

<b>2</b> Mon	10.00 <sup>AM</sup> Managing Committee 11.00 <sup>AM</sup> Executive Committee
<b>17</b> Tue	<b>03.00 PM</b> <b>Vintage Soiree</b>
<b>19</b> Thu	10.15 <sup>AM</sup> Music & Performing Arts
<b>23</b> Mon	10.15 <sup>AM</sup> Current Events
<b>25</b> Wed	10.15 <sup>AM</sup> Health & Ecology
<b>27</b> Fri	10.15 <sup>AM</sup> Endowment Lecture
<b>30</b> Mon	<b>04.00 PM</b> <b>Horse Power</b>
<b>2</b> Mon	10.00 <sup>AM</sup> Managing Committee 11.00 <sup>AM</sup> Executive Committee  <b>L'amandier</b> 57, Chamiers Road, R.A. Puram Chennai 600 028

Meetings hosted by **Geeta Rajagopalan** and  
**Marie Therese Trent**

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

## From the Presidents

**A new year is like a blank book, the pen is in your hands, it is your chance to write a beautiful new story for yourself. 2017- a fresh, new beautiful start to all that is pleasant and positive. Our wishes your way for a year filled with abundance of peace, happiness, health, well-being, joy and dreams filled with sweet tomorrows.**

Last year ended on a sad note as we Chennaites deeply mourned the passing away of our iconic **Chief Minister, Selvi J Jayalalitha** - an indomitable spirit, much admire her innate leadership qualities; a successful politician, talented orator, bold administrator, especially a woman who made a mark in Tamil Nadu, a patriarchal state. She will be missed. May her soul rest in peace.

Our dear **PP Margaret Sekharan** too departed for her heavenly abode on 3rd December. Her memories will always bring cheer to all those who knew her. Rest in peace dear Margaret.

Much to our dismay our "December Bonanza" special meetings were all washed away, as a mark of respect to our late Chief Minister and by the intense damage caused to our city's infrastructure by the devastating cyclone "Vardah".

However, the joyous **Spirit of IWA** came alive at the rescheduled **Santa Sway-Christmas 2016** event at the Folly- an enjoyable festive evening, set in a beautifully decorated Christmassy ambience, as our "merry-men", the Christian fraternity of IWA graciously entertained us with a pot luck of yummy delicacies dished out of their own kitchens and enthralled us with melodious "old time" traditional Christmas skit and carols, well enjoyed by all.

Our welcome back fellowship **"Vintage Soirée" Afternoon English Garden Tea Party** at the beautiful Cottingley.. promises to be a joyous start to 2017 and we look forward to welcoming you back in **"IWA style"**. Appreciate the kind generosity of our founder **Sunita Shahaney** for so graciously transforming our vintage dream into a beautiful reality.

With Past President Nandita Krishna's help, well versed **Professor M.D. Srinivasan** will be presenting a very interesting topic **"Development of Science in India"** at our annual Endowment Lecture this year to be held at Museum Theatre. **Kindly save the date.**

### ■ 3

As a part of the **30th year Celebrations Special Event - "Horse Power"** an evening of Polo is being organized exclusively for our members ... Not to be missed !

**"Our precious string of pearls"** - happy to list the names of members who joined IWA in the **third decade 2006-2016** in this issue.

**45 meetings old**, and hope to continue bringing forth only the best resources for your enjoyment. We look forward to your presence at our meetings in large numbers. **Expressing gratitude** to the facilitators is vital. Humble request, kindly stay on at all events/meetings until the **vote of thanks** has been delivered. Our PEARL Activity Chairpersons will value your continued appreciation and encouraging support throughout this year.

**Wishing you and your families a Safe, Secure and Peaceful 2017.**

**Stay Blessed and Happy Always.**

NABILA AVAIS

JANSI KISHORE

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### **Advisory Committee**

**Maureen Hudson Murari** has completed three years on the Advisory Committee. Gentle, efficient, clear and precise about her views, she has been a valuable asset to the committee, offering invaluable guidance and advice as and when we have required it. Thank you dear Maureen.

**Aruna Vijaykumar** has kindly consented to be on the Advisory Committee. We are confident she will be of immense help, adding value to the committee with her presence and all her years of IWA experiences. Deeply honored to welcome her on this committee.

**The Advisory Committee members are-**

**Rupa Kadhiresan, Seema Bhargava and Aruna Vijaykumar.**



### **Remembering Margaret Sekharan**

It is with great dismay that we record the passing away of Past President Margaret Sekharan on Saturday, 3rd December 2016. Memories of dear Margaret will always live on and will be cherished by all those who knew her as expressed and recorded by her close friends at the prayer service held for her departed soul on Friday, 16th December. She was IWA president in the year 1994-1995 along with Lily Madhok.

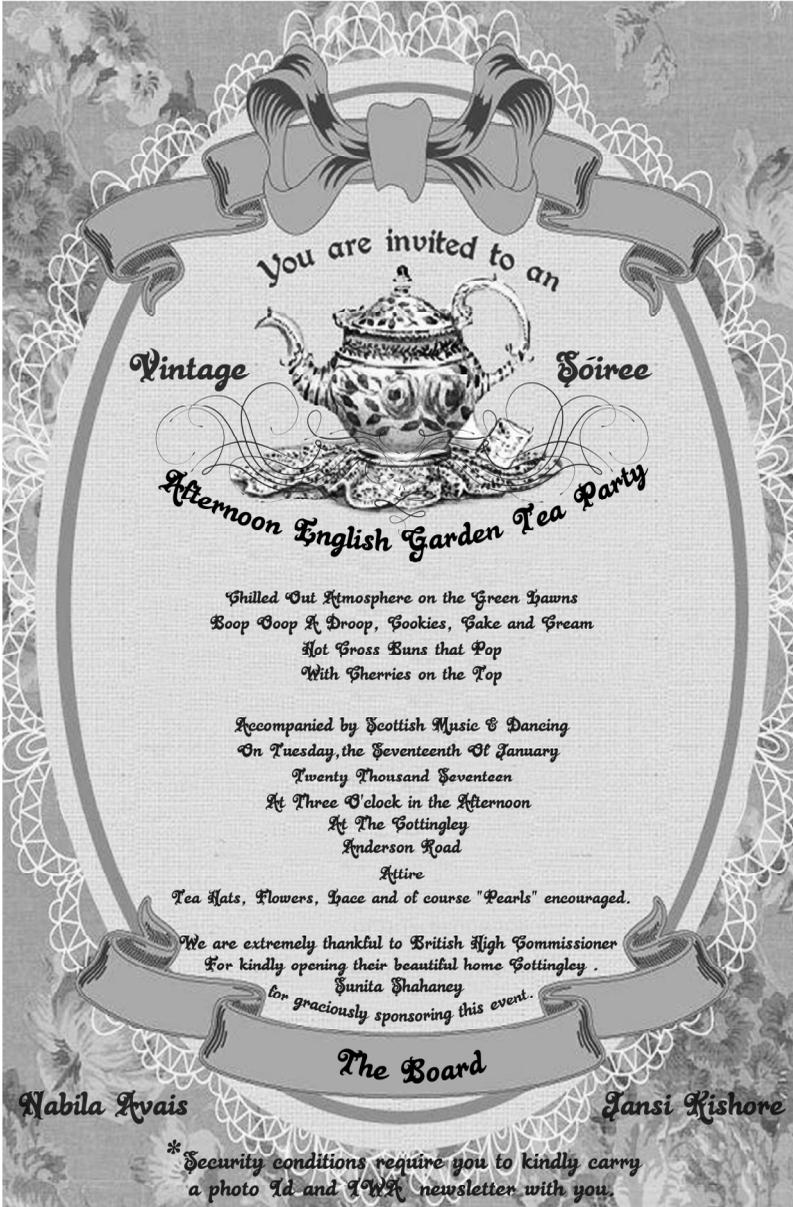
**Rest in Peace dear Margaret.**

### **Margaret as I knew her -Nandita Krishna**

Margaret Sekharan was a lovely person, well-read and a pleasure to know. Always full of life she lived life to the fullest at her own rules. She was always positive, soft spoken and faced her illness with courage. Her passing is a sad loss but she is now out of suffering.

### **Down Memory Lane-Lily Madhok**

Dear friends, let me first apologize for not being present at the prayer service as I have undergone a knee surgery. It is always sad to lose a near and dear one. Margaret Sekharan was a British lady who had made India her home and she was my Co- President for the year 1994-1995. Margaret and I shared a lovely relationship throughout our IWA years as Chairpersons, Vice Presidents and finally Presidents. She believed in sharing, contributing and participating in all IWA activities whether it was play reading or organizing Board events and meetings. She actually took me under her wings and stood shoulder to shoulder through thick & thin. She relocated to Kodai after her husband's retirement. Always positive she faced her illness with a lot of guts but lost the battle. May her soul rest in peace.



The invitation is framed by a large, ornate white lace border. At the top, a ribbon banner contains the text "You are invited to an". Below this, the words "Vintage" and "Soiree" are written in a decorative, cursive font, flanking a central illustration of a teapot on a tray. Below the illustration, the main title "Afternoon English Garden Tea Party" is written in a similar cursive font. The central text block contains details about the event, including the atmosphere, music, date, time, and location. A ribbon banner at the bottom of the central text area contains a thank-you message to the British High Commissioner. At the very bottom, the names of the organizers are listed in a decorative font.

You are invited to an

*Vintage* *Soiree*

*Afternoon English Garden Tea Party*

Chilled Out Atmosphere on the Green Lawns  
Boop Oop A Droop, Cookies, Sake and Cream  
Hot Cross Buns that Pop  
With Cherries on the Top

Accompanied by Scottish Music & Dancing  
On Tuesday, the Seventeenth Of January  
Twenty Thousand Seventeen  
At Three O'clock in the Afternoon  
At The Gotingley  
Anderson Road

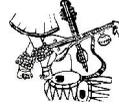
Attire  
Tea Hats, Flowers, Lace and of course "Pearls" encouraged.

We are extremely thankful to British High Commissioner  
For kindly opening their beautiful home Gotingley .  
Sunila Shahaney  
for graciously sponsoring this event.

*The Board*

*Nabila Aiyas* *Jansi Kishore*

\*Security conditions require you to kindly carry  
a photo Id and TNA newsletter with you.

19<sup>Thu</sup>10.15<sup>AM</sup>**E-Hotel**Express Avenue Mall, Gate 1  
Patullos Road  
Chennai 600 002

## How long can you whistle?

She is a singer, dancer, film editor, sound engineer and also a whistler. The young and beautiful **Swetha Suresh** tapped her little toes and sang from the age of 5. As she experimented all of Carnatic arts, she touched a genre which was not discovered yet. While we whistle for leisure, Swetha saw it as an art and her career was set.

She made it to the LIMCA Book of Records for her talent and there is no prestigious stage in India, that hasn't featured her unique skill. The legends have not missed to smile at this artist as she performed whistling tributes to mighty stars like AR Rahman, SP Balasubramaniam and Shri Kannadasan.

Glory can never be simple and small, but spectacular. Swetha won the title in the World Whistling Competition held in Tokyo and she was the first ever woman to become an International Whistling Champion. Her name graced Asia Book of Records, India Book of Records after whistling 197 songs in 18 hours. Young and restless, Swetha beams with energy after performing on 2000 shows all over the world.

Becoming an international figure in this field, made her no less a Tamilian. Witness her whistling the greatest Tamil and Bollywood classics and hear her mind-blowing story into becoming the world renowned whistler that she is!

We thank **Chandra Lulla, Sheetal Parakh, Latha Rajan, Bala Rao, Devyani Shah** and **Maureen Thadani** for graciously hosting this meeting.

JEYASREE RAVI

JENNIFER ELDRED

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Our heartiest congratulations to **Alagu Muthu** on the birth of her grand daughter **Tara**.

<p><b>23</b> Mon</p>	<p>10.15 <sup>AM</sup>  <b>The Folly, Amethyst</b>          Whites Road          Next to Corporation Bank          Royapettah, Chennai 600 014</p>	
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## The Demons of Demonetization

Pandemonium broke into our lives since a certain television broadcast at 8 pm on Nov 8, 2016. Many of us have fretted over our small caches, rummaged through all our handbags, bought inordinate amounts of our regular medicines or waited patiently in banks and ATM queues. Each of us has been inconvenienced buying vegetables or some other such mundane activity, so we all know what it's like at the micro level.

But to properly understand the Government's highest intentions in this bold move, it's hopes of how things will pan out, the reaction of the big wheels of Industry and Politics, whether there are any other drastic steps anticipated, and how things might actually work out at the macro level, we have the distinguished journalist **S. Gurumurthy** to lead us through an insightful presentation on the best and worst of what lies ahead. With his panoramic view of Indian economy and polity through the decades, he will help us understand if the fears and phobias are warranted or if we should all relax and not let the hype control us.

**Surekha Kothari** is our generous hostess this morning.

TEHNAZ BAHADURJI

SHOBHA JESUDASEN

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Sincere apologies - **Darley Mathew** was wrongly addressed as Darley Verghese in the December newsletter.

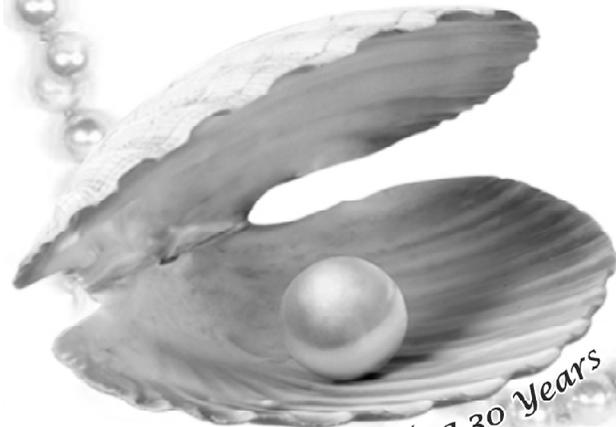
Our heartfelt thanks also to the following - **Jennifer Ann Macedo, Shanti Karunakran & Seema Sait** for their generous contribution and support for The Santa Sway - IWA Christmas 2016.

## Our String of 2007-2017

<i>Priya Asokan</i> 2008	<i>Amita Bhatia</i> 2009
<i>Farah Bangera</i> 2012	<i>Anita Bhatia</i> 2009
<i>Sherry Batliwala</i> 2014	<i>Kaety Dalal</i> 2013
<i>Baerbel Berger</i> 2016	<i>Rigmor Ekstrand</i> 2013

## Precious Pearls JANUARY - 2017

<i>Jennifer Eldred</i> 2015	<i>Jasmine Kabrajee</i> 2015
<i>Jessica Elias</i> 2008	<i>Raheela Kareem</i> 2008
<i>Didem Atahan Fabig</i> 2014	<i>Pauline Kho</i> 2013
<i>Jo Frogbrook</i> 2013	<i>Chung Mee Kim</i> 2014
<i>Padmavathy Gunashekar</i> 2013	<i>Jansi Kishore</i> 2008
<i>Shobha Jesudasan</i> 2015	<i>Sukhee Lee</i> 2012



*Celebrating 30 Years*

<p><b>25</b> Wed</p>	<p>10.15 <sup>AM</sup>  <b>Rajan Eye Care Hospital</b>          5 Vidyodaya Second Street          (behind Vidyodaya School)          T. Nagar, Chennai 600 017</p>	 
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## Dr Mohan Rajan - 'The Peoples' Doctor

We are very honored to have **Dr Mohan Rajan, M.B.B.S, D.O, Dip NB, F.M.R.F, M.N.A.M.S, M.CH, FACS**, speak to us today about his visionary work with cataract patients.

**Dr. Mohan Rajan**, is a brilliant ophthalmic surgeon who cares about those that struggle for a square meal a day. He decided to take the side of the weakest to provide the basic minimum eye service to the rural and poor population in Chennai. He established The Chennai Vision Trust as the Community Wing of Rajan Eye Care Hospital in the year 1995. Regular and periodic eye screening camps numbering more than 2100 have so far been conducted by Chennai Vision Charitable Trust. Patients found with cataract were brought to the Base Hospital in Chennai, admitted, given food, operated and taken back to the villages.

Cataracts are responsible for more than half of the blindness in the world. As far as India is concerned, at least 400 surgeries per 1, 00,000 population need to be done every year. Dr. Mohan Rajan is at present Chairman and Medical Director of Rajan Eye Care Hospital.

We thank **Dr Mohan Rajan** for his kindness in hosting this meeting.

GEETA RAJAGOPALAN

MARIE THERESE TRENT

Our heartiest congratulations to **Javanthi Singaram** on the birth of her grandson **Theeran**.

27<sup>Fri</sup>10.15 <sup>AM</sup>**Madras Museum Theatre**

Egmore

Chennai 600 008

## Introduction to the development and History of Science in India

Even science has a history! Join us at the Museum Theatre as **Professor M. D. Srinivas**, member Indian Council of Historical Research, presents a talk on development of science in India.

Professor M. D. Srinivas is Chairman of Centre Policy Studies, Physicist, Sanskrit Scholar and author of numerous books including the widely acclaimed Annam Bahukurvita and Indian Demographics. Professor M. D. Srinivas specializes in History and Philosophy of Science and brings his vast experience and knowledge to the subject.

**The Museum Theatre Authorities have requested us to vacate the premises by 12 noon. Hence the talk will commence at 10.40 a.m. sharp.**

We thank **Renuka Iswariah** and **Era Kalra** for sponsoring the event.

NIDHI THADANI

ANJALI SACHETI

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Our heartfelt condolences to **Sabina Narayan** on the loss of her father.

Our heartfelt condolences to **Shobha Mujumdar** on the loss of her husband.

<p><b>30<sup>Mon</sup></b></p>	<p><b>04.00<sup>P.M</sup></b> <b>Polo 2.0,</b> <b>40, Poonamallee Bypass Road</b> <b>Senneerkuppam</b> <b>Chennai 600056</b></p> 
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**30th Year Celebrations-Special Event on the 30th  
Horse Power**

**Come and witness for the first time in IWA**

**A Spectacular- Evening of Polo**

**Tea in Marquees, in conversation with the skilled riders,  
interesting talk show on the sport by experts in the field.**

**Joy rides for the adventurous, photo session on horse back or  
with horses and much more.**

**Dress Code**

**Comfortable Sporty Casuals, Caps, Sneakers, Binoculars.**

**Horse Power - Curated "Especially for You"**



**Nabila Avais**

**The IWA Board**

**Jansi Kishore**

## Coorg Reminiscences

### Short & Sweet Getaway

It was a short and sweet getaway...but every moment was a treat. Traveling by train, bus or boat, we did not miss a sight. **Nidhi and Anjali** made sure we saw the Golden Temple in Bylakuppe, the Omkareswarar temple in Madikeri, the Dubare Elephant Sanctuary on the banks of the Cauvery, Bagamandala and Tala Cauvery. We soaked in the comfort of Taj Madikeri and gorged on the amazing food. What a splendid weekend that was, thanks to our enthusiastic Chairpersons and the wonderful camaraderie of our small and friendly group.

-Javanthi Singaram

### Impressions of Coorg Tour

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to IWA's weekend tour planner and all participants.

Well, I was able to discover one of various colorful Indian cultures through this tour. Probably many Japanese do not know of this place. Until I read the IWA newsletter, I also had not heard of the place called Madikeri in Coorg. So I was very interested in this tour. And I looked up Taj Madikeri on the website.

Furthermore, I was attracted deeply to the prospect of having to take a train and a bus to go to there. All the scenery visible from the train and bus window made my heart pound with excitement. In particular, Madikeri was surprisingly in a deep forest larger than my imagination. And Coorg is a little similar to the landscape of the Japanese countryside.

The most impressive thing was when I walked across the river of Cauvery (actually a branch of Cauvery). In Japan it is said that clear water is evidence of mountain richness. I thought the water of the holy river of Cauvery also reflects the beauty of that forest.

There are so many things I want to tell you, but I cannot find the right words to express it. However, I would like to pray that this beautiful environment will continue to be protected in future.

Finally, Taj Madikeri was a place beyond my expectations. The view of the sunrise that I saw there, gave me the courage to live in India. And it reminded me of the poems my mentor wrote.

**“When we open our minds’ eyes,  
we come to see the unnoticed light of hope.  
When we listen intently with the ears of our souls,  
we come to hear the songs of joy  
ringing out right by us.”**

- Masako Maruyama

### **The IWA Coorg trip was a treat for the 5 senses**

For my eyes- Lush green nature, heavenly countryside.

For my ears- Sweet conversations and laughter in company par excellence certified.

For my tongue- Mouth watering cuisine with variety so wide.

For my nose- The aroma of chocolate, coffee, spices, the fresh forest air, left me rejuvenated and gratified.

For my touch- A warm enjoyable experience to cherish and remember with pride.

- Era Kalra

### **Unforgettable experience**

The trip to Coorg was a great experience and one that I will cherish. The Taj property where we stayed was beautiful with stunning views of the lush hills and valleys. I would like to extend a special thanks to the Presidents for the programs they organized this year.

- Jennifer Ann Macedo

Ladies, please enjoy the newsletter online too! It’s simple! Go to **[www.iwachennai.com](http://www.iwachennai.com)**. and the newsletter will open up to you. Please explore! If you have attended and enjoyed a meeting, drop in a line appreciating the effort, telling us how you can help to improve. If you have been unable to attend, read the reviews, view the photographs and keep the site active! Looking forward to your participation.

### Fun & Frolic - Haven in the Hills



## Santa Sway 2016



**For every lock , there is a key  
For every problem, there is a solution  
Only we need to have the patience to unlock it,**

**By,**

**Doing what ever makes you Happy  
Being with who makes you Smile  
Laughing as much as you Breathe  
Loving as long as you Live**

**The KEY to being happy  
is knowing you have the power to choose  
what to accept , and what to let go  
You can spread sunny smiles,  
only if you are wearing a smile yourself**

**Happiness Starts with YOU**