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NEW HORIZON

IWA
Chennai

November 2007

Newsletter

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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IWA NEWS LETTER

Volume XXII No. 7

Chennai

NOVEMBER 2007

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Thur. 1st Nov.	Book Discussion Current Events Disappearing Daughters	10.15 a.m.
Fri. 9th Nov.	Managing Committee Meeting Executive Committee Meeting	09.30 a.m. 10.30 a.m.
Tue. 13th Nov.	History, Culture and Tours Philosophy & Religion Cooking Swapshop Arts & Handicrafts Coorg	10.15 a.m.
Wed 21st Nov.	Health and Ecology <i>Ecotel-Environmentally Sensitive Hotels</i>	10.15 a.m.
Thur. 22nd Nov.	Book Discussion <i>Dramatisation of 'THE LETTER'</i>	10.15a.m.
Thur. 29th Nov.	Music & Performing Arts <i>The Devadasis of Madras</i>	10.15 a.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear Friends,

Due to the State wide bandh the Music Day had to be postponed. However it was celebrated on 8th October. On this occasion, we remembered Nirmal and paid homage to her memory. The young awardee K P Nandhini enthralled the audience with her performance.

We thank the Music Committee for having chosen the right person and the Goyals, for their continued support of the event annually.

Deepavali Kondattam was celebrated on Oct 22nd - The highlight being a Fashion Show of Clothes and Jewellery and Dances of India.

The Management and the Board and the Members in charge of the stalls have worked very hard to make it an enjoyable morning.

You would have enjoyed the ID lunch on 25th Oct and we thank the Committee of Hosts

We look forward to the X' mas celebration on 13th December at Madras Club and the Sub Committee has already started planning for the event.

Domestic tour to Darjeeling Sikkim and other places is in Feb 2008.

Please book early to avoid disappointment. The details are available in the News Letter

KAMALA PRASASD

RAZIYEH SHEERAZIE

MANAGING COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Fri. 9th November 9.30 a.m.

Fri. 9th November 10.30 a.m.

Both Meetings hosted by
Rani Ananth & Radha Gopalakrishnan
At : Madras Boat Club
The Bowside
Boat Club Road, R.A. Puram
Chennai - 600 028.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

1st April'07 TO 30th September'2007

	Amount
	Rs. p.
INCOME	
Membership Subscription	332200.00
Hostess Contribution	46000.00
Telephone Books, Byelaws & Photographs	12960.00
Guest Contribution	17650.00
Savings Bank Interest/Fixed Deposit Interest	16668.00
New Membership	2500.00
Photographs and Badges	2440.00
Membership Contribution	300.00
Total Income	430718.00
EXPENDITURE	
AGM Expenses 2006-2007	33890.00
Fellowship Morning	16449.00
Printing & Stationery	31547.50
Postage & Courier Charges	10195.00
Legal and Professional Fees	2245.00
Meetings	19517.00
Founder's Day Celebration	50936.00
Accounting Charges	5000.00
Bank Charges	26.00
Total Expenditure	169805.50
Excess of Income over Expenditure	260912.50
Funds Position as on 30th September'2007	
Opening Balance - 1st April 2007	171572.64
Add : Excess of Income Over Expenditure	260912.50
Less: Advance paid to Chairpersons	24000.00
Closing Balance - 30th September'2007	
Bank	404009.84
Cash	4475.30
	408485.14
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 CURRENT EVENTS



Thursday 1st November at 10.15 a.m.

At: **Usha Saravanan's**
3, Kandaswamy Street,
Chandrabagh Avenue,
(Opposite Hotel President on Dr Radhakrishnan Road,)
Chennai 600004

DISAPPEARING DAUGHTERS - The Tragedy of female foeticide

"This book touches our conscience" -from the foreword by Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam..

'Now they no longer feed them paddy husk or poisoned milk...they stifle them with a pillow or with a cloth.' (Kanchamma, a midwife from Alligundam village in Tamil Nadu)

In *Disappearing Daughters*, Gita Aravamudan uses investigative reporting to unravel an appalling story of deeply embedded and destructive patriarchal beliefs, disempowered women who have no claim on their own bodies and the active complicity of a ruthless and callous medical and social system. The author Gita Aravamudan herself will share with us her experiences on writing this book.

We thank **Usha Saravanan** for graciously hosting this meeting.

ARCHANA MEIYAPPAN
ANURADHA SACHDEV

RUTH LAUGE
BALVEER SINGH

"In some parts of the country almost two generations of women have been exterminated before I completed this book and there is still no solution in sight." Gita Aravamudan

COOKING SWAPSHOP HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION ARTS & HANDICRAFTS



Tuesday 13th November 2007 at 10.15am

At: **Meyammai Murugappan's**
The Laurels,
9 (old No. 4) Chittaranjan Road,
Teynampet, Chennai 600 018.

COORG.

Coorg or Kodagu means "dense forest land on steep hills". Land of pepper, coffee, oranges, morning mists, good looking men and women. South Indian, yet so different. The people are known for their grace, hospitality and valour. We are delighted to offer a glimpse of this small heaven- on- earth, fondly known as the Scotland of India.

We have a very special programme covering the four activities and urge you to come and enjoy the morning which culminates in a lunch , serving some of the traditional Coorg cuisine.

There will be an introduction to the history, architecture, festivals, jewellery and for those interested in learning to-drape the sari in the elegant Coorg style, please remember to wear a sari with a sleeved blouse and bring along a brooch or safety pin.

We are hoping that our only Coorg member can entice her 90 year old Grandmother, her Mother and daughter to join us for the meeting.-.four generations of beautiful women, to answer any questions you may have. There might be an additional surprise!!!!

Lunch will be served at 12 noon.

This is a warn-in meeting, limited to 80 members. No guests please. Please call one of the following numbers by 8th November. The warn-in will necessarily be strictly enforced.

- Gowri Visvanathan...2433 2627
- Uma Ganesan...99406 52588
- Sanjita Shah...4210 5503

We thank **Meyammai** for graciously allowing us to hold this meeting in her home.

RAJI RAMESH
GEETA RAJAGOPAL
SADIYA KHALEEL
PRITHIKA CHARY

MEENA NARU
GOWRI VISVANATHAN
UMA GANESAN
SANJITA SHAH

Welcome to Coorg! A land sailing with rich culture, stunning landscapes of lush forests, majestic mountain ranges and a fascinating history.

COOKING SWAPSHOP

We thank **Renu Jalan, Meera Jayakar, Cherry Venkatesh** and **Sharanya Jayakumar** for sponsoring the gifts and the **Taj Group of Hotels** for the September meeting.

CHANGE IN TELEPHONE NUMBER

Deepika Goyal : 9841086752

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO

- Deepika Goyal on the birth of a beautiful girl

HEALTH AND ECOLOGY



Wednesday 21st November at 10.15 a.m.

At: **The Rain Tree**
Ceebros Hotels
120 St. Mary's Road
Alwarpet
Chennai 600 018

Ecotel –The Hallmark of Environmentally Sensitive Hotels

We are visiting The Rain Tree, an Ecotel Hotel where Mr. Syed Amjad Hussain, Environmental officer of the hotel, will acquaint us with this concept with a presentation on how the Hotel industry today is responding to the environmental challenge.

This presentation will be highlighting the relatively new concepts of making hotels environment friendly and socially conscious.

Members interested could stay back for about 30.mins. after the presentation for a tour of the hotel premises.

ASHA HEMDEV

BILKIS MOOSA

An ecotel hotel sets the trend for environment-sensitive hotels that have the three R theory of 'reduce, reuse and recycle' as their guiding principles.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Thursday November 22nd at 10.15 a.m

At: Madras Club

7, Adyar Club Gate Road,
Chennai 600 028



DRAMATISATION OF 'THE LETTER' - BY KALKI - TRANSLATED BY GOWRI RAMNARAYAN

The short story, as a genre, has been acknowledged by many a writer as being one of the more difficult formats. To convey a message and narrate a story in a few hundred words is an exercise in the optimisation of the use of words.

Kalki Krishnamurthy excelled at this, as is evinced by his prolific writings. Of course, his epic novels are even better known. But his short stories have a huge fan-following too.

The morning will see a dramatisation of one of his most moving stories, 'The Letter' ably translated by his grand-daughter. The actors are ladies of IWA and youngsters from the Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, Adyar.

ARCHANA MEIYAPPAN

RUTH LAUGE

"...Kalki Krishnamurthy was a colossus striding the Tamil journalistic field at a time when much was expected from a new India"

OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO

- Raji Ramesh on the passing away of her mother
- Latha Chohan on the passing away of her mother-in-law.

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Thursday, 29th November, at 10.15 am

At: Vidya Srinivasan's

'Srinidhi', 3,(old 2), Satyanarayana Avenue,
Chennai-600 028



THE DEVADASIS OF MADRAS

From the position of a sacred servant of the temple and handmaiden of God, the Devadasi became a profane prostitute over the years. By the time Madras as a city was founded, the degradation had already begun. Yet the years 1639 to 1900 saw the Devadasi flowering as a custodian of the arts and she was largely responsible in making the city of Madras a cultural capital. By the 1900s Western education had taken root in Indian minds, beginning a movement for outlawing the Devadasi through the Anti Nautch Movement. Did the Devadasis capitulate under pressure? What happened?

V.Sriram, writer, chronicler and exponent of Carnatic music is well known for his talks on Carnatic music and musicians and for his Music walks in Chennai. An MBA, he has authored a book on Carnatic musicians, a quiz book on Carnatic music. His latest book on the famed Devadasi of Bangalore is to be published shortly.

We thank Vidya Srinivasan for hosting the meeting.

GEETA VASUDEVAN

PIA OLANDER

Like my mother, I am going to tell, my daughter: "Temple is your father!" This has gone on for centuries, And still goes on... This will go on forever. I am the Devadasi of the Temple. Temples may crumble But, I will go on Forever... Zoya Zaidi

Tis X'Mas

Close on the heels of Deepavali Kondattam, we gear up to celebrate Christmas. We plan to have it on December 13th at the Madras club.

We would like IWA members to come forward and participate in the carol singing and the skit. Participants who would like to take part please contact :

- Anita Koshy 98409 11747 or
- Darley Mathew 98411 82481

We welcome gifts that can be placed under the tree, which will later be donated to a charitable organisation.

IWA members who would like to donate cakes and cookies could bring them to the Madras Club.

They will be auctioned and the proceeds donated to charity.

KAMALA PRASAD

RAZIYEH SHEERAZIE

THE BOARD

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP TREASURER

Following are the charges for guests who attend IWA meetings:

Meetings Hosted in Homes	Rs 50
Meetings Hosted at Clubs	Rs 100
Meetings Hosted at Hotels	Actuals

SUSAN HOPPER

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS



Land of Mystical Splendour – Sikkim

IWA plans a trip from February 20th to February 28th to **Kolkata, Kalimpong, Darjeeling and Sikkim.**

Our first stop will be the beautiful state of Sikkim, nestled in the magnificent Himalayas with its breath-taking scenery of towering mountains, lush valleys, gushing rivers and clear blue lakes. We will be visiting Gangtok, Tsomgo lake, Nathu-la pass on the Indo-Chinese border, the Rumtek monastery, Droul Chorthen and Enchey Monastery..

Our next stop will be Kalimpong, where we see Dello hills, Jang-Dong-Palriffo Brang and Durbin Dara hills. From there we proceed to Darjeeling where we will see the awesome sunrise over the Kanchendzonga, the third highest mountain peak in the world. We will also visit the Ghoom monastery, Batavia Loop, the Himalayan Zoological park and a tea estate.

Our final stop is Kolkata where we visit the Victoria Memorial, Ramakrishna Mutt and Dakshineswar temple. And of course, we will go shopping!

The cost of the tour will be Rs.28,000 which includes accommodation on twin-sharing basis, air fare, all meals, a/c coach for sightseeing and transfers at Kolkata, non-a/c Qualls in Sikkim, all sightseeing with English speaking guides and all entrance fees.

The first installment of Rs.8,000 which is non-refundable, has to be paid by November 15th. Members interested in joining the trip, please contact either **Shobha Hebbar** at 26411248 or 98403-38258 or **Gowri Visvanathan** at 24332627 or 98840-68888.

GEETA RAJAGOPAL

GOWRI VISVANATHAN

Last Shangri-La" - Sikkim, a paradise on earth, utopia, a distant and secluded hideaway of great beauty and peacefulness. Of monasteries and breathtaking locales, of smiling people, innocent and unspoilt by the ways of modern life.

WELCOME ABOARD

Ninna Hogedal	Danish	Ruma Majumdar	British
14 Ravi Street		3, Anu Sai Villa	
Sea Cliff Conclave		8, Crescent Street	
Akkaral, Chennai 600 119		ABM Avenue	
Tel: 6571 4286		Chennai 600 028	
Mob: 9952961570		Tel: 2431 2483	
Lena Heyman	Sweden	Berna Keen	American
12, Shanti Samudra		Sharanalaya Flat 1C	
Chinnandi Kuppam Road		11, Prithvi Avenue	
Injambakkam		2nd Street	
Chennai 600 041		R.A. Puram	
Tel: 2449 3222		Chennai 600 018	
Mobile: 9444076800		Tel: 2498 2850	

THE CITY TO BEHOLD

"I can't think of anything that excites a greater sense of child-like wonder than to be in a country where you are ignorant of almost anything." - Bill Bryson

The City of Prague, is a city to behold. One of the worlds oldest living cities, with its many historic synagogues and amazing cathedrals, it's a city that one would like to return to again.



After settling into our rooms and a quick lunch under our belts; off we went on a walking tour of the old town hall with its famous astronomical clock, a medieval clock where one sees an hourly 'walk of the apostles' show. Around the town square many of us took off to explore not just the historic sites but also to check out the best crystal shops. Cherry Venketesh gave us an insight into the maze of famous Czech crystal to see what shapes and colors would appropriately suit different Ikebana displays. Some were off with Nalini Pandey to get advice on good amber jewelry, which was another favorite stop. Others could sit at a café, sip their coffee slowly and watch the world go by. At the time of our visit, the town square was filled with soccer players of Czech Republic and Ireland having a roaring time betting on each other. The Black Theatre Show on our first night set the tone for the rest of the trip, inviting us to expect the unexpected and proving that it can be quite enjoyable.

The next day, a visit to the famous Charles Bridge saw us crossing many times over. This stone gothic bridge connects the old town and Mala Strana, and was commissioned by the Czech King and Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV in 1357. It is said that egg yolks were mixed into the mortar to strengthen the construction of the

bridge which was probably not a bad idea since they feel this bridge has survived many floods including the last one in August of 2002. Baroque statues (total of 30) are placed on either side. The most popular statue is of St. John of Nepomuk, a Czech Martyr saint who was executed during the reign of Wenceslas IV by being thrown into the Vitava River from the bridge. Touching the statue brings good luck and ensures one's return. I know I touched its shiny plaque.

There were many Czech artists, musicians, and souvenir vendors lined on both sides. We even had Hare Krishna Devotees dancing on the bridge. Later on, we enjoyed a breathtaking view of the fully lit Prague Castle against the evening sky. We were told how lucky we were that the skies had cleared for it had been raining the previous week.

In South Bohemia, we traveled via Ceske Budejovice to Cesky Krumlov, which was truly a unique architectural jewel, for it has been included in the UNESCO list of the World Heritage Sites in '92. Here, life seems idyllic, a place of nature and beauty merging seamlessly.

North Bohemia was our next stop. We visited the Melnik wine region, where our local guide Ivor enjoyed himself on the extra wine, and finished with a visit to a local castle. With all the cobble stones in place one could imagine horse's hooves thundering in and out of these castle walls. We were able to make a stop at Wenceslas Square in the afternoon, for more sightseeing and shopping. This is one of two main squares in central Prague, it is a 750m long and 60m wide boulevard laid out more than 600 years ago during the reign of Charles IV. It was originally used as the main Prague horse market. At the top of the square is the statue of St Wenceslas – a striking figure the good King Wenceslas I was. In the museum, where his painting is displayed, Sharanya accompanied by others broke out into the Good King Wenceslas song, surprising our guide. Sharanya herself was our knowledgeable in-house reference guide throughout the trip. Behind the statue, is the monumental national museum and State Opera House to its left. As one walks down this vibrant area, you see hotels, apartments, restaurants, bars, clubs and more shops. Sounds of

Jazz music beckoned us out one evening and the swaying salsa music for the adventurous few on another night. At one of our dinner evenings, we had Nalini Ramakrishna Sr. leading Dr. Pritika on the dance floor. All were game for a bit of fun.

The next day, a short flight took us to Budapest. One of Eastern Europe's most fascinating cities, although not as enticing as Prague, strikes a nice balance between nature and development. On the Buda side of the city on Castle Hill, is the Buda Castle, which houses the National Gallery, the city's history museum and a contemporary arts museum.

The next day was a full day trip to Esztergom for a scenic Hungarian countryside experience with the charming artist's town of Szentendre, gateway to the picturesque Danube Bend region. This town of arts and museums with its charming, Mediterranean-style architecture was a great place to wind down, presenting a smorgasbord of sights, sounds, smells and lights impossible to find elsewhere. Our resident photographer, Dr. Pritika made sure photos were taken at all the right spots. I'm sure she will charge us the next time round.

On our first night in Budapest, some of us made a visit to the famous Gundel Restaurant, its food based on traditional Hungarian cuisine. At Gundels with a one-hundred-year history we enjoyed a full 7-course meal, seated at tables with white linen and full silver service. It felt we were seated at the tables of East European aristocracy.

The next day, following dinner at a local restaurant we had an energetic Hungarian dance troupe entertain us bringing our memorable trip to a close. As we prepared for our return I know I would miss the closeness and the camaraderie of these ladies, but the spirit of adventure and challenge of new frontiers is alive and well amongst the IWA ladies. A big thanks for their efforts to History, Culture and Tours chairpersons, Geeta Rajagopal and Gowri Visvanathan and for picking the perfect place to visit!

VIJAYA BHARATHI RANGARAJ



SUNNY SIDE UP

Things to ponder

- When cheese gets its picture taken, what does it say?
- Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist, but a person who drives a race car is not called a racist?
- Why are wise man and a wise guy opposites?
- Why do overlook and oversee mean opposite things?
- If horrific means to make horrible, does terrific mean to make terrible?
- Why isn't 11 pronounced onety one?

Signs & Notices

On a River/highway crossing: "Take Notice — When this sign is under water, the road is impassable."

In a City restaurant: "Open seven days a week and weekends."

In a cemetery: "Persons are prohibited from picking flowers from any but their own graves."

At used cars shop: "Used Cars? Why go elsewhere to be cheated. Come here first."

At a sale: "Dog for sale - eats anything and is fond of children."



Wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous Diwali

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2007- 2008

MANAGING COMMITTEE

PRESIDENTS

Kamala Prasad	26283809	99401 41177
Raziyeh Sheerazie	28363687	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	26362499	98400 81678

CURRENT EVENTS

Anuradha Sachdev	26341349	99401 03458
Balveer Singh	24984989	99401 83839

HEALTH & ECOLOGY

Asha Hemdev	26278165	98403 43528
Bilkis Moosa	24349934	98840 50450

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS

Geetha Rajagopal	24984168	98400 52899
Gowri Visvanathan	24332627	98840 68888

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

Sadiya Khaleel	62591015	98840 50686
Uma Ganesan	24529276	99406 52588

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Geeta Vasudevan	24915913	98843 63550
Pia Olander		98404 58630