

3 Mon	10.00 AM Managing Committee 11.00 AM Executive Committee	
4 Tue	10.15 AM Current Events	
6 Thu	10.15 AM Arts & Handicrafts	
7 Fri	10.15 AM Book Discussion & Current Events	
11 Tue	10.15 AM Music & Performing Arts	
13 Thu	10.15 AM Cooking Swapshop	
19 Wed	10.30 AM Christmas Celebrartion	

SAVE THE DATE: January 21st, 2019 is our fellowship meeting.

To learn more, visit the IWA web site: www.iwachennai.com

From the Presidents

Dear Friends,

Welcome to December! The season of festivities, cooler temperatures and merriment. In keeping with the season, please join us to celebrate this special time of the year on **December 19th** for the IWA Christmas Celebration at The Rain Tree Hotel.

November has been a month of fascinating meetings and our South India trip to Rameshwaram was exciting and memorable.

A special thanks goes out to all the members who helped us put together a splendid Deepavali celebration. Kudos to our activity chairperson for entertaining us with a flash mob dance and the members who participated in joining them. Our gratitude to **Valli Murugappan, Urmilla Agarwal, Rashmi Mohindra, Sharada Reddy, Amulya Rao** and other members for contributing to the ever popular Khazana Stall. Thanks to **Deepali Goyal, Nidhi Thadani** and **Buddy Mahadevan** for providing vouchers as gifts for our event. Our heartfelt thanks to **Visalakshi Ramaswamy** for graciously sponsoring the hall. The Tambola game was a great success and thank you Nita Reddy for being such an articulate moderator.

2017 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 and look forward to see you for our Welcome Back **Fellowship on January 21st**.

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

USHA JAWAHAR

MAHVASH SAIT

3 Mon	10.00 AM Managing Committee 11.00 AM Executive Committee The Summer House Eatery 5B, Ramachandra Avenue, Seethammal Colony Alwarpet, Chennai 600018
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Meetings hosted by **Kausalya Santhanam** and **Mangai Kamal**

From the Membership Secretary

The record of attendance will be tabled at all the meetings during the month of December 2018 and once again in February 2019. 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 2019. Meetings in April count towards attendance for the IWA year 2019-2020.

Members are also reminded that guest may attend only four meetings during the IWA year irrespective of which member signs them in. Daughters and Daughter-in-law 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.

Jeyasree Ravi

7/5, Nana Street, T.Nagar,
Chennai 600 017
Mobile No: 92821 05070

From the Membership Secretary

We are happy to welcome our new Non-Indian Member

Mrs. Anitta Abildgaard Clausen

2/530 Sandeep Road
Neelankarai
Chennai – 600 041
Mobile: +919840019834
Email: anitta.abildgaard@gmail.com

JEYASREE RAVI

Current Events

4 Tue

10.15 AM
E. Hotel
Gate No. 1, Express Avenue Mall
Patullos Road
Chennai 600 002



'Can we transform a million Indian government schools in our lifetime?'

Aditya Natraj, CEO, Piramal School of Leadership, and the founder and director of Kaivalya Education Foundation (KEF), is the son of our IWA member, **Sushila Natraj**.

Aditya says, "In the last twenty years India has expanded quantitatively and built the largest education system in the world with 1.5 million schools and 8 million teachers. But quality is a huge problem. Fifty percent of fifth graders cannot read a paragraph in their mother tongue. OECD ranked us 83 out of 84 countries that took the test. Can anything be done?"

KEF is a change management organisation that focuses on transforming the quality of education in public schools. Kaivalya Education Foundation aims to create a generation of school leaders who are empowered with the skills to create a large-scale, systemic impact.

Join us as Aditya takes the discussion forward and tells us how he found meaning in life in India's villages.

Please note: This is a programme presented by our **IWA Next Gen.**

We thank **Chandra Padmanabhan** for being our day facilitator.

RITU SAHI

CATHERINE REDDY

6 Thu

10.15 AM
The Folly, Amethyst
 Whites Road
 Next to Corporation Bank
 Royapettah, Chennai 600 014



Saris: Nationhood, and Consumption in Urban India

Our speaker, **Dr Kaamya Sharma** is a Post doctoral Fellow at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology-Madras. She received her Ph.D. from the Department of Global Studies at the School of Culture and Society, Aarhus University. Her doctoral work was an ethnographic investigation of revival movements and identity projects centered on the sari in urban south India.

Saris are a part of the fabric of everyday life in India, with a ubiquitous and naturalized presence. Yet, we know little about the history and evolution of this garment. Dr Kaamya will take us through a selective history of the sari, highlighting moments of sartorial conflict and change from colonization to independence and after. She will focus on the handloom sari, discuss policy and private efforts to frame craft as a nation-building activity in order to save artisanal livelihoods. Dr Kaamya will also throw light on how saris figure in craft-based, cinematic, kitsch and fashionable imaginations.

We thank **Rani Chandani** for being our day facilitator.

BANU SINGH

RIGMOR EKSTRAND

7 Fri

10.15 AM
The Folly, Amethyst
 Whites Road
 Next to Corporation Bank
 Royapettah, Chennai 600 014



What's in your Attic?

"In a small town by the river Nila, a thirty-five-year-old writer kills herself. No one knows why.

Fifty-two years later, an antique cupboard in a private resort opens to reveal a frightened child. And the mystery begins to unravel."

That, dear members, is an exclusive excerpt from the novel, *Eating Wasps*.

Would you like to read on and/or meet the author of these intriguing lines?

She has received many awards and her books have been translated into over thirty-one languages around the world. She is also the founder of the creative writing and mentorship program Anita's Attic.

Best selling and critically acclaimed author and poet, essayist and screenplay writer, **Anita Nair** interacts with the IWA ladies this December. The lady's writings embrace female protagonists and the parallel journey in books and the current world scenario make for an interesting comparison.

Come, armed with questions (one each) and go back with an autographed book or two!

We thank **Malini Krishna** for being our day facilitator.

JAYA NARAIN MAHBUBANI
 RITU SAHI

GOWRI VISVANATHAN
 CATHERINE REDDY

11 Tue

10.15 AM
The Folly, Amethyst
 Whites Road
 Next to Corporation Bank
 Royapettah, Chennai 600 014



What no one tells you about starting up!!

Standup Comedian Karthik Kumar has written 3 standup solo specials (#Poke Me, Second Decoction & Blood Chutney) and performed over 500 shows across India and international markets such as USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Hong Kong. He is also one of the founders of South India's largest standup movement – 'Evan Standup Tamasha' that produces shows regularly and manages a repertory of comedians and theatre artists' pan-India.

In September, **Karthik Kumar** launched his debut book on entrepreneurship "Don't Startup" using his journey with Evan as a reference. The book was written from a perspective of 'I wish I had known these things when I started my own Entrepreneurship!'. In this humor-laced talk he will be detailing his journey as an entrepreneur and discussing his book. Come and whet your appetite for starting up and enjoy life's lessons comedy-style.

We thank **Kaety Dalal** for being our day facilitator.

DEEPALI GOYAL

SWATI REDDY

13 Thu

10.15 AM
Sansara Hall, The Park Hotel
 601, Anna Salai
 Nungambakkam
 Chennai 600 016



Experience Thai Food

Lotus is the speciality Thai restaurant at The Park. The restaurant boasts of a menu, crafted meticulously by **Master Chef Satit Chaimano**, native to Thailand. Join us to experience this demo of Thai cuisine.

A big thank you to **Mr Rajesh Radhakrishnan** for facilitating this IWA event.

This will be a **warn-in meeting**. We kindly request you to Whatsapp Nandi (988407070014) or Nalini (9884958629) between December 5-10th.

Please note that the demonstration will begin at **10:30 AM** and snacks and refreshments will be served at the end.

Hope you will join us for this wonderful morning.

NANDI SHAH

NALINI PANDAY

19 Wed

10.30 AM
The Raintree
 636, Anna Salai,
 Teynampet
 Chennai 600035



"Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection."
- Winston Churchill

Please join us for a morning of Christmas festivities, when we come together in fellowship to celebrate this special time of year.

Come dressed in colors of **green, red** and **gold** for fun, laughter and joyous carol singing followed by a scrumptious lunch generously provided by The Rain Tree Hotel, Anna Salai.

We would like to thank **Rajini Reddy** for graciously sponsoring this event.

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

USHA JAWAHAR

THE BOARD

MAHVASH SAIT

Sixty Hours! Tick tick tick tick.....

IWA trips are always a whirlwind, and this one to Rameswaram was no exception. The treats were seamless with Madurai malli and jigarthanda to welcome us and take-home goodies from Usha's mum to say farewell. In between, a staggering lunch at Bangla, hosted by Meenakshi Aachi, and an authentic Kilakarai Muslim meal. Plus the ever-flowing river of snacks we'd brought along.

The Chettinad drive-through and lunch led us to Devipattinam and the Navagrahas where Lord Rama remedied the doshas in his astrological chart. That and the Durga temple nearby, at the spot where the goddess vanquished the wicked Mahishasura, were a good start to the trip.

The next day, 6 am departure to visit the 22 sacred wells and the towering Ramanathswamy temple. This was a unique experience even for those of us who came only as tourists. For the devout, much more, I'm sure. The police support organised by Naina, and our knowledgeable and patient guide, Dhruva, streamlined the visit. Here Lord Rama cleansed himself of the sin of killing the Brahmin, Ravana. We followed in His footsteps, echoing the now ceremonialised baths and puja. The famed 1000 pillared corridors, said to be the longest in the world, actually have 1212 imposing granite pillars. Legend has it that Late President Dr Abdul Kalam played here as a child. But the abiding image has to be of Vanitha flying off on her Pushpak vimanam. Of course, it manifested as the motorcycle of a multi policeman, but we know it really was a celestial chariot.

We visited one temple at the spot where Vibheeshan surrendered to Lord Rama, and another celebrating the Panchamukha form of Hanuman that went to Patala-loka to rescue Rama and Lakshman from Mahi-Ravana. This temple has some floating stones that were used to build the bridge to Lanka.

A drive-by through a ravaged Dhanushkodi. A walk on the beach at Erosion Point. A whizz past Dr Kalam's school. A drop-in at the pristine and well-designed Dr Kalam memorial. An exciting stop on Pamban bridge flanked by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar. The Wind god played naughty and caused many kurtas to misbehave despite stringent efforts by virtuous IWA members. Hardly enough for one day, what? So we wound up at poolside, with music, courtesy Jaya, and dancing, and hilarious rounds of Dumb Charades. Some of the ladies lost attributes they'd treasured too long, but, hey, what happens in Rameswaram, stays in Rameswaram!

Our last day began with a visit to the splendidly muralled Ramanad palace, where we got another fill of stories. Then on to one of the oldest mosques in India, which looks remarkably like a temple, an abiding testament to communal amity. And finally to a local women's college founded to empower local women, which we were delighted to note was proving true.

Jaya introduced us to Qi Gong, Ayshu displayed her Selfie Mastery, seniormost member Vanitha proved to be a fantastic sport, Sushi and Maya sang with gusto, Tehnaz and Rani read out their short stories, Usha and Sheela were Magnificent Masters of Ceremonies, and the water dispenser on board where we refilled our personal water bottles, was a great success.

Flight delays were disregarded as we played silly games in the departure lounge. Though no prizes were awarded, and some of us suffered great deprivations, the parting hugs at the baggage carousel in Chennai, so different from the polite hellos just sixty hours ago, proved that the trip had achieved its purpose - to spread happiness and strengthen friendships. Come along, next time.

TEHNAZ BAHADURJI

Rameswaram Trip

