

IWA DHWANI

Indian Women's Association

August 2013 • MCI (P) 143/05/2013

Sounds of IWA



IWA Clubs

The Indian Women's Association creates platforms for its members to come together under its umbrella and enjoy their interests in clubs and groups. Membership to these is ONLY for IWA Members.

New and interested members of the public can request for ONE trial attendance by emailing their interest to the relevant group. Typically, groups meet once a month at the residence of one of its members.

Each club also holds events during the year which are of interest to its members.

BOOK CLUB

IWA Book Club will not only allow you to share your love of reading, but it will allow you to discuss literature and form intimate friendships. Writing workshops, meet the author sessions and other literary events are also held by the Book Club enthusiasts to promote the love of literature and spread the literary word.



Book Club usually meets third Tuesday of every month. Please check our website for current details.

Time: 10.00am - 12.00noon
(Morning tea is served)
Venue: Members' homes
Email: bookclub@iwasingapore.org

MUSIC CLUB

IWA Music Club encourages you to share your love of singing and also discuss the work of great singers.



Music Club meets third Thursday of every month
Time: 10.00am - 12.00noon
(Morning tea is served)
Venue: Members' homes
Email: music@iwasingapore.org

ADDA CLUB

Adda Club celebrates the 'thinking Indian woman of today'. This group meets once a month to talk about various thought provoking topics involving all that shapes us, our families and the world around us. This is an open club with compulsory RSVP. All members of IWA are welcome to attend.



IWA ADDA CLUB : Past Discussion Topics

- Feminism - Its relevance today
- Marriage - The only accepted norm?
- Dreams - They mean something. Or do they?
- Superstitions - Blind dogma or concealed wisdom?

Adda Club meets last Friday of every month
Time: 10.00am - 12.00noon
(Morning tea is served)
Venue: Members' homes
Email: adda@iwasingapore.org

ENTREPRENEUR CLUB

The IWA Entrepreneur Club is a group for dynamic, creative, educated and forward-thinking vibrant women who share their ideas, career stories and goals as they embark on non-traditional careers. The group is a forum for women to post ideas, events and collaborate



on projects. During quarterly meetings, speakers lead discussions on various topics, such as taking the plunge into entrepreneurship, financial planning, balancing work and family and practical tips for solo practitioners/ owners. It is an education and resource group for women entrepreneurs. The vision is to provide education and resources for women entrepreneurs so they can grow both personally and professionally in their everyday life as personal growth leads to professional success. There is also an opportunity to network with each other and learn about businesses.

Entrepreneurs Club meeting date, timing and venue will be announced via IWA weekly newsletters

Email: business@iwasingapore.org

GOURMET GODDESS CLUB

Food, is a part of our everyday life and our enthusiasm for it never wanes! After all, food is what makes the world go around and brings people together. IWA is pleased to present the 'Gourmet Goddess Club' for all members who are food enthusiasts. A chance to lightly sauté the topic of the day, garnish and sprinkle new ideas and sample a tasty discussion with friends and experts. Expect to engage in stimulating gourmet discourse, discover exciting ingredients and new cuisines, delve into healthy eating and explore the art of fine dining in various ways. It is going to be an exciting gastronomical journey! IWA looks forward to bringing out the gourmet in each of us and we hope to inspire each to tune in to truly developing your inner-goddesses in the kitchen!



Gourmet Goddess Club meets last Thursday of every month
Time and venue to be announced
Email: gourmet@iwasingapore.org

FITNESS CLUB

Women today face the biggest challenge of staying fit - body and mind. IWA Fitness club works towards this common goal. So look forward to nature treks, engaging in sports like tennis, badminton, squash among others. For those who prefer the indoors there are games of chess and bridge to name a few. IWA fitness club will also provide a platform for nutritionists, coaches and fitness instructors who can demonstrate and initiate members into organised activities.



Fitness Club meeting date, timing and venue will be announced via IWA weekly newsletters
Email: fitness@iwasingapore.org

KIDZVENTURE CLUB

This club aims at helping members' children achieve a learning disposition mainly by organising events, outings, workshops and providing a platform to reach greater heights through diverse learning experiences. The activities of this club are mainly targeted at children between the ages of 2 and 16.



KidzVenture Club meeting date, venue and time will be announced via IWA weekly newsletters
Email: kidzventure@iwasingapore.org

SCRABBLE CLUB

Calling all Scrabble enthusiasts to toss out exciting words onto the Scrabble board. Expand your vocabulary, test your spellings and come up with nifty words from the dictionary.



Scrabble Club meets second Thursday of every month
Email: scrabble@iwasingapore.org

SOUL CLUB

At times do you feel lost, isolated or alone as you work? Do you have a vague sense that others don't understand you? Do you want to feel more 'connected' with everything and everyone around you? Are you looking to a more conscious, responsible and empowered living? Then... the Soul Club is the place for you.



The Soul Club is an attempt to create a dynamic spiritual community of like-minded souls...each and every one on a special but unique journey of their own. Philosophy of spirituality and positive optimism will be the touchstone for all our gatherings. This is about YOU finding your answers and connecting with others.

Refresh and rejuvenate by learning stress elimination techniques and indulging in some holistic relaxation. Heal and harmonise by dipping into alternate forms of mind-body exercise and discover the art of meditation. Contemplate and connect by gaining some practical wisdom from ancient scriptures and get fresh perspectives to life.

During our bi-monthly gatherings we shall truly celebrate life and each other with soul nourishing talks, events, concerts among other events.

Email soulclub@iwasingapore.org

IWA Women's Empowerment Cell

As events unfolded late last year in Delhi, women in India and Indian women all over the world including Singapore slowly woke up to the realisation that there is a lot that needs to be done before we can claim that the world we live in is indeed a world where women can express their full potential.

In this light, IWA wants to make a difference by trying to empower women through various participative initiatives under a new cell called 'IWA Women's Empowerment Cell'

Any initiative will always have a stronger impact when a committed group comes together and forms a plan - a plan that has a clear vision, a common mission and a strong structure - which can be put to use and facilitate results.

For further information please email empowerment@iwasingapore.org

A Fond Farewell

We bid adieu to Mrs Ranjana Sengupta and Dr Raghavan, High Commissioner to Singapore. They have been pillars of support to IWA and we wish them well in their next posting.

A farewell note from her:

"I have greatly valued my association with IWA, its a wonderful organisation and doing really good work, and I really regret not being able to say goodbye to all of you in person. Please give my warm regards to all your members and my very best wishes for all your future activities. I am sure that the incoming Indian High Commissioner to Singapore, Ms Vijay Thakur Singh, will be equally appreciative of IWA's contribution to raising the profile of Indian women in Singapore. It was a pleasure to host all of you at India House. Meanwhile, I will always treasure all the warmth and friendship I have received in Singapore. I just want to say once more that its been a great pleasure interacting with Piu,Subina and Shalini."

President's Message



My hand clasped warmly with aunty's, her face beaming with her special birthday smile. We danced together during the IWA's quarterly visit to SWAMI old age home. This little bit of joy that we brought to the residents, by celebrating the birthdays of those born in the months of spring, has been one of my highlights in the last few months, filled with activity. After three years of shared celebrations we have become friends and the smile we shared was not very different from the joyous mood we shared with our members, when we danced to the foot-tapping music during our IWA Holi celebrations.

The myriad colours of Holi seem to have poured onto the canvases of the wonderful artists and painters with whom we shared a tete-a-tete during our 'Summer Morning with Art and Artists'.

New energies and new ideas are pouring in and all our activity clubs are brimming with excitement as an amazing number of members attend each meeting.

Our clothes collection drive for Goonj got a special boost as the IWA social service team got a chance to meet Anshu Gupta who shared how our donations help villagers build bridges, schools and get "paid" with cloth.

By the time you read this, the successful IWA bazaar will have concluded. The excitement, colour and mood of the event is best captured in the lines of Sarojini Naidu:

*'What do you sell, O ye merchants?
Richly your wares are displayed,
Turbans of crimson and silver,
Tunics of purple brocade,
Mirrors with panels of amber,
Daggers with handles of jade.'*

We are already looking forward to the next IWA bazaar in October. There are so many more events planned, so keep your feedback coming and keep aside some time to join our clubs and interact with one another. To keep you connected here is our very first issue of IWA Dhvani and members can now look forward to receiving subsequent interesting issues at your doorstep.

We also have our iconic event being planned as well as a family event blending the varied hues of India. Can't wait to know more? Well, even I am waiting with bated breath.

Piu Lahiri
president@iwasingapore.org

IWA Dhvani - IWA's Print Publication

We are happy to announce IWA's Print Publication IWA Dhvani. Please write to editor@iwasingapore.org to book your advertisement space.

Size of Advertisement	IWA Member	Non-Member & Corporates
Quarter page	100 SGD	200 SGD
Half page - Horizontal/Vertical	150 SGD	250 SGD
Full Page	250 SGD	400 SGD

IWA Dhvani Editorial Team: Lakshmi Raghavan, Rashantha Therese Devanesan, Shalinee Chatterjee, Sukanya Pushkarna

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On the cover: Colours of the IWA Bazaar held on 8 May at the Hilton Hotel, Singapore.

Photograph courtesy: Sukanya Pushkarna

Indian Women's Association, Singapore

The Indian Women's Association of Singapore was formed in 1997 and today its popularity and membership has grown to make it an organisation which promotes many activities, supports charities and undertakes fundraisers.

IWA's objective is to help in the orientation and adaptation of new citizens to the Singaporean society and to bring about better cross-cultural understanding. It serves as platform to encourage and foster friendship and understanding within the large and growing community of Indians in Singapore. In fact, through its social and cultural activities, IWA has not only helped facilitate communication within the community but also with the community at large.

The IWA Clubs and the soon to be launched Women's Empowerment Cell creates platforms for empowering women, by motivating them through education, informational workshops, events and activities that promote women's well being, talents and enterprise. The IWA community service wing aims at nurturing and developing the spirit of volunteering and community service and provides suitable and sustainable programmes and opportunities to enable volunteers and give them the chance to make a positive and long-term impact on the community.

To ensure that these objectives are met IWA Singapore has a team of extremely dedicated and enthusiastic committee members and chairpersons.

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By Invitation Only

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The IWA Committee at Work & Play



Looking ahead... 2013 committee members at the first planning meeting



Mrs. Ranjana Sengupta hosts past and present IWA presidents and committee members at India House



The IWA Clean-up crew after a successful Summer Bazaar



Piu Lahiri with Subina Khaneja



New president Piu Lahiri



Passing the baton... Subina Khaneja (2010-2012) thanks her team at the AGM

IWA Care

Here are the many social service projects and causes IWA champions:

SWAMI Home visit

In 2011, under the Chair of Neeta Kapoor, IWA chose to hold monthly visits to the old age home run under the aegis of Sunshine Welfare Action Mission (SWAMI). The members decided to utilise their visits, on the last Thursday of every month, not just to spend time with the residents but also to celebrate the birthdays of the residents thereby making each occasion memorable. IWA members donate a four and a half kilo cake. After the cake is cut, each birthday lady or gentleman is handed a brightly wrapped birthday gift.

IWA committed SGD10,000 annually towards running this programme and by the second monthly visit in 2011 the approximate monthly expenditure of SGD800 was collected by enthusiastic members through donations and sponsorships.

In 2012, the service continued with Subina Khaneja as its Chair and along with birthdays, local festivals were celebrated every quarter. The theme for the last visit in April 2013 was Baisakhi, the Indian New Year celebrated in North India.

Every trip, an average of 30 ladies and children visit the home and it has resulted in introduction of a micro donation scheme where individual women donate directly to the home. IWA's SWAMI Home project on occasions has tied up with Indian performing artists and Global Indian International School (GIIS) to enhance the monthly visits. IWA has also organised yoga demonstrations. The SWAMI Home residents today look forward to these visits and greet the IWA volunteers with smiles, high fives and hugs.

IWA Vidya Scholarship

Asians believe in good education and therein lies the ethos of meritocracy in Singapore. As a measure of giving back and encouraging a talented and deserving child to attain higher education, IWA launched its first 'IWA Vidya Scholarship' with Singapore Management University (SMU) in 2013. This was IWA's foray in championing the cause of higher education. IWA felicitated their first student under the Singapore Higher Education Funds 'IWA SMU Vidya Scholarship' programme on January 25, 2013 at the Indian Association grounds.

The scholarship programme has been started by IWA to help young deserving Singaporeans pursue quality higher education at SMU. The merit of the deserving student, follows the Ministry of Education and SMU guidelines. Under its mandate, IWA hopes to assist deserving students on the path to establishing themselves as independent adults in society. The fund is open to support from individual donors.

For the year 2012-2013, IWA presented the scholarship to Ms Indera Arun - a third year student at the SMU pursuing a major in Political Science at the School of Social Sciences.

IWA & GOONJ

Anshu Gupta and his friends formed GOONJ in 1999 with the aim of repositioning cloth as a developmental resource. The organisation not only works at collecting clothing for the under privileged but also towards utilising the donated clothes and fabric for various purposes including turning them into sanitary napkins for rural women.

IWA in its tie-up with GOONJ set up centres of collection across the city and the donated clothes were shipped to India. A charge of SGD3 is levied on each kilogram of clothes donated to offset the shipping charges. In 2012 IWA sent 1000 kgs of donated items and this year a record number of volunteers worked tirelessly to collect and sort an impressive 3175kgs. On popular demand, IWA will have another collection drive post Diwali.

IWA & Transient Workers Count Too

The Cuff Road project is an offshoot of the NGO-Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2) and IWA in association with the latter supports migrant workers, in distress.

IWA has taken part from the end of 2011 to 2012 by supplying these workers with a healthy fruit supplement once a week. This 'Thursday fruits supplement programme' has helped in providing a balanced diet for the workers at The Cuff Road Project. Every Thursday workers gathered at the Isthana restaurant on Rowell Road to collect their quota of fruit.

In May 2012, IWA made a donation of SGD5,000 to TWC2 which was then under the aegis of President Dr Russel Heng. The amount donated was to be part of the emergency care fund for migrant workers who need immediate repatriation or medical assistance.

This year IWA will continue to financially support TWC2.

Along with these highlighted projects IWA Care has several other community service projects. Each project group welcomes both members and non-members.

For more information, please email community@iwasingapore.org



Caring Connecting Celebrating



IWA members participate in a Yogathon

Kidz Zumba



Celebrating their birthdays with SWAMI home residents



Teenager Cheryl Bains enjoying the colours of Holi



A Music Club Baithak



A Gourmet Club Feast



Holi 2013



Volunteers sorting and packing for the Goonj charity drive



IWA Summer Bazaar



Well known artist Jayasri Burman creates an IWA original to be auctioned for charity



Summer morning with art and artists



Breaking the Ice IWA members -new and old-mingle over games, jokes and lunch.



For further information on these events and more you can log on to www.iwasingapore.org

Hope you liked the first issue of IWA Dhvani. For any feedback you may have, suggestions of what you would like to see featured or articles and photos that you may like to contribute please do email us at editor@iwasingapore.com



Kadambari

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