



IWA

ಎವ

ഇവ

ಇवा

あいわ

آي وَا

ऐवा

NEW HORIZON

IWA

Chennai

April 2008

Newsletter



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 10.15 a.m. Hist. Cult & Tours	4 09.30 a.m. Mng. Comm. Mtg. 10.30 a.m. Exec. Comm. Mtg.	5
6	7 4.30 p.m. Music & Performing Arts	8	9	10 10.15 a.m. Book Discussion	11	12
13	14 10.15 a.m. Current Events	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 10.15 a.m. AGM	25	26
27	28	29	30			

IWA NEWS LETTER

Volume XXII No. 11

Chennai

APRIL 2008
MONTH AT A GLANCE

Thu. 3rd Apr.	History, Culture & Tours <i>History of The Music Academy</i>	10.15 a.m.
Fri. 4th Apr.	Managing Committee Meeting Executive Committee Meeting	09.30 a.m. 10.30 a.m.
Tue. 8th Apr.	Music & Performing Arts <i>"Faces"</i>	4.30 p.m.
Thu. 10th Apr.	Book Discussion <i>The Secret</i>	10.15 a.m.
Tue. 15th Apr.	Current Events <i>Quiz</i>	10.15 a.m.
Thu. 24th Apr.	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	10.45 a.m.

PS: We are proud to announce that in ADDITION to our monthly newsletter, you can also check your program on our PRIVATE weblog on the internet by just going to:

www.iwachennai.blogspot.com

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear Members

How fast the year has flown by, and it was like just yesterday, when we took our positions. A year filled with fun, interesting and educative meetings, which, when looked back upon, gives us a feeling of immense joy and satisfaction that we were able to share with each one of you.

A special thanks to our wonderful Managing and Executive Committees, for their commitment and collective efforts which made the entire year a smooth sail.

We thank all the members of the Advisory, Music, Election and Membership Sub Committees who gave us their valuable time and priceless advice. We are certainly very grateful for your support. We also thank all you members for your continued encouragement through this year, by hosting and sponsoring meetings, and most of all, for being there with us at every meeting.

Our humble apologies for any short coming on our part and many thanks for having faith and trust in our abilities.

Lastly, as we look back at the year gone by with pride and our hearts filled with warmth and joy, we welcome the new team of Office Bearers to another fantastic year at IWA.

KAMALA PRASAD

RAZIYEH SHEERAZIE

In order to make it more convenient for all members to cast their vote in the IWA elections, the Management Committee, in consultation with the Election committee have arranged for a second polling booth at the CP Art Centre in Eldam's Road.

More than half the members of IWA live in South Madras and many have expressed difficulties in driving across the city to Poonamallee High Road. Last year less than half the membership voted. We hope this change will encourage you to make the effort.....your vote might ensure that a candidate you would like to see on the committee, is elected.

THE BOARD

WARM THANKS FROM THE PRESIDENTS TO:

RANI & RADHA:

For bringing out the Newsletter month after month, filled in with their special touch, and their continuous support and advice all through the year.

SHOBHA & LYNNE:

For taking down the minutes and also mailing out the News Letters consistently every month and supporting us at every step of our way.

MRIDULA & SUSAN:

For their time & full support throughout this year, be it maintaining the accounts diligently and guiding us about our finances without any hitches, or be it for keeping the membership facts and figures in order.

PRITIKA & SANJITA

They helped us focus our cameras and showed us a new view of life through the window of arts and handicrafts.

ARCHANA & RUTH

Brought Kalki & Shakespeare aside from a variety of writers into our days & revived our creative imaginations all over again.

RAJI & MEENA

Their different cuisines gave our daily culinary skill a new perspective and brought more color to our tables.

ANURADHA & BALVEER

Who kept us updated with the events and happenings in the world around us through their captivating meetings.

ASHA & BILKIS

Gave us vision to fitness and healthy living and helped us keep our environment pollution free.

GEETHA & GOWRI

Arranged an array of interesting venues to visit, which gave us an opportunity to explore see such wonderful places.

SADIYA & UMA

Have taken us on a voyage of different religions and philosophies which widened our knowledge and has helped influence our thoughts.

GEETA & PIA

Gailed us through a wonderful journey through times and years with the music of today and the yesteryears.

KAMALA PRASAD

RAZIYEH SHEERAZIE

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

"Life is a series of hellos and good byes, I'm afraid it's time for goodbye again."

Time has really flown by and we have now come to the end of the IWA year. We look back to a year filled with new friendships. It has been a wonderful learning experience to meet deadlines and of course trying our best, to dodge the Printer's Devil!! Yes, we will miss our sojourns to the Printer's office too.

We place on record our sincere thanks to the Activity Chairpersons for sending the blurbs on time, to the Presidents - Kamala, the ever smiling Raziyyah and the Board for all the co-operation and valuable suggestions.

We have thoroughly enjoyed bringing out the Newsletters month after month and hope you enjoyed it too. We now leave with all the fond memories of a wonderful year of togetherness. We wish the incoming team all the very best and look forward to another exciting year in IWA.

RANI ANANTH

RADHA GOPALAKRISHNAN

MANAGING COMMITTEE

Fri. 4th April, 9.30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Fri. 4th April, 10.30 a.m.

Both Meetings hosted by
Raji Ramesh & Geetha Rajagopal

At : **Madras Boat Club**
The Bowside
Boat Club Road, R.A.Puram
Chennai - 600 028

FROM THE SECRETARIES

This IWA year has just flown by! We can hardly believe it is time for us both to say goodbye. It will seem strange not having 'minutes' and 'newsletters' on our desks but we know that the incoming Secretaries will be equal to the task.

We would like to say 'thank you', to you the membership. You have helped us enormously by keeping us informed of changes to your personal details. Without that help your newsletter would not reach you each month. It's been good just chatting to you too and exchanging text messages.

Like you, we are looking forward to the summer break. Have a really good time with your families.

SHOBHA HEBBAR

LYNNE CONNOR

FROM THE TREASURER

NEW HORIZONS—the theme for the IWA year 2007-8 set the stage for an eventful, exciting and exhilarating year.

This would not have been possible without the contributions of all you —home hostesses, co-hostesses and sponsors. A big Thank You to all of you.

Thanks to all the Activity Chairpersons for meticulously planning their meeting finances and presenting their accounts month after month.

Thanks to the Management Committee for all the brainstorming sessions and bonhomie and to the past Presidents and other members who have guided me throughout the year.

Wishing the incoming committee all the very best!

MRIDULA SRINIVASAN

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP TREASURER

IWA is known for its ability to bring women together by offering unique programs each month on a wide variety of topics. Because of this, it is not surprising that so many women wish to become members. This past year the Membership Sub-Committee accepted applications from 21 new members. As I write, prospective new members wait to submit applications in the coming IWA year. Please reach out to all of our new members and make them feel welcome.

The Membership Sub-Committee worked together to make fair and objection decisions that would reflect positively on IWA. A heartfelt thank-you goes to each member of the Membership Sub-Committee for their support and commitment throughout the year. They mentored and advised me along the way to ensure that whatever decisions we made, would help IWA become a stronger and better organization.

SUSAN HOPPER

A REMINDER

- Please return your renewal forms and cheques for the annual fee favoring "IWA Chennai". This can be done at the AGM or by post or hand delivery to the Treasurer.
- Please ensure that the renewal form is filled out completely and accurately. This will be the most current record we have of your contact details.

For non-Indian members,

- Please send a letter or e-mail to the Membership Treasurer that you will depart Chennai and will not renew your membership. This will allow your slot to be filled more quickly by another interested applicant.
- All members are reminded to inform the Membership Treasurer of their intent to absent for a month or more. This should be done prior to or at the beginning of each absence.

SUSAN HOPPER

ELECTIONS

The Election Committee submitted their report for election of Office Bearers for the year 2008-2009. From the report we note that the candidate for each post stand **UNOPPOSED**. Hence there will be **NO VOTING** on April 5th 2008, either

At : **IWA Registered Office**
857, Poonamallee High road,
Kilpauk,
Chennai 600 010
(Immediately after Breeze Hotel, enter NIIT gate)

or

At : **C P Art Centre,**
No.1, Eldams Road,
Chennai - 600 018

KAMALA PRASAD

RAZIYEH SHEERAZIE

FROM THE ELECTION COMMITTEE

The nominations received on Friday 7th March, 2008 were opened by the Election Committee.

On scrutinizing the selected nominees, the committee contacted each candidate to get her consent. However, some of the candidates decided to withdraw, and hence there is now **only one candidate per post**.

We are very pleased to inform members that, in view of the above, the following candidates are unopposed and there is now **no necessity for elections**.

It gives us great pleasure to announce the slate of Office Bearers for 2008-2009 to be ratified at the Annual General Meeting.

INDIAN	NON-INDIAN
--------	------------

PRESIDENTS

Rani Ananth

Lynne Connor

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Shoba Hebbar

Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan

SECRETARIES

Mridula Srinivasan

Ruth Lauge

TREASURERS

Asha Hemdev

Jo Frogbrook

Rani Chada (Chairperson)
Nalini S. Acharya
Sushi Goklaney
Maureen Hudson Murari
Hemalatha Santhavadanan

HISTORY CULTURE & TOURS

Thursday, April 3rd at 10.15 a.m



At: **Mowbrays Hall**,
Madras Club
7, Adyar Club Gate Road,
Chennai 600 028

History of The Music Academy

Founded in 1927, the Music Academy is one of the most illustrious academies in Madras, and has endeavoured to provide various avenues to further the advancement of the science and art of Indian music.

Dr. Mrs. Malathi Rangaswami, a product of Lady Sivaswami Girls High School and Queen Mary's College, did her post graduation in history from Annamalai University and continued as a Ph.D Research student at the University of Madras, getting her doctorate degree in 2007. She has a long association with the academy. She served as a vice-president from 2001-2005. Currently one of its Secretaries, she will speak to us about the history of the Music Academy.

We would like to thank **Balveer Singh** and **Sanjita Shah** for sponsoring this meeting.

GEETA RAJAGOPAL

GOWRI VISVANATHAN

Traditions are vulnerable to the passage of time and can become a part of history if not nurtured for posterity.

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Tuesday, 8th April at 4.30 pm –Tea
Programme- 5.pm to 6pm



At: **Sivagami Petachi Auditorium**
M Ct M School, 78, Luz Church Road,
Mylapore, Chennai-600 004

"FACES" By ANITA RATNAM

"Why can I remember your smile, Feel your warmth, smell your skin, But not see your face? I have not striven to forget. My heart remembers the pleasure of you. I can see you taking shape in my mind -yet I cannot see your face"

Most creations find their inspiration in a fleeting word, image or moment. That is how FACES, too, was born. There are familiar archetypes, but there is also that blurring of lines between them. "These faces were already there- have always been," says Anita. "But they have been recognized as personalities rather than emotions. So when you look at them just as faces, they become easier to relate to, the emotion becomes personal."

FACES is a presentation of some of the most familiar and loved personas from our cultural tapestry. Portraying varied sentiments, these FACES together traverse a spectrum of emotions, to finally surrender to infinite bliss.

Dancer/choreographer-Transcultural collaborator-Arts Presenter-Scholar/writer-Cultural Activist, with a career spanning 4 decades and over 1000 performances in 15 countries, Anita Ratnam is one of India's most recognized dance icons.

FACES brings together the skills of Anita's long-time collaborators Sandhya Raman (costume design), Mitran Devanesan (direction and lighting design) and the music of Anil Srinivasan.

We thank **Chandrika Chidambaram** for hosting the meeting.

We thank **Chandra Sankar** for sponsoring the performance.

We thank the following members for sponsoring the performance on "The Tanpura": **E.Rajeshwari Sathyanarayana, Hemalatha Santhavadanan, Sabita Shetty, Somna Sachdev**

GEETA VASUDEVAN

PIA OLANDER

"What is a face, really? Its own photo? Its make-up? Or is it a face as painted by such or such painter? That which is in front? Inside? Behind? And the rest?"- Pablo Picasso

OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES



With a heavy heart we announce the sad demise of the ever-smiling, dauntless Mahema Devadoss. Our heartfelt condolences to her family

BOOK DISCUSSION



Thursday, 10th April at 10.15 a.m.

At : Lynne Connor's
'Cottingley', 20, Anderson Road,
Chennai 600006

"THE SECRET" Unravalled by Dr Prithika Chary

"The Secret" is a book written by Rhonda Byrne who in 2004 was in utter despair and claims to have turned her life around using this principle. Rhonda Byrne defines "The Secret" as the law of attraction, which is the principle that "like attracts like." Rhonda calls it "the most powerful law in the universe," and says it is working all the time. "What we do is we attract into our lives the things we want, and that is based on what we're thinking and feeling," Rhonda says

Rhonda calls it "the most powerful law in the universe," and says it is working all the time. The principle explains that we create our own circumstances by the choices we make in life. And the choices we make are fueled by our thoughts—which means our thoughts are the most powerful things we have here on earth.

The book has been a bestseller and has an audio version, movie and DVD.

Is this some impossible 'drive' as someone calls it or does it really work? Our own member Dr.Prithika Chary who besides being a neurologist and neurosurgeon does motivational workshops and life coaching to improve human potential through her unit Creative Karma will initiate and moderate discussion about the book and give her personal views on this "law".

Please note that all members need to walk in from the main gate to Lynne's residence.

Please warn in with Lynne Connor 98409-75740

We thank Lynne Connor for graciously hosting this meeting.

ARCHANA MEIYAPPAN

RUTH LAUGE

"It (The Secret) gave me a glimpse of The Secret. It was like a flame inside of my heart. And with every day since, it's just become a raging fire of wanting to share all of this with the world." Rhonda Byrne

CURRENT EVENTS



Tuesday, 15th April at 10.15am

At: Madras Boat Club
The Strokeside
Boat Club Road
Chennai 600 028

Quiz Time

We look back over an interesting year with a quiz based on the subjects covered at the meetings held during the year 2007-2008. The quiz morning has been put together by our member and Quiz Master – Saranya Jayakumar. The questions will be fairly easy and a careful look through the news letters will surely help in answering them.

Saranya Jayakumar has been regularly organizing the IWA quiz programme. We look forward to participation by our members in large numbers. So ladies quizzing is the buzzword for the month of April 08.

We thank Tehnaz Bahadurji for sponsoring the meeting.

ANURADHA SACHDEV

BALVEER SINGH

"The empires of the future are the empires of the mind"... Winston Churchill

• Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 24th April, 2008 at 10.45 a.m.

At : GRT CONVENTION CENTRE
"GOL MOHAR HALL"
120, Sir Thyagaraja Road
T.Nagar, Chennai 17

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of IWA will be held at 10.45 a.m.
on Thursday, April 24th 2008, at GRT CONVENTION CENTRE,
120 Sir Thyagaraja Road, T.Nagar, Chennai 17.

The Agenda for the meeting will be as follows:

- ◆ Welcome Address ... RAZIYEH SHEERAZIE
- ◆ Secretary's Report ... SHOBHA HEBBAR
- ◆ Treasurer's Report ... MRIDULA SRINIVASAN
- ◆ Adoption of audited accounts for the year 2008 – 2009
- ◆ Membership Treasurer's Report ... SUSAN HOPPER
- ◆ Appointment of Auditors for year 2008 - 2009
- ◆ Remarks by the outgoing president ... KAMALA PRASAD
- ◆ Any other Business
- ◆ Introduction of the Election Committee
- ◆ Presentation of the New Managing Committee for 2008 – 2009
- ◆ Address by the Incoming Presidents
- ◆ Introduction of the New Executive Committee
- ◆ Vote of Thanks ... KALA BHASHYAM

NOTE: Copies of the Accounts and the Reports of the various Activities will be tabled for the perusal of members.

KAMALA PRASAD

RAZIYEH SHEERAZIE

SIKKIM



I hope everyone who made this trip will agree with me that despite the unavoidable hurdles we encountered, it turned out for the best and we could spend more time in Sikkim. The State is clean; plastic bags having been banned some years ago, and Sikkimese are justifiably proud of their state, striving to keep it tourist friendly.

Thirty two of us left Chennai on the 20th February, including four spouses, Dr. Acharya, Brigadier Bail, Kumar and Sharath. We flew to Kolkata in the evening and boarded the Darjeeling Mail for Siliguri, arriving early next morning. Breakfast and a clean-up in a hotel and then an exciting journey ...interrupted for a while in Teesta..and eventually, arrived in Gangtok at night. The Royal Plaza was very good. Large rooms, courteous staff and excellent meals.

The next morning we left for Tsongmo (Changu) Lake. The drive to the lake was beautiful, mountains covered in snow, clear sunny skies and mountain roads that look so narrow and unsafe but the drivers were skilled and confident. On the way we saw many prayer flags, which are called Wind Horses. Our Guide in Sikkim, Binod Kumar explained that there are Buddhist prayers written on each one and the colours represent the elements, Earth, Water, Fire, Air and Ether. The flags flutter in the wind and Buddhists believe that the prayers are carried throughout the Universe and benefit all sentient beings. These are the enduring indelible memory of Sikkim, along with the majestically awe-inspiring Himalayas. The

lake is a sea of pristine white, frozen in time with the mountains as a backdrop. The yak rides were unexpectedly comfortable for the brave-hearted among the group who tried it. Roadside cafes served the best momos we ever had, prepared fresh with vegetable fillings and delicious sauce.

The next day's visit to Rumtek Monastery was interesting. We had a local guide with a sense of humour who compared the weather in Sikkim to the Indian cricket team; highly Unpredictable! He was knowledgeable and enlightened us on the Karmapas, Rinpoches and the Dalai Lama. It was particularly memorable to watch the young monks, some barely ten years old, so engrossed in their studies. Several of us went haywire in the handicraft centre and bought wooden replicas of holy symbols found in Buddhist monasteries. We also visited the two hundred year old Enchey Monastery. Back in Gangtok The Namgyal Institute of Tibetology has a vast and precious collection of thangkhas, rare manuscripts, statues and other religious objects.

The travel agents had been fortunate enough to find alternate places to visit as we had to forget Darjeeling and Kalimpong. The views as we drove to Pelling were beautiful, we Drove up one mountain and down another to the next higher one..some as high as thirteen thousand feet above sea level...It's awesome to look back and see the treacherous curves we have just negotiated! Tashi Gang Resort was our home for the next two nights.... .fabulous views from every side, when we looked at it from the opposite mountain it looked like a tiny bird house clinging to a precipice. On the first day some of us had a small trek up the hills and a longer one the next day...both memorable for those who dared to go. Needless to say , we needed to be fit. The men were very helpful escorts especially Brigadier Bail and Dr Acharya.

Our final day in Sikkim had a lot squeezed into it...Sangachoeling Gompa, the Khecheopalri Lake, sacred to Hindus as well as Buddhists, with it's wish-fulfilling legend. Kanchenjunga Waterfalls and the Pemayangtse Gompa with it's amazing seven-tiered model of Guru Rinpoche's (Padmasambhava) heavenly abode. This was hand made

in wood by the late Dungzin Rinpoche over several years. Finally some of us walked to the ruins of the palace of the old capital of Sikkim in Rabdentse..and had magnificent views. That last night we were treated to a delightful performance of local song and dance by a charming group of young men and women.

As the sun rose on our last morning in Sikkim we were blessed with a magnificent view of the Kanchenjunga range....clear and beguiling...compensation for any perceived short-comings.....we might not have been so lucky in Darjeeling!! We left Sikkim, looking back wistfully at the peaceful, beautiful state...visited a huge mall in Siliguri waiting for the time to catch our train to Kolkata ..how different to Sikkim!!!

In Kolkata some of us went on the guided tour of the city...Victoria Memorial, Kalighat, Belur Math and Dakshineswar Temple....others who had already seen these places did their own thing. A very early start to the airport next day and we were home, happy and safe in Chennai on time.

Looking back on the trip we must not forget to praise Lalitha of Starline Travels who accompanied us..a perfect example of "grace under pressure". She quietly and efficiently found us an alternative destination and accommodation at short notice and , was calm and cheerful, answered all questions and cleared all doubts a real guardian angel.

RAMANI REDDY



SUNNY SIDE UP

One Chinese person walks into a bar in America late one night and he saw Steven Spielberg. As he was a great fan of his movies, he rushes over to him, and asks for his autograph.

Instead, Spielberg gives him a slap and says 'You Chinese people bombed our Pearl Harbor, get out of here.'

The astonished Chinese man replied 'It was not the Chinese who bombed your Pearl Harbor, it was the Japanese'.

'Chinese, Japanese, Taiwanese, you're all the same,' replied Spielberg. In return, the Chinese gives Spielberg a slap and says 'You sank the Titanic; my forefathers were on that ship.'

Shocked, Spielberg replies 'It was the iceberg that sank the ship, not me.'

The Chinese replies, 'Iceberg, Spielberg, Carlsberg, you're all the same.'

This particular joke won an award for the best joke in a competition in Britain

The lady of the house answers the phone—, "Yes?

Mrs. Ward, please."

"Speaking"

"Mrs. Ward, this is Doctor Jones at the Medical Testing Laboratory. When your Doctor sent your husband's samples to the lab, the samples from another Mr. Ward were sent as well and we are now uncertain which one is your husband's. Frankly, it is either bad or terrible."

"What do you mean?" Mrs. Ward asks.

"Well, one Mr. Ward has tested positive for Alzheimers disease (this causes loss of memory) and the other for AIDS. We can't tell which of the results is your husband's"

"That's terrible! Can we do the test over?" questions Mrs. Ward.

"Normally, yes. But Medicare won't pay for these expensive tests more than once."

"Well, what am I supposed to do now?"

"The people at Medicare recommend that you drop your husband off in the middle of town.

If he finds his way home, just ensure that you don't sleep with him."



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2007- 2008

MANAGING COMMITTEE

PRESIDENTS

Kamala Prasad	26283809	99401 41177
Raziyeh Sheerazie	26363687	99400 85532

VICE PRESIDENTS

Rani Ananth	24490854	98407 61624
Radha Gopalakrishnan	24918186	

SECRETARIES

Shobha Hebbar	26411248	98403 38258
Lynne Connor		98409 75740

TREASURERS

Mridula Srinivasan	24321028	98409 31812
Susan Hopper	24333565	98412 21201

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS

Prithika Chary	24997878	98400 38752
Sanjita Shah	42105503	98408 57869

BOOK DISCUSSION

Archana Meiyappan	28473932	98409 98800
Ruth Lauge		98402 35222

COOKING SWAPSHOP

Raji Ramesh	24939640	98410 49390
Meena Naru	28362499	98400 81678

CURRENT EVENTS

Anuradha Sachdev	28341349	99401 03458
Balveer Singh	24984969	99401 63839

HEALTH & ECOLOGY

Asha Hemdev	28278165	98403 43528
Bilkis Moosa	24349934	98840 50450

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS

Geetha Rajagopal	24984168	98400 52899
Gowri Visvanathan	24332627	98840 68868

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

Sadiya Khaleel	62591015	98840 50686
Uma Ganesan	24529276	99406 52588

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Geeta Vasudevan	24915913	98843 63550
Pla Olander		98404 58630