



*Celebrating
20 years*

IWA
Chennai

February 2007

Newsletter

Month at a Glance		FEBRUARY 2007			Vol. XXI No.9		CHENNAI
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
				1	2	3	
					9.45 a.m. Mng. Comm. Mtg. 10.30 a.m. Exec. Comm. Mtg.		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
		10.15 a.m. Book Discussion		10.15 a.m. Philosophy and Religion			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
		4.30 p.m. Music and Performing Arts History, Culture & Tours. Tour Departs					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
				10.15 a.m. Health & Ecology			
25	26	27	28				
		10.15 a.m. Arts and Handicrafts Book Discussion & Cooking Swapshop					

IWA Newsletter

Volume XXI No. 9

Chennai

FEBRUARY 2007

Month At A Glance

- Fri. 2nd Feb. Managing Committee Meeting 9.45 a.m.
Executive Committee Meeting 10.30 a.m.
- Tue. 6th Feb. Book Discussion 10.15 a.m.
Theatre, To Me, Is The Greatest Of All Art Forms - Oscar Wilde
- Thu. 8th Feb. Philosophy & Religion 10.15 a.m.
Bhagiratha Prayatna
- Mon. 12th Feb. History, Culture and Tours 10.30 a.m.
Holistic Approach To Dating In Ancient History-Especially Indian History
- Tue. 13th Feb. Music & Performing Arts 4.30 p.m.
Temple Dance Of Orissa
- Tue. 13th Feb. History, Culture & Tours
Trip To Punjab
- Thu. 22nd Feb. Health & Ecology 10.15 a.m.
Why Should I Consider Buying Organic Food?
- Tue. 27th Feb. Arts and Handicrafts 10.15 a.m.
Book Discussion & Cooking Swapshop
The Wedding Planner

From the Presidents

Dear Friends!

The year started with wonderful meetings. The Acchis outdid themselves for the Pongal meeting - our sincere thanks for all their effort and hospitality. We are now getting to that time of the year where we start to think about passing of the torch. The process has been started by the selection of the IWA Election Sub-Committee. You will hear more from them next month.

Though this month is short it hasn't stopped our chairpersons from filling it with high caliber meetings. We get the ball rolling with a look at the great stage of theatre and the magnificent river Ganga. A small hiatus mid month for the action filled trip to Punjab followed by a discussion on the merits of organic food. Our month ends with a book launch as well as a wedding celebration!

As always hope to see you all at all the meetings and Namaste to our wheat belt bound friends.

SEEMA BHARGAVA

AMULYA RAO

MANAGING COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Friday, 2nd Feb. 9.45 am

Friday, 2nd Feb. 10.30 am

Both Meetings hosted by

Bilkis Moosa

16 Cenotaph Road, 2nd Lane

Alwarpet, Chennai 600 018S

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD 01.04.2006 TO 31.12.2006

EXPENSES	AMOUNT
AGM Expenses 2005-2006	32631.00
Meetings	69721.90
Founder's Day Celebration	44079.90
Gifts	4480.00
Printing of Telephone Books 2005-06	15300.00
Printing & Stationery	68562.00
Postage&Courier Charges	20329.00
Accounting Charges	6000.00
Bank Charges	44.00
Music Day Celebration	8727.00
Diwali Mela Celebration	153001.73
Christmas Meeting	28200.00
Excess of Income over Expenditure	216798.47

TOTAL 667875.00

INCOME	AMOUNT
Membership Subscription	336600.00
New Membership	5500.00
Membership Contribution	2400.00
Hostess Contribution	13833.00
Telephone Books, Byelaws & Photographs	5526.00
Guest Contribution	10255.00
Grand Finale 2005-2006	21675.00
Savings Bank Interest/Fixed Deposit Interest	29386.00
Diwali Mela Celebration	224400.00
Christmas Meeting	18300.00

TOTAL 667875.00

Funds Position as on 31st December'2006

Opening Balance - 1st April 2006

Bank - 1,02,572.64

Cash - 20,673.60 123246.24

Add : Excess of Income Over Expenditure 216798.47

Less: Advance paid to Chairpersons 24000.00

Closing Balance - 31st December'2006

Bank - 312223.91

Cash - 3620.80 316044.71

Fixed Deposits

Special Fixed Deposit KD/01/4776 100000.00

Corpus&Entrance Fee FD/01/007158 424354.00

Entrance Fee-FD/01/007178 5419.00

Total Fixed Deposits 529773.00

Book Discussion



Tuesday, 6th February at 10.15 a.m.

At: **THE C.P.RAMASWAMY AIYER FOUNDATION**
1 Eldams Road
Alwarpet
Chennai 600018

THEATRE, TO ME, IS THE GREATEST OF ALL ART FORMS - OSCAR WILDE

How do we know if we can act? How do we laugh or cry at will on the stage? These and other questions can be addressed to **P.C. Ramakrishna**, eminent theatre personality, when he talks to us about the elements of theatre, the theatre movement in Chennai and the personalities who have made immense contributions to theatre in the city, with his mesmerising voice and his trademark eloquence and humour.

P.C.Ramakrishna has been with the Madras Players, the oldest English theatre group in Chennai, for 36 years. To commemorate fifty years of the group he has written a book, "Bring down the House Lights" which talks of all the actors down the years bound together by their passion and unconditional love for theatre. The book also takes a look at the dynamics of theatre and its emerging trends. He will touch upon these subjects and field questions from the audience on theatre.

We thank **Nanditha Krishna** for hosting the meeting.

SHOBHA HEBBAR

BILKIS MOOSA

Philosophy @ Religion



Thursday, 8th February at 10.15 a.m.

At: **MADRAS CRICKET CLUB**
Babu Jagjivanram Salai
Chennai 600 005

BHAGIRATHA PRAYATNA

What was written in our ancient Indian texts has been proved true by modern science. The Indian legend '**Bhagiratha Prayatna**' expounds the Herculean task of bringing the Ganga down from the Himalayas by Bhagiratha. The insights of the British colonial surveyors suggest that the Ganga is a man made river, in other words, due to the engineering skills of Bhagiratha.

D.K. Hari, through his brainchild, 'Bharathgyan' which is a series of multi media capsules show casing India and her achievements, past and present, explores the convergence of popular Indian legend with that of geological and scientific research.

ASHA HEMDEV

ANNETTE MOLLEBRO

Change of address

Seema Bhargava
Vasundhara
New No.60, Old.121
Sterling Road,
Chennai 600 034

©98400 82518

History, Culture @ Tours



Monday, 12th February at 10.30 a.m.

At: **THE GOVERNMENT MUSEUM THEATRE**
Pantheon Road, Egmore
Chennai 600 008

IWA ENDOWMENT LECTURE - "HOLISTIC APPROACH TO DATING IN ANCIENT HISTORY - ESPECIALLY INDIAN HISTORY"

SPEAKER : DR. R. KANNAN, SPL. COMMISSIONER AND COMMISSIONER OF MUSEUM

Dating of ancient civilisations and historic events has been done by archaeologists using physical remains like artifacts, monuments and structures.

They analyse them using modern scientific methods and also corroborate events by relating them to other known and already established dates in other civilizations and cultures. Linguists analyse using language structures and words and attempt to fix dates and relationships based on these. Anthropology relies heavily on the excavation mode of the archaeologists to analyse human and animal remains. Modern scientific methods like carbon dating, lasers and genetic analysis are also increasingly being used in recent years. Astrologers and Astronomers use the movement of the stars and planetary phenomena described in the ancient religious and other literature to date events.

Ancient Historical Traditions like religious scriptures are also analysed to arrive at dates. Each discipline usually approaches problems like dating in isolation without attempting to triangulate using the findings of the other disciplines. This may be due to the fact that the experts

have spent long years in their fields of specialization. They therefore either lack knowledge of other disciplines or believe in the superiority of their own discipline.

This approach was published as a monograph in 2000. Since then several discoveries like the shore temple at Mahabalipuram in 2002 in the wake of the Tsunami which is older than the existing Shore temple, Gulf of Cambay explorations under water, DNA analysis etc have validated this theory.

Dr Kannan, our speaker, is a multi-faceted personality. He has written a number of books on diverse subjects like Agriculture, Archaeology and Economics. He also served as a Board Member of the International Museum of History, Paris. He will attempt to fill this gap by adopting a holistic approach to dating especially in Ancient History where complete information is still lacking.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME

ANURADHA M. UBEROI

ANITA KAPOOR

Election Sub-Committee

The Managing Committee at their meeting held on 10th January 2007 has appointed the following members to serve on the Election Sub-Committee for election of IWA Office Bearers for the year 2007-2008.

Chalperson

Javanthi Singaram

Members


Alammai Alagappan

Janet DePenning

Sushi Natraj

Cherry Venkatesan

Music @ Performing Arts



Tuesday 13th February at 4.30 p.m.

At: **NINA KOTHARI'S**
Kothari Bagh
18 M.G. Road
Chennai 600 034

TEMPLE DANCE OF ORISSA

Odissi is a dance form originating from the temple dancers of Orissa in Eastern India. It is one of the oldest surviving dance forms dating back as far as the 1st century B.C. Odissi is mainly characterized by innate gracefulness, sculptural poses, use of the entire body and use of many mudras.

Bringing sculpture almost alive is noted Odissi dancer, **Sanhita Basu** who will give us an insight into the nuances of the dance form and also perform a couple of items from the Odissi repertoire.

We thank **Nina Kothari** for hosting and sponsoring this meeting.

MEMBERS ONLY.

SHOBHA MAHTANI

SUBHASHREE SEN GUPTA

Health @ Ecology



Thursday 22nd February at 10.15 a.m

At: **SANGEET CHOPRA'S**
43 Ranjit Road
Kotturpuram
Chennai 600 085

WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER BUYING ORGANIC FOOD?

Here in Chennai the market place is growing all the time. We are bombarded with choice at every turn. Foodstuffs are on each and every one of our shopping lists on a daily basis. So how do we decide what to buy and where to buy it? What about the new organic ranges of foodstuffs – more information please?

Dharini Krishnan, the current President of the Indian Dieticians Association will tell us about the organic foodstuffs available here in India.

Many thanks to **Sangeet Chopra** for hosting this meeting.

LYNNE CONNOR

SHIRLEY VERGHESE

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Heartfelt condolences to

● **Debbie Thiagarajan** on the passing away of her husband.



*Arts & Handicrafts,
Book Discussion
Cooking Swapshop*



Tuesday 27th February at 10.15 a.m.

At: **TAJ COROMANDEL HOTEL**
Nungambakkam High Road
Chennai 600 034

THE WEDDING PLANNER

Weddings are a time of joy and happiness, family bonding, renewal of faith and love, riotous colours and delicious food, whatever be your country, culture or religion. But for the people organizing them it can be a time of stress and sleepless nights and glitches galore. "The Wedding Planner" is a book by **Reena Singh** of Delhi, which helps plan weddings down to the smallest detail and ensures the smooth running of the event. Ms. Singh will talk of the book which is not only a friendly, hands-on guide on organising weddings, but also a mine of information on age-old traditions that form an essential part of all weddings.

Representing the North will be a Punjabi wedding, from the South, an Andhra wedding and from the East or the Orient will be a Japanese wedding. On display will be all the paraphernalia that accompanies them, from the cards and gift bags to the clothes, jewellery and food.

A must attend event to experience the real wedding feel in the air.

Please come dressed in your wedding best for this 'Celebration' meeting.

**SANGEETH CHOPRA
SHOBHA HEBBAR
SHANTHI THOMAS**

**LISA FELDMAN
BILKIS MOOSA
MALINI KRISHNA**

We thank **Achu Kurian** for sponsoring the refreshments for the January Cooking Swapshop meeting.

Tiruvannamalai & Gingee Fort

From the moment we boarded the Starline Travels bus at Wallace Gardens till we returned to the same place the next evening; Lord of Arunachala took care of our group and blessed us with wonderful Darshans and accompanied us on our Giri Pradakshinam. Wonderful experience all through.

Our first stop was Tirumalai: the Jain temple and the caves with exquisite rock paintings in vegetable dyes. Some of us trekked up the steep incline and feasted our eyes on the beautiful landscape below. Bhagawan Neminatha's imposing statue greeted us at the top. This was after a sumptuous lunch at the Jain math and a humbling pravachan from the monk who runs the ashram. They also run a school which teaches and feeds 200 children free of cost.

Tiruvannamalai was our destination. We checked into Hotel Arunai Anantha. Picturesque location and we could see the Giri from wherever we stood. We went for Darshan to the temple. Lalitha from Starline is quietly efficient. She arranged with the Poojari in the temple sannidhanam earlier so that we had wonderful Darshans in all the sanctums. The Poojari, P T Shankar was so knowledgeable and he explained to us the entire relevance of this abode of Siva. Sushu Natraj translated the pure Tamil into English for those of us who could not follow the language. It is a fire lingam and like all powerful kshetras: it is Swayambu manifestation. Every devotee who is fortunate enough to witness the 'Deepam' on Arunachala during Karthiga month will be assured of His blessings for 21 generations. The 9 Gopurams were exquisite in detail.

We decided to do the 'Girivalam' after dinner the same night. A lot of us started off with enthusiasm but only 8 of us completed the parikrama of 14kms.

The next morning was a tete-a tete with Swami Ramananda who is the brother of our member Chandra Padmanabhan. He renounced everything to live in Ramana Maharshi's ashram. He explained that 'Arunachala'

means 'Supreme Light of Stillness'. This ashram is a centre of Divine spirituality where all faiths come together. Ramana Maharshi teaches us to let go of our ego and surrender to the Supreme Being and that all knowledge must be acquired through self-realisation.

We later visited the peaceful environs of the Ashram and witnessed an audio-visual presentation of Ramana Maharshi's entire life. He was truly an enlightened soul who lived his teachings until his mortal body left this world. The ashram was an oasis of tranquility. It is constantly growing in order to meet the demands of an ever increasing number of devotees.

On our return trip we stopped briefly at the Gingee Fort. Just had brief glimpses of the imposing ramparts and took pictures. It is the most impressive fort of the Carnatic region: spread over three hills. The Vijaynagar kings, the Naiks, Mahrattas, the French as well as the British occupied this fort during different periods of history. Kamal Hassan filmed a part of his unfinished "Maruthanayagam" in this fort.

Final leg of our return and we battled with the congestion of peak evening traffic and reached the Starline travel office slightly enlightened and exhausted. Thanks to Lalitha and Asha we had a wonderful time.

RAMANIREDDY



Executive Committee 2006 - 2007

MANAGING COMMITTEE

PRESIDENTS

Seema Bhargava	2434 7062 / 98400 82518
Amulya Mandava Rao	2499 1272 / 2499 5434

VICE PRESIDENTS

Nina Kothari	2827 5859
Bernadette McEwen	6549 7307 / 98840 21048

SECRETARIES

Rani Ananth	2449 0854
Susan Hopper	2433 3565

TREASURERS

Urmilla Agarwal	2834 5327 / 98410 85533
Raziyeh Sheerazie	2836 3161 / 2836 3687

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS

Sangeet Chopra	2447 0759
Lisa Feldmann	98415 98056

BOOK DISCUSSION

Shoba Hebbar	2641 1248
Bilquis Moosa	2434 9934 / 2434 9932

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Shanthi Thomas	2815 0865 / 98410 76541
Malini Krishna	2447 4830 / 2447 1046

CURRENT EVENTS

Mridula Srinivasan	2432 1028
Jyoti Somani	2432 0797

HEALTH & ECOLOGY

Shirley Verghese	2449 1474
Lynne Connor	98409 75740

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS

Anuradha M. Uberoi	2432 9728
Anita Kapoor	2825 6484

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Shobha G. Mahiani	2835 3303 / 2835 2306
Subhashree SenGupta	2431 1345

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

Asha Hemdev	2827 8165
Annette Mollebro	98409 42843