

December at a glance

2 Mon	10.00 ^{AM} Managing Committee 11.30 ^{AM} Executive Committee
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3 Tue	10.15 ^{AM} Arts & Handicrafts & Book Discussion
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5 Thu	10.15 ^{AM} Cooking Swapshop
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10 Tue	10.15 ^{AM} History, Culture & Tours
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13 Fri	04.00 ^{PM} Christmas Celebration
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To learn more, visit the IWA web site: www.iwachennai.com

IWA Newsletter	Volume XXVIII No.7	Chennai
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From the Presidents

Dear Friends,

Our IWA woman, in her indigo avatar, ushers in winter. December temperatures do dip a bit in Chennai and late nights and early mornings are pleasantly cool.

Winter immediately brings to mind Robert Frost's most famous poem, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening", the first verse of which is quoted below:

*Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village, though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow...*

With winter comes Christmas! Do come and partake in our Xmas merriment on December 13th.

We have an exciting **India trip** planned for you in **February**. As a part of the trip we will enjoy the experience of the Festival of Sacred Music held at Thiruvaiyaru. Hop on board for five days of cultural enrichment and IWA fun.

2013 is drawing to a close! Please check on your attendance which will be available at all meetings this month.

On behalf of the Board and the Activity Chairpersons, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Happy Holidays!

NITA REDDY

PRIYA ASOKAN

2 Mon	10.00 ^{AM} Managing Committee 11.00 ^{AM} Tea & Snacks 11.30 ^{AM} Executive Committee Presidency Club Platinum Point Room Ethiraj Salai, Egmore Chennai 600 008
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Meetings are hosted by **Jeyasree Ravi** and **Rigmor Ekstrand**

From the Treasurer

**RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD
1st April 2013 TO 31st October 2013**

RECEIPTS	Amount
To Opening Balance -Cash	35546.00
To Opening Balance -Canara Bank SB	296468.81
To Opening Balance-FD	1029869.00
Sub Total	1361883.81
To Member Subscription	594000.00
To New Membership	60000.00
To Hostess Contribution	3000.00
To Guest Charges	11950.00
To Interest on Fixed Deposits	64730.00
To Sale of Telephone Directory, Bye-Laws Books & Badges	300.00
To Diwali Celebration	21550.00
To Bank Charges	112.00
To Savings Bank Interest	10870.00
Total	2128395.81
PAYMENTS	
By AGM Expenses 2012-2013	66856.00
By Gift Articles	25400.00
By Founder's Day Celebration	23519.00
By Fellowship Morning	14790.00
By Meetings	57972.00
By Accounting Charges	32200.00
By Postage and Courier Charges	14912.00
By Printng and Stationery Charges	25600.00
By International Music Day	11012.00
By Office Maintenance (Transportation for Shifting)	3160.00
By IWA Website Updation Charges	6000.00
By Rates and Taxes	3700.00
By Bank Charges	196.00
By Closing Balance-Cash	36381.00
By Closing Balance-Canara bank SB	748630.81
By Closing Balance-Fixed Deposits	100000.00
By Closing Balance-Fixed Deposits	424354.00
By Closing Balance-Fixed Deposits	5515.00
By Closing Balance-Fixed Deposits	500000.00
By Advance paid to Chairpersons	24000.00
By Tax Deducted at Source	4198.00
Sub Total	1843078.81
Total	2128395.81

ACHU KURIAN

From the Membership Secretary

The record of attendance will be tabled at all meetings during the month of December 2013 and once again in February 2014. Please take note of your individual tally and make up any shortfall during the following months.

Please remember that attendance of 10 meetings during the IWA year must be completed before 31st March 2014. Meetings in April will count towards attendance for the 2014-2015 IWA year.

Members are also reminded that guests may attend **only four** meetings during the IWA year irrespective of which member signs them in. Daughters and daughters-in-law are exempt from this rule.

Letters regarding leave of absence should be addressed to the membership secretary and sent to the registered office address or the address below.

Thank you for your co-operation!

Chris Bomstad
B-10-1 Navin's Dayton Heights
76 Nelson Manickam Road
Chennai 600 029

From the Membership Secretary

From among the applications received by the Membership Committee, the following have been selected as Special Guests:

- Sherry Dhanju Batliwala**
- Thejomaye Menon**
- Sabina Narayan**
- Sharmilee Nielsen**
- Sheetal Parakh**
- Hemu Ramaiah**
- Rajini Reddy**

I thank every member of the Membership Committee for their dedication, effort and meticulousness in the selection process, and a special thanks to Chris Bomstad for her able assistance.

SHARMILA RAMJI

3 Tue	<p>10.15 ^{A.M} E Hotel Express Avenue Mall Gate No.1, Pattulos Road Chennai 600 002</p>	
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Gem of a Story

- 10 Jewels, 10 Stories

The aura of jewellery is such that it evokes a multitude of emotions, sometimes even simultaneously. Jewels handed down over generations, while inciting pride in the possessor, may cause jealousy in the bosoms of the ones who almost had them. Jewellery created as tokens of love are deeply cherished, however over time might be tagged with the title of 'cursed' if it has seen many downfalls. The mystery, beauty and glamour of jewellery captures the imagination and gemstones are mentioned in many ancient fairy tales and legends from the Arabian Nights to the Brothers' Grimm's Tales, from ancient Indian folklore to the more recent stories of the Nizam's jewels; facts and fables about gems have been a part of our lives.

Please join us as **Mithun Sacheti** shares 10 true and exciting gem stories with us. Mithun is a jeweller who has studied at the Gemological Institute of America and is currently the director of Jaipur Gems.

We thank **Shobha Hebbar, Seema Sait** and **Sheela Shetty** for graciously sponsoring this meeting and **Shanthy Verghese** for sponsoring the audio-visual equipment.

We thank **Anita Bhatia** for being our day facilitator.

AMITA BHATIA
 LAKSHMI MENON

FARAH BANGERA
 ANJALI SACHETI

Heartiest congratulations go to **Mano Bakthavatsalam** on having received the Margarett Golding Award from the International Inner Wheel, bestowed on her for outstanding and meritorious community service.

5 Thu	<p>10.15 ^{A.M} Pan Asian Restaurant ITC Grand Chola 63 Mount Road, Guindy Chennai 600 032</p>	
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Mixology: To Shake, Stir or Build?

Hannah Keirl, Bar Manager and Beverage Specialist, will allow us a glimpse into the fascinating world of cocktails and unveil a little of the mystery surrounding her personal passion – Mixology.

Hannah, a young and sparkling Australian, began her hospitality career in 1806, not the year but the prohibition style cocktail bar in Australia, which won the World's Best Cocktail Bar 2007 & 2008. She has worked in various cocktail bars worldwide, creating new cocktails and teaching bar staff the art of mixing and building, a unique art melding together the sense of taste, smell and sight.

Today she will show us how to create balance in a cocktail or mocktail and explain what creates the difference between shaken, stirred or muddled cocktails. She will demonstrate 3 possible combinations and give one or two of us a hands-on experience of creating a mixed drink!

We would like to thank **Ranjani Venkataraghavan** for being our day facilitator.

Please note this is a Members only meeting.

URMILLA AGARWAL

GAY WEIR

Our sincere condolences to **Sushi Goklaney** on the loss of her husband.

10 Tue	<p>10.15 AM E Hotel Express Avenue Mall Gate No.1, Pattulos Road Chennai 600 002</p>	
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Live life Leh Ladakh style!

Eminent carnatic vocalist, **TM Krishna**, IWA's own fitness fanatic, **Vidya Singh** and **Badri Vijayaraghavan**, who is passionate about both music and fitness, spent two weeks in Ladakh, in the Valleys of Zanskar and Markha and the mountain town of Leh, living in camp sites, trekking through the stark and beautiful mountains and reaching the Stok Kangri Peak.

It was an amazing fourteen days where they pushed the physical boundaries of their abilities and came away enriched by the experience; by the wonderful visuals of the ever changing mountains each day, by the people that they encountered on their journey and most importantly by what each of them took back with them as their personal achievements of this totally amazing experience!

We are indeed in luck to have all three of them address us and share with us their sojourn in this mystical land.

We would like to thank our sponsors **Meena Naru** and **Sheela Sarath** for their generous contribution.

We would also like to thank **Surekha Kothari** for being our day facilitator.

THAYABAE KAKAR

MICHELE SEGALA

In everyone's life, at some time, our inner fire goes out. It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being. We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit.

Albert Schweitzer

13 Fri	<p>04.00 PM Asha Murthi's Residence 10, Krishnama Road, Nungambakkam Chennai 600 034 (Behind Taj Coromandel Hotel) Tel: 2827 9115</p>
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A Holly Jolly Christmas

Can you almost taste that tang of frost on the grass early in the morning or can you see a hint of snow in the clouds? You're right – winter is here and Christmas is just around the corner!!!

So with the sound of Santa's bells and a cup a warming spiced punch in your hand we are headed to a Winter Wonderland with our Wassail Team, stopping over on a front lawn and searching for reindeer!

It will be an action packed meeting! Ready your vocal chords to join in with well known Carols, tune up those grey cells to pick up some interesting tidbits about Christmas celebrations elsewhere and with any luck we will catch a glimpse of Someone Special dressed in Red!!

We thank all our choir members for joining in and rehearsing for this very special event, the enthusiasm has been infectious and the support unparalleled!

Please note this is an evening meeting open to Members Only.

NITA REDDY

PRIYA ASOKAN

THE BOARD



Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

Calvin Coolidge

Chennai Express!

IWA's India Trip - 19th to 23rd February, 2014

Here's your chance to see the Srirangam Temple, Rock Fort Temple, Velankanni Church, Nagore Dargah and end the trip with a rich cultural experience - the Festival of Sacred Music organized by the Prakriti Foundation!

19th February – Fly to Srirangam, visit the Ranganathar Swamy Temple and the Rock Fort Temple. Transfer to Thanjavur by bus.

20th February – Visit Velankanni Church and Nagore Dargah. Return to Thanjavur to partake in the Festival of Sacred Music.

The festival will feature evening performances by:

21st February - **Vidya Shah**, a well known Hindustani Vocalist - in a courtyard of a Maratha Palace. Listen to Kabir on the banks of the River Cauvery!

22nd February - come and hear firsthand the story of **Sri Umayalpuram Sivaraman's** musical journey at the Pushya Mahal Ghat – he is a direct descendant of Saint Tyagaraja, the patron saint of Thiruvaiyaru.

23rd February - Enjoy a flute concert by **Shashank** near the Amman Sannidhi of Panchanatheeswara Temple – Shashank was an IWA Music Day Awardee!

We will have V. R. Devika walk us through the following heritage sites during the festival days:

- Dharasuram and Swami Malai
- Thanjavur Big temple and a visit to the Palace and the museum
- Tiruvarur (to see the Muchukunda Murals at the Devashriya Mandapam)

The package cost is Rs. 24,500/-. This includes stay on a twin sharing basis, local transportation, all meals, one way air travel and return by Chennai Express! We will travel back with the entire festival troupe, making the return journey especially memorable.

Please warn in by December 16th, 2013, and do pay in your amount by the date, as we have to book air tickets, the hotel room and train tickets. Contact **Thayabae Kakar at 98407 66135** or **Michele Segala at 98405 43997** in order to do so.

THAYABAE KAKAR

MICHELE SEGALA

A warm welcome to our new members:

Mina Bailey UK
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Winter Wonderful Mixed Drinks

Pilgrim's Cider

2 cups water
 1/2 cup dark brown sugar
 1 teaspoon grated orange zest
 1 teaspoon coriander seeds
 1 teaspoon ground allspice
 1/4 teaspoon grated nutmeg
 2 teaspoons whole cloves
 4 cinnamon sticks
 1/3 cup fresh lime or lemon juice
 4 pints apple cider, warmed

1. Place the water, brown sugar, orange zest and spices in a small saucepan. Bring to the boil, reduce the heat and simmer for 15 minutes.
2. Place a sieve or a colander lined with cheesecloth/muslin over a large pre-warmed bowl. Strain the spice mixture. Add the lemon/lime juice and apple cider to the punch bowl and stir.
3. Serve in punch cups – Serves 20.

Mock Moose Milk

3 cups milk
 3 table spoons sugar
 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
 1 teaspoon rum flavouring

1. In a small, heavy saucepan heat the milk just until tiny bubbles form around the edge. Remove from the heat.
2. Add the rest of the ingredients to the milk. Stir well to blend.
3. Serve immediately in heated mugs or pour into a thermos to serve later on – Serves 3 mugs.

Eskimo Punch

3 cups Apricot Nectar
 3 cups pineapple juice
 2 pints orange juice, preferably fresh
 2 pints 7-up
 2 pints ginger ale or club soda, chilled
 Pineapple cubes and maraschino cherries for garnish.

1. Combine all juices in a punch bowl and stir.
2. Add some ice cubes and gently mix in the 7-up and ginger ale.
3. Serve with fruit kabob garnishes – serves 28 punch cups.

Neurberger Cookies

German Cookies Slightly Changed!

4 tablespoons of honey or golden syrup (or half and half)
 470gms sugar
 4 eggs
 1½ teaspoons cinnamon
 ½ teaspoon ground cloves
 ½ teaspoon ground ginger (or nutmeg or cardamom)
 70gms candied lemon peel – finely chopped
 60gms candied orange peel - finely chopped
 70gms pecans roughly chopped
 60gms almonds finely chopped
 500gms plain flour
 1 teaspoon baking powder.

Warm honey/syrup in a bowl, add eggs and beat well until foamy.

Add all dry ingredients, mix well and knead lightly.

Cover bowl and leave in a cool place for one day if possible to improve the flavour.

Grease and flour a baking tray, form small balls with the dough and place on the tray. Press with a fork to flatten.

Bake for 15 minutes centre of oven at 180°C / 375°F.

Cool on wire rack.

*Optional

Could taste fantastic with a little Cognac or Grappa!

Glaze lightly with a lemon juice icing made by mixing 2 teaspoons of lemon juice with one cup of sifted icing sugar.

Really easy cookies, which taste even better the next day!



"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?"

Bob Hope