



Chennai

April 2011
News letter



vibrantly diverse, yet one.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2010 - 2011
MANAGING COMMITTEE**

PRESIDENTS		
Mridula Srinivasan	24321028	9840931812
Uma Ganesan	24472682	9940652588
VICE PRESIDENTS		
Prithika Chary	24997878/ 2310	9840038752
Jansi Kishore	24961145	9841589896
SECRETARIES		
Zainab Kachwalla	28292274	9840853652
Jennifer Moore	9940065292	9840892782
TREASURERS		
Archana Meiyappan	28473932	9840998800
Manisha Singhee	24991482	9841035003

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS		
Nita Reddy	24990717	9962530717
Karen Krizman (Saurer)	42112251	9789027090
BOOK DISCUSSION		
Gayatri Krishnaswami	28331789	9444383455
Janet Haughton Quarshie	24512401	9884187719
COOKING SWAPSHOP		
Somna Sachdev	28330232/ 45040001	9841022922
Juliet Meikle	24531426	9566260268
CURRENT EVENTS		
E. Rajeshwari Sathyanarayana	26211934	9443946789
Shanta Narayan	24421707	9840040486
HEALTH & ECOLOGY		
Deepali Goyal	24313144	9840442260
Bess Simkin	24333565	9791172021
HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS		
Neena Sanghavi	28362313	9381029132
Sue Cook		9677020407
MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS		
Asha Rammohan	28332006/ 28330858	9840039958
Ann Mathew	2449 4847	9840025169
PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION		
Usha Jawahar	26412688	9841025166
Reena Nirula	24961031	9884027722

IWA NEWSLETTER

Volume XXV No.11

Chennai

APRIL 2011

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Sat. 2nd Apr.	Election	10.00 a.m. to 02.00 p.m.
Mon. 4th Apr.	Managing Committee Meeting Executive Committee Meeting	11.15 a.m. 12.15 p.m.
Wed. 6th Apr.	Current Events <i>Prescription for a clean India</i>	10.15 a.m.
Fri. 8th Apr.	Arts & Handicrafts <i>Photography</i>	10.15 a.m.
Tue. 12th Apr.	Book Discussion <i>Woman Matters: for better or verse</i>	10.15 a.m.
Fri. 15th Apr.	History, Culture & Tours <i>A Different Pilgrimage</i>	10.15 a.m.
Tue. 19th Apr.	Book Discussion Cooking Swapshop <i>The F - Word by Mita Kapur</i>	10.15 a.m.
Wed. 27th Apr.	Annual General Meeting	10.00 a.m.

IWA Blog Site : www.iwachennai.blogspot.com

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear Friends,



Goodbyes are never easy but an inevitable part of life, whether you say *Auf Wiedersehen* or *Au Revoir* or *Adjo!*. This is the last newsletter from both of us, in a year of change.

Some new byelaws came into place such as photographs of new applicants being published before consideration of their candidature, some revised guidelines for elections to the IWA Managing Committee and attendance requirements at AGMs.

It has been a busy year, as every IWA year is, and has given us an opportunity to work together as a team with the members of the Managing and Executive Committees. We appreciated the full potential of each and every member of the team and extend our heartfelt gratitude to them as this IWA year would not have been possible without their effort and cooperation.

We extend our grateful thanks to the Advisory, Election and Music Committees for all their inputs. A special thanks to **Vanitha Mudaliar** for her support to IWA for the venue of our annual elections and for receiving fresh membership applications and mail at our registered office. Many thanks to **Rani Ananth** for her timely and efficient management of the IWA 'blogspot'.

We hope you enjoyed the end of year celebration 'Under the Stars' and hope to see you at the **AGM on 27th April**. We would request those of you who cannot make it to the AGM to write in and advise the Presidents/Membership Secretary accordingly seeking leave of absence.

Thank you all for your sponsorship, friendship and fellowship. We extend our felicitations and best wishes in advance to the new team of office-bearers for the year 2011-12.

MRIDULA SRINIVASAN

UMA GANESAN

MANAGING COMMITTEE

Mon 4th April at 11.15 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mon 4th April at 12.15 p.m.

Meetings hosted by
Mridula Srinivasan
and
Uma Ganesan

The Park Hotel
601, Anna Salai
Chennai - 600 006

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENTS

We are very grateful to the Presidents, the managing committee, the executive committee and all the members of IWA for their support, encouragement and faith in trusting us with the important responsibility of bringing out the newsletter and other responsibilities of Vice president. We enjoyed doing this and could not have done it without the help of everyone. We wish all of you happy summer holidays and look forward to continued fellowship and camaraderie in the coming years.

Several of us have moved home and changed location and phone numbers this year. Quite a few others have left IWA and moved to other cities or their home countries.

An addendum of these changes has been compiled and will soon be ready to supplement the telephone directory.

PRITHIKA CHARY

JANSI KISHORE

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

I have enjoyed the role of Secretary. 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 all along the way to ensure that whatever decisions we made would help IWA become stronger and a better organization.

REMINDERS

- Please return your renewal forms together with your cheques for the annual Membership Fee of Rs.2000 made out to "IWA Chennai". This can be done at the AGM, or by post or hand delivered. The closing date is June 30th, 2011.
- To ensure our records are up to date, please complete all sections of the renewal form accurately.
- In the case of Non-Indians who are departing Chennai, please send a letter or email informing that you will not be renewing your membership. This will enable us to fill your slot quickly with another interested applicant.

All members are reminded that they should inform in writing, or by email, if they are likely to be absent for a month or more. This should be done prior to, or at the beginning of each absence.

ZAINAB A KACHWALLA

FROM THE TREASURER

Another IWA year has flown past! It has been an exciting and enjoyable one. This would not have been possible without the contributions of all of you- home hostesses, co-hostesses and sponsors. A big thank you to all of you.

Thanks to the Activity chairpersons for meticulously planning their meeting finances and presenting their accounts month after month on time. Thanks to the Management Committee for their support and guidance throughout the year.

I wish the incoming committee all the best

ARCHANA MEIYAPPAN

ELECTIONS

The Election Committee has submitted its report for election of office bearers for the year 2011 - 2012. The voting will be at the IWA Registered office.

At: IWA Registered Office
857, Poonamallee High Road
Kilpauk
Chennai - 600 010
(Enter NIIT gate immediately after Breeze Hotel)

MRIDULA SRINIVASAN

UMA GANESAN

FROM THE ELECTION COMMITTEE

Based on the nominations received, we are happy to announce that the following members have been elected **unopposed** to the posts mentioned against each:

	Presidents	
Indian		Non - Indian
Nina Kothari		Cherry Venkatesan
-----	Vice President	
		Bharati Nair Gopinath.
-----	Secretary	
		Priya Asokan
-----	Treasurer	
		Jennifer Arun

Our congratulations to them and our very best wishes for a successful term.

FROM THE ELECTION COMMITTEE

Elections shall be held for the following posts:

Post	Candidate (names in alphabetical order)
Vice President - Indian	Urmilla Agarwal Zainab Kachwalla Ramani Reddy
Membership Secretary (Indian)	Kausalya Jaganmohan Fazeela Nurdeen Nita Reddy
Treasurer - Indian	Nabila Avais Deepali Goyal Asha Rammohan

Voting shall take place on Saturday, April 2nd, 2011 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

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

On completion of counting of votes, successful candidates for the above three posts shall be announced.

Nirmal Mirza,	Chairperson
Seema Bhargava	Member
Mridula Narasimhan	Member
Padma Ashok	Member
Jaya Tambay-Patwardhan	Member

CURRENT EVENTS

Wednesday, 6th April at 10.15 a.m.

At: Madras Boat Club
Boat Club Road
Chennai 600 028

Prescription for a clean India

N.Vittal, an IAS officer, occupied key policy making positions in government, as Secretary to Government of India in the department of Electronics (now renamed as the Ministry of Information Technology) from 1990-1996 and was the Chairman of the Telecom Commission and Secretary to the Department of Telecommunications from 1993-1994.

The Business Today magazine, in August 1997, included him in the list of 50 persons who have made a contribution to the economic development of the country. In 1998, he was appointed as the Central Vigilance Commissioner, and in that capacity he was able to bring greater visibility, credibility and effectiveness in this organization. He is remembered for using information technology to fight corruption for the first time in the world

N. Vittal is going to touch upon the very sensitive subject of Corruption. Just as a human body which is diseased requires a medical prescription, so does the present society which is steeped in corruption and scams. What is the prescription then for a corruption free India ?

RAJESHWARI SATHYANARAYANA SHANTA NARAYAN

Our heartfelt condolences to Chandra Seoni on the passing away of her husband



ARTS & HANDICRAFTS

Friday, 8th April at 10.15 a.m.

At: **Madras Boat Club**
Boat Club Road
Chennai - 600 028



Photography

The word Photography is based on a Greek word in which 'Photos' means light and 'graphe' means drawing, together meaning drawing with light.

Photography is the process, activity and art of creating pictures by recording radiation on a radiation sensitive medium such as photographic film or electronic image sensors.

Sunder is a professional fashion and advertising photographer since 1994 and he is also into editorial and fine art photography.

Sunder will give us a peep into the history of photography and the progress in technology. There will be a small presentation of his work and a short interactive session breaking down any chosen images as he explains how to shoot them. Sunder will also give us an insight into how the professional photography industry works.

We thank **Rekha Batla** for facilitating this meeting.
Our sincere thanks to our gracious hostess **Seema Sait**.

NITA REDDY

KAREN SAURER

BOOK DISCUSSION

Tuesday, 12th April at 10.15 a.m.

At: **The Presidency Club**
Ethiraj Salai, Egmore
Chennai - 600 008



Woman Matters: for better or verse

This poetry reading will unfold a fascinating range of poems celebrating the dynamic spirit of women across cultures.

In capturing a brilliant synthesis of multiple voices, the selected poems will display an extraordinary fusion of the spiritual and the erotic, the political and the aesthetic, the exotic and the everyday, packed with wit and good humour.

Dr Renuka Rajaratnam has selected the poems and directs the performance. Renuka is Associate Researcher at the CORE (Centre for Research in English), Manchester Metropolitan University, UK. Her areas of research include Migration Studies, Contemporary Women's Writing and Cosmopolitanism in Literature. She has conducted several interviews with writers and poets and organised poetry readings, and literary events for the University, BBC Manchester and the British Council, Chennai

The poems are read by: **Indrani Krishnaiyer, Kiran Rao, Rathi Jafer and Kaveri Lalchand**. Visual Design is by **A. Raghuram**

GAYATRI KRISHNASWAMI

JANET QUARSHIE

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS

Friday, 15th April, 10.15 a.m.

American Consulate General (Auditorium)
Near Anna Flyover
220, Cathedral Road, Chennai -600 006.

A Different Pilgrimage

S. Krishnaswamy and his wife **Mohana** who first shot to fame with their 'Indus Valley to Indira Gandhi' in 1976, have a feature length documentary, 'A Different Pilgrimage' which was premiered at the Indian Pavilion of the Cannes International Festival in May, 2010.

The film explores ancient India's cultural and religious impact on South East Asia. The camera meanders along tens of locations in Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam showing us the phenomenally strong links these nations share with India, its heritage and culture – links which extended far beyond Buddhism. What is amazing to see is that century old temples and monuments keep alive Indian tradition till this day and some of the dance forms in these countries have been inspired by Hindu mythology!

IWA will be screening this well researched and marvelously photographed documentary that took 4 years to complete and will help us traverse an exciting path of discovery.

- Please be at the venue by 10 a.m. and bring your IWA newsletter.
- You will need an original Government issued photo ID – such as passport, driving license, voter ID, Pan Card. (No photocopies allowed).
- Due to security restrictions, no cell phones, laptops, cameras and any other digital electronic media will be allowed inside the Consulate building.
- Please be aware that all individuals and their belongings are subject to search by Consulate Security Staff.
- Guests are welcome. But you have to warn in your guest with **Neena Sanghavi between 8th and 11th April.**

We are extremely grateful to **Bess Simkin** for organizing this hall for us.

NEENA SANGHAVI

SUE COOK



BOOK DISCUSSION COOKING SWAPSHOP

Tuesday, 19th April at 10.15 a.m.

At: **The Presidency Club**
Ethiraj Salai, Egmore
Chennai 600 008



The F - Word by Mita Kapur

This book is a madcap account of a working woman who spends all day - and sometimes part of the night - juggling family, friends, long-distance phone calls and food. How do you serve up a nutritious yet delicious meal to a large family of individuals of varying ages with extreme differences in taste? Above all what does a woman do to keep them all - partner, children, in-laws, pals - healthy and happy at the same time, without quietly going out of her mind. This is a feisty journey into the food world garnished with personal stories of joy. To quote Shobhaa De ' the F- Word makes the entire experience of enjoying food incredibly sexy! A literary *bhojan* to be enjoyed with friends, lovers, and yes...family, too!

Mita Kapur runs a literary agency based in Jaipur, which also conceptualises and directs literary events. She writes for various newspapers and magazines on subjects ranging from women's rights to lifestyle and food.

Parvathi Nayar who will review this book for us is an artist with a studio in Chennai. She is also a freelance writer on literature and the arts.

GAYATRI KRISHNASWAMI
SOMNA SACHDEV

JANET QUARSHIE

Thanks to **Tina Malhotra** for graciously hosting the meeting on 31st March. Grateful thanks to **Sabita Shetty** and **Usha Jawahar** for co-hosting the Book Discussion in January and to **Sushila Nataraj** and **Pushpa Lakshman** for co-hosting the February meeting.

IWA TRIP TO KARNATAKA & GOA

23 of us enthusiastic IWA members with Lalitha our tour leader set off on our 9 day tour of Karnataka and Goa in the Shatabdi to Bangalore & then by airconditioned coach to Hassan to Goa.

This was a perfect amalgam of temples, churches and joy capers. A sort of pilgrimage with some fun thrown in.

Shravanabelagola with the imposing Gomateshwara the monolithic statue of a Jain saint was our first stop. The walk up the mountain of 600 steps was a small test for our fitness levels, but those of us who did it were awestruck by the impressive monolithic statue. Some of us did it halfway and some of us opted to stay downhill and look around. We realized then that there were a good number of senior citizens in our group and we were impressed by their positive attitude and eagerness to participate in every aspect of the trip. The southern star hotel in **Hassan** was comfortable and served a good breakfast.

Belur was our next destination. It is a functioning temple since its inception in 1117AD, built by the Hoysala King Vishnuwardana to commemorate his conversion from Jainism to vaishnavism. The sculptural ornamentation is unbelievable! The main structure of the temple is star shaped, and built on a raised platform, the star being repeated in the entire structure at multiple levels. The walls with 650 charging elephants, each different from the other is a work of architectural excellence. Hand lathe turned shining pillars and the 4 famous bracket figures inspired by the beauty of Shantala devi, King Vishnuwardana's queen, are unforgettable.

Halebidu the 12th century marvel built by Ketamela. It was known as Dwara samudra, shaped like a casket, and sculpturally embellished. The Nandi figures are majestically imposing. The walls have a profusion of symbols of Hindu mythology: animals, birds & *Shilabalikas*, but no two sculptures are similar. These historical visits were planned pre and post lunch so that we could enjoy the visual splendour without being overwhelmed

On the 24th, it was a long drive to see the *Kukke Subramanya* shrine. *Kukke* means basket, legend says that the local people covered the Shivalingas with baskets to protect them.

Dharmasthala was our next stop. This *Kshetram* is an exemplary manifestation of communal harmony. We enjoyed lunch in the common dining hall where free *Annadaanam* is mandatory.

Moodabidri was a disappointment. We were wondering where the 1000 pillars were?!

Our home that night & the following night was Paradise Isle Resort on Maple beach in **Udupi**. The location on a quiet, clean beach was perfect. We spent the evening & night on the sands playing dumb charades and walking on the sands.

Murudeshwar is a modern temple with a huge *Gopuram* and a gigantic image of Lord Shiva on a hillock. Everything was opulent. The coastline with the waves of the sea lapping the sands was beautiful! Fantastic views from the 18th floor of the temple gopuram .

Gokarna (cow's ear) - Om beach resort. Lovely location with quaint independent cottages, in the midst of sylvan surroundings made up for the lack of amenities. Lalitha arranged a dance around a bonfire by the local people of African origin and of course, the visit to the sea shore at sunset was unforgettable! The local Shiva temple has a *Swayambhu* lingam and Lord Shiva was supposed to have emerged from the ear of the cow.

Panjim Inn Welcom group was our home for the next three nights. Built in the late 1800s this beautiful home is owned by the same family for 5 generations. Each guest room is designed differently with a profusion of antique wooden furniture.

We visited a heritage home belonging to Francis Xavier Breganza and still lived in by his descendants. There was an overwhelming display of English, French, Belgian, Dutch, Chinese, Japanese, German artefacts and also exquisitely carved furniture mostly made by local Goan craftsmen.

Goa has 29 beaches. Calangute is supposed to be the queen among them. We had lunch at Nostalgia, which serves authentic Goan food and is the recipient of the Times Food Award 2010. The prawn almondegas & baby mutton xacuti were well appreciated. The vegetarians among our group had a trying time with menus.

The food and service at Panjim Inn was simple, efficient and uncomplicated. The smiling faces of Jack and his pretty wife, the owners made us feel very much at home

Other things we did in Goa:

The Church of our Lady of the Rosary, a fortress church, strategically located to warn against enemy attack, had engraved teak woodwork.

Church of Santa Monica, an active convent, called thus as Santa Monica is buried here, has a crucifix here which is supposed to have shed tears during calamities.

Basilica of Bom Jesus: The pulpits and confessionals have depictions of Indian flora and fauna (cashew fruit, parrots, peacocks etc.) denoting Indian workers. The remains of St. Francis Xavier are kept in a coffin here. This is a World heritage monument.

Cajetun Church: The dome resembles St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The pulpit again has lotus, pomegranate and cashew fruit in carved wooden detail.

Visited the holy Mangueshi shrine of Lord Shiva, and the Shanta Durga Shrine. The 1 p.m. *arthi* with the sun being reflected on Durga's face was unforgettable!

The Sahakari spice village was our lunch destination and tour of the premises educated us on Indian spices which we saw in the natural state.

Learnt here that 'feni' is a pure alcohol drink distilled from the cashew. Also used for medicinal purposes.

RAMANIREDDY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of IWA will be held on **Wednesday, the 27th of April, 2011** at

GRT Convention Centre
Marigold Hall
120, Sir Thyagaraja Road
T. Nagar, Chennai - 600 017.

REGISTRATION and REFRESHMENTS 10.00 a.m.

The Agenda for the meeting will be as follows:

- ★ Welcome Address Uma Ganesan
- ★ Secretary's Report Jennifer Moore
- ★ Membership Secretary's Report Zainab Kachwalla
- ★ Treasurer's Report Archana Meiyappan
- ★ Adoption of the Audited Accounts for the year 2010 - 2011
- ★ Appointment of Auditors for 2011-2012.
- ★ **To consider and if thought fit, to pass the following resolution with or without modifications:**

"Resolved that the Membership Committee meetings be chaired by the Presidents assisted by the Membership Secretary"

Explanation for the item:

The Membership Secretary is on the Membership Committee for the first time. She is the link between the Committee and the Members. This naturally involves a lot of work and responsibility. Chairing the Membership Committee meetings would be an additional responsibility. The Presidents, on the other hand, have already served on the Membership Committee in one capacity or the other and with their experience and knowledge of the working

of this committee are in a better position to chair the meetings assisted by the Membership Secretary.

✧ Remarks by the outgoing President **Mridula Srinivasan**

✧ Any other business

✧ Introduction of Election Committee **Nirmal Mirza**
Chairperson

✧ Presentation of the new Managing Committee 2011 - 2012

✧ Address by the incoming Presidents

✧ Introduction of the new Executive Committee

✧ Vote of thanks **Tehnaz Darius Bahadurji**

Note: Copies of the Accounts and Reports of the various Activities will be available for members to peruse.

MRIDULA SRINIVASAN

UMA GANESAN

KEEP TABS ON YOUR ATTENDANCE

Every month jot down the meetings you have attended in the column below. This will help you keep track of whether you have completed your ten meetings.

MEETING	DATE
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	