	2491 8186

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Anita Koshy	2656 2152
Manisha Singhee ✓	2499 1482 / 2499 1483

CURRENT EVENTS

Rani Das Gupta	2499 1084 / 94440 71084
Raziyeh Sheerazie ✓	2836 3161

HEALTH & ECOLOGY

Mridula Srinivasan	2432 1028
Jyoti Somani ✓	2432 0797

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS

Thayabae Kakar	2826 8018 / 2823 4880
Bonnie King	2461 7482

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Geeta Vasudevan	2491 5913
Sandra Le Coz	5210 2017

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

Rani Ananth	2449 0854
Bernadette Mcewen ✓	5549 7307