

<b>1</b> Tue	10.00 <sup>AM</sup> Managing Committee 11.00 <sup>AM</sup> Executive Committee
<b>4</b> Fri	10.15 <sup>AM</sup> Book Discussion
<b>7</b> Mon	10.15 <sup>AM</sup> Arts & Handicrafts
<b>8</b> Tue	10.15 <sup>AM</sup> Music & Performing Arts
<b>10</b> Thu	<b>04.00 <sup>PM</sup></b> Current Events
<b>14</b> Mon	<b>11.00 <sup>AM</sup></b> <b>Christmas Festivity</b>

To learn more, visit the IWA web site: [www.iwachennai.com](http://www.iwachennai.com)

**From the Presidents**

Dear Friends,

IWA members had a rare opportunity to listen to **His Holiness the Dalai Lama**, the revered spiritual leader of the Tibetans. The Dalai Lama's compassion and humility have attracted millions all over the world to Tibetan Buddhism and it was a truly enriching experience listening to his views on "Human Touch to World Peace". Our thanks to **Aasha Reddy**, for giving us the wonderful opportunity to hear the inspiring message of the Dalai Lama.

December brings us cooler weather and the advent of the holiday season. December also brings in the Christmas spirit, with Santa and presents, mince pies and mistletoe, good will and cheer! Join us in festive spirit of fellowship to celebrate this special time of the year on December 14th, at The Raintree Hotel and help us to make this another memorable **IWA Christmas** celebration.

We have an exciting **India trip** planned for you in February to **Meghalaya** and **Assam**. Please warn in as early as possible.

2015 is coming to a close. Please check on your attendance which will be available at all our meetings in December.

We take a short break to meet you in the New Year with more exciting meetings planned by the Activity Chairpersons.

On behalf of the Board and Activity Chairpersons, we wish every one of you a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**.

ACHU KURIAN

MALINI KRISHNA

**From the Membership Secretary**

The record of attendance will be tabled at all the meetings during the month of December 2015 and once again in February 2016. 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 2016**. Meetings in April count towards attendance for the IWA year 2016-2017.

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 to the address below.

Thank you for your co-operation.

BADRUNNISA MAHADEVAN  
24, Park Road West  
Shenoy Nagar  
Chennai 600 030

<b>1 Tue</b>	10.00 am Managing Committee 11.00 am Executive Committee <b>L'amandier</b> 57, Chamiers Road, R.A.Puram Chennai 600 028
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Meetings are hosted by **Padmavathy Gunashekar** and **Sylvie Wright**

<b>4 Fri</b>	10.15 AM <b>The Westin Chennai</b> 154, Velachery Road Chennai 600 042	
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**The Inside Story of the Publishing Industry**

- Is a book a 'product' or 'piece of creativity' and hence does it need to be marketed like a brand?
- Often well-known authors recommend a debut author. How well do they know the book or author?
- What malpractices do authors commit to increase the sales of their book?
- Do authors manipulate sales figures by buying their own books across Nelson accredited stores?

Join master storyteller **Ravi Subramaniam** as he delves into the dark side of the publishing industry through his latest book - **"The Bestseller She Wrote"**. The book is a combustible cocktail of love, betrayal and redemption focussing on a risky dalliance between a bestselling author and his protege.

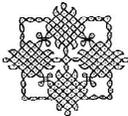
We are grateful to **Anjali Sacheti** for sponsoring this meeting.

We thank **Padma Ashok** for being our day facilitator.

NIDHI THADANI

AMULYA RAO

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 A big thanks to **Meenakshi Meyyappan** for sponsoring the November Book Discussion meeting.

<h1>7</h1> <p>Mon</p>	<p>10.15 <sup>AM</sup></p> <p><b>The Folly, Amethyst</b> Whites Road Next to Corporation Bank Royapettah, Chennai 600 014</p>	
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## Wrap It Up

Gift wrapping and gift giving is a universal custom with a long history. Whenever you have a gift to give, you are likely to wrap it up. Some people go to great lengths with this, coming up with original, home made wrapping ideas to show the present off. Have you ever wondered where the tradition of wrapping gifts came from?

The first time gifts were wrapped was in ancient China, where gift giving has always been part of their tradition. Wrapping, as a practice, has been around for ages. The Japanese Furoshiki, the reusable wrapping cloth is still in use today as a faithful rendition of the version that has been around for ages. In the West, using paper as a covering for gifts has been a long standing, if largely luxury- oriented practice.

Today's talk is on the Japanese art of gift wrapping which predominantly uses reusable wrapping cloth. Wrapping paper, though extremely pretty, generates a lot of waste considering the industry is worth 2.6 billion dollars annually. Our own IWA member, **Masako Maruyama** from Japan, will explain the Japanese art of gift wrapping as well as demonstrate the art for us.

We thank **Cherry Venkatesan** for sponsoring this meeting.

USHA MOORTHY

SANYUKTA GILL

Our heartfelt condolences to **Lalita Naidu** on the demise of her father-in-law, Major General Aban Naidu.

<h1>8</h1> <p>Tue</p>	<p>10.15 <sup>AM</sup></p> <p><b>The Folly, Amethyst</b> Whites Road Next to Corporation Bank Royapettah, Chennai 600 014</p>	
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## Thakka, Dhimi, Tha..... Joys of The Thaala ( Rhythm)

Come December and the concert halls in Chennai reverberate with sounds of Music and Dance. The city comes alive with celebrations. Women in their gorgeous 'pattu saris', delicious gastronomical spreads, pleasant weather, and jam-packed auditoriums contribute to the Tamizh month of Margazhi becoming a perfect stage for the MUSIC SEASON in MADRAS!!

At the concerts, accompanying the main artistes in their performance are several other artistes, who contribute to the success of the show. One needs to cultivate a keen sense to be able to appreciate their involvement too in the show.

This IWA event is timed perfectly to help music enthusiasts understand and enjoy the nuances of rhythm in a concert this season!

**Dr. Ghatam Karthick** presents an Interactive Talk Session on **"How to enjoy rhythm in a Carnatic Kutcheri and otherwise"**.

Dr. 'Ghatam' Karthick is one of the shining star artistes on his captivating clay pot instrument. His creative originality, distinct stage-presence, vibrant virtuosity, nimble fingers and a nimbler mind have all made him a most sought after percussionist in Indian Classical Carnatic Music.

Accompanying him will be artistes on the mandolin, violin, mridhangam, kanjira, tabla and morsing.

We thank **Asha Hemdev, Lily Malhan, Bilkis Moosa, Maureen Murari, Kamala Muthiah, Alagu Muthu, Lalita Naidu, Nita Reddy** and **Sylvie Wright** for sponsoring the event.

We thank **Brahada Kameshwaran** for being the day facilitator.

PADMAVATHY GUNASHEKAR

SYLVIE WRIGHT

<b>10<sup>Thu</sup></b>	<p><b>04.00 PM</b>                  Residence of Nabila Avais                  Qasr-e-Naaz, 19, Kothari Road                  Nungambakkam                  Chennai 600 034</p>	
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## Changing Trends in Architecture and Interior Design

We have but to look around us to see the innovative and creative ways architecture and interior design have been rapidly evolving. We have with us a panel of eminent Chennai based experts in the field of architecture and interior design to discuss this fascinating subject.

**Vikram Phadke:** He describes his style as simple and functional, one that allows for constant change and evolution; a flawless fusion of natural elements, with an eye for perfection.

**Sujatha Shankar:** Convenor of Chennai Chapter of INTACH. Winner of national IIID award for interior design. The ingenuity of her creations springs from things around her – music, art, theater, fashion.

**Krithika Subramaniam:** A renowned architect, designer and dancer, she is also a reputed entrepreneur heading a group of successful companies. She has many prestigious architectural commissions in her portfolio.

To moderate this discussion we have IWA's **Uma Ganesan**.

We thank **Nabila Avais** for kindly hosting this meeting at her residence .

Please note this is an **evening meeting**.

LAKSHMI MENON

ANJALI SACHETI

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*Beauty attracts the eye but Personality captures the Heart*

<b>14<sup>Mon</sup></b>	<p><b>11.00 AM</b>                  The Raintree Hotel,                  120, St Mary's Road                  Alwarpet                  Chennai 600 018</p>	
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## Christmas Festivity



*“May the Christmas Season  
 Fill your home with joy  
 Your heart with love  
 And your life with laughter“*

Come join us to celebrate a morning of Christmas fellowship. Come in your Christmas colours, **Red, Gold and Green**, for entertainment, music and games. Enjoy the sumptuous Christmas lunch generously provided by The Raintree Hotel.

We can look forward to listening to some carols of the Christmas season by **The Canticles**, one of the well known Chennai Choirs.

We would like to thank **Rajini Reddy** for generously sponsoring the event.

We would like to thank **Ambika Mammen** for organizing and sponsoring the choir.

Please note this is a **members only** meeting.

ACHU KURIAN

MALINI KRISHNA

THE BOARD

## South Africa - A Dream

***I close my eyes. The intense blue of the sky reflected in the tanzanite blues of the waters of the Atlantic Ocean appears in its pristine God Blessed hues.***

Our first halt was Johannesburg. It had this huge warehouse sized Casino attached to the Hotel Peermont D'Oreale Grande. It reiterates the fact that whatever may be the state of the economy of a country, gambling is as old as Mankind.

After a brief halt to see Nelson Mandela's home from outside in an upmarket suburb of Johannesburg, we headed to the airport to fly to our next destination, Zimbabwe. Our expectations were very high, as we were ready to visit the Victoria Falls.

The Elephant Hills Resort was huge and sprawling. There were monkeys paying a visit to our individual balconies and sunrises silhouetted by the lacework of bare tree branches with deer (Impala) grazing peacefully in the green foreground. The Sundowner Cruise on the Zambezi River gave us our first glimpses of wildlife. We saw hippos, elephants and several species of birds.

Victoria Falls (VF), our first AHA moment! Our guide took us on a walking tour of 3 km. For a few Nano seconds, we all held our breath collectively in AWE! An unprovoked thought hit us: It is not overrun by hordes of tourists! We could all and each get a perfect KODAK moment with the falls framing us. Each bend in the walk, brought a different angle of the beauty of VF into our perspective, the cascading water, the natural pools of streams and the cool mist drenching us. Not to forget the birds we got to see - A pair of hornbills were our treat.

The helicopter ride during the afternoon was a first for many in our group. We cruised over the Victoria Falls for 12-15 mins and got a topographical perspective of the falls from high above the ground.

Some of us indulged in an evening safari to the Stanley & Livingstone private game reserve. It was totally worth it as we had our ringside vision of elephants, zebras, rhinos, baboons, and birds.

Kruger National Park visit proved to be our lucky day. We saw the BIG 5. A pride of lions were just hanging out. The leopard blew us away- what a beauty and the way it was sitting majestically in the fork of a tree with its long tail cascading down. Elephant herds were found everywhere. Another photo – memorable moment, when we saw a group of Impala, hippos and crocodiles

all within touching distance of each other at a watering hole. None of them threatened the other! Kudu and Impala were everywhere in huge numbers. We were shocked to learn that 1215 Rhinos were poached in South Africa in 2014 alone! Their horns are being surgically removed in order to save their dwindling numbers.

We travelled via the Kowyn's Pass and along the Panorama Route. We halted at God's Window, Bourke's Luck Potholes, the Blyde River Canyon with the Three Sisters – Rare gems of nature. The clear, crisp morning and excellent views were our bonus.

Cape Town, the Jewel of our South African sojourn was our last stop. Our home for the next 3 nights was Southern Cape Sun. There is definitely truth in the adage "Best for the last". God was at his creative poetic best while going over Cape Town! Every travel enthusiast must add this city to his/her bucket list. It is Santorini, San Francisco and Berne fused into one. Of course Premila's prayers ensured that the Weather Gods continued to benevolently smile on us. We did everything - A Cruise to Seal Island, the kelp beds which looked like bundles of glimmering black silk, Chapman's Peak Drive, exquisite photo-ops and lunch at Fish Hoek Galley. Imagine going to a seafood restaurant on Ganesh Chaturthi! The seagulls eating off our palms made it so memorable. The cute penguins waddling up the shore on their ungainly feet at Boulder's Beach, were stunning against the white sands! We then proceeded to the Cape of Good Hope, went up by the funicular to see the new lighthouse at Cape Point. The winds were so intense, we almost got blown away!

The next morning was a tour to the Malay quarter. The Cheetah Outreach Program where we actually got to touch and stroke the cheetahs was interesting. That afternoon the tour to Stellenbosch and the Neethlingshof Wine Estate was fantastic. The wine tasting was perfect. Most of us got our supplies to carry back to India. The lunch served was excellent. Stellenbosch is a university town, with architectural heritage. Such a quaint amalgam!

Dinner was at GOLD Restaurant where we ate S.A. fare accompanied by their performing artists sinuously gyrating for us. Nidhi did us proud by participating! They actually sprinkled gold dust on us as an adieu.

On the penultimate day some decided to stay back and take it easy and explore the waterfront! Others opted for the Robben island tour via ferry- the island where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned.

We are extremely grateful for having had a wonderful trip and returning home without any problems.

RAMANI REDDY



**We are happy to welcome our new Non Indian members**

**Cathy Maljournal** (France/ USA)  
 10, Downing Building  
 Apt 6B, 132 Greenways Road  
 R A Puram  
 Chennai 600 028  
 Mobile: +91-89391 75034  
 Email: cathymaljournal@gmail.com

**Alice Liang** (Taiwan)  
 Flat 7/3, 81 Royapettah High Road  
 Royapettah  
 Chennai 600 014  
 Mobile: +91-97909 56297  
 Email: al2014t@yahoo.com.tw

**Change of Address**

**Geeta Rajagopalan**  
 B003, Keshav Dugar  
 Keshav Perumal Puram  
 R A Puram  
 Chennai 600 028  
 Landline: 044-2462 2837  
 Mobile: +91-98400 52899  
 Email: geetalakshmi@gmail.com

**Manisha Singhee**  
 "Paxina", 3rd Floor  
 No. 10, Bishop Wallers Avenue  
 Off T.T.K. Road  
 CIT colony, Chennai-600 004  
 Ph-044-2499 1482, +91-98410 35003  
 manisha@singhee.in