



# IWA DHWANI

Indian Women's Association

February 2018 • MCI (P) 143/05/2013

Sounds of IWA, Singapore



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**4th Row:** Bhanu Ramchandran, Raji Viswanathan, Neeta Kapoor, Nirupa Vasudev, Lakshmi (Lucky) Padmanabhan, Monica Dovedy, Padmaja Balaji  
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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Garima Lalwani - President**  
[president@iwasingapore.org](mailto:president@iwasingapore.org)

*With a background in Psychology, Garima has worked with developmentally disabled adults and at a shelter for battered women. She has been an active volunteer with various other organizations. She translates her passion in art and culture by volunteering as a Docent at Asian Civilizations Museum and Singapore Arts Museum.*



Dear IWA Members,

I want to thank you for giving my team and me the chance to serve you. I take this opportunity to reflect on the year gone by. Keeping the guiding principle of IWA of Care, Connect and Celebrate paramount, we set out to work with a vision of IWA "WINS" where IWA would be a (W) welcoming place for all, find ways to engage, involve and (I) integrate with local and expat communities, (N) nurture existing relationships with our partners and (S) step up efforts towards member participation and volunteerism.

Our team set about collecting information about what our members wanted. It became clear that IWA members had varied interests with a desire to have more hands on engagement. There was a demand for weekend and evening activities. Member entrepreneurs wanted a central location for the IWA bazaars. With this feedback in mind, we set about planning the year. At the membership lunch 'Rendezvous' attendees heard directly from the Chairs and signed up for areas of interest. Empowered by information about IWA and having made personal connections, members felt **(W)elcomed**.

We initiated several new relationships this year. IWA members volunteered and engaged with organizations including the Yellow Ribbon Project, Food from the Heart, Willing Hearts, Henderson Community Club, Nee Soon CC, Babes Pregnancy Crisis Support and MINDS Tampines. We participated in conversations initiated by National Integration Council and MCCY. IWA invited organizations like American Women's Association, American Association of Singapore, Kamala Club and People's Association to partner with us in more meaningful ways. We started two new clubs, Acts of Kindness, to explore volunteering opportunities in Singapore and the Travel Club, to explore the world around us. We undertook new initiatives like festive gift voucher

distribution to low-income families for SINDA, art workshop for Jamiyah residents and craft sessions for HOME beneficiaries. An IWA contingent will participate in the Chingay Parade Singapore 2018 for the first time. These activities helped with our **(I)ntegration** efforts with both local and other expat communities.

We continued to **(N)urture** our existing relationships. IWA members helped run the creative activities of SINDA's Project Give. Our members served the community for Holi and Eid celebrations with Siglap South CC. Members donated TransitLink cards, computers and threw a Diwali party for TWC2 beneficiaries. They worked with BSS, HOME and Swami HOME where needed. We helped spread the word about the prestigious Pravasi Bhartiya Divas organized by the High Commission of India. We participated in conversations initiated by National Integration Council and NIWC. With fundraising from two successful bazaars we managed to fulfill our donation commitments to our regular partners, (SWAMI Home, BSS, HOME and TWC2), raised the scholarship amount for SMU Vidya Scholarship and donated to two new partners, National Gallery Singapore and WINGS counselling fund to help individuals of Indian origin.

Sustained efforts by the team to engage members by providing opportunities to attend interesting events, volunteer, engage in stimulating discussion, learn, create, socialize, and develop friendships along the way, led to a marked **(S)tepping up** of member participation. We held about 115 events where more than 2000 registrants were members. Visual and Performance arts were given center stage. Our artists came forward to engage IWA members as well as the local community in PASSionArts plank art painting with Siglap South CC. IWA supported two plays, 'Project Roop Kaur' and 'Mindless Whispers' which helped us raise awareness for mental health issues. IWA hosted a well-attended talk on

'Understanding Depression' to further this awareness. Our author event saw book lovers and writing enthusiasts come out in full force to listen, share and explore the topic of Legacies with three eminent authors. Evening and weekend activities like NEWater plant visit, Botanical garden picnic, in conversation with actor Adil Hussain, the Music Gala, gave an opportunity to working women and families to be part of IWA activities. We moved the IWA festive bazaar to a more central location with better accessibility for all, leading to a substantial increase in participation.

Over the last two decades IWA has come a long way. Started as an Expatriate Indian Women's Club in 1997, it became Indian Women's Association in 1998. As we celebrate the completion of 20 years of IWA, I would like to thank the efforts of all who have come before us, members, past presidents and their teams. Each year, IWA has gone from strength to strength. Our membership numbers have seen a steady increase. The number of clubs and activities on offer have gone up. Our integration efforts, volunteering opportunities and donation support for partner organizations has increased, leading to a larger community footprint.

As IWA steps into its 21<sup>st</sup> year, we'll continue to seek new ways to engage our members with the WINS approach. I encourage you, along with your friends and family members, to take an active role by participating in the association's activities. I hope that you are as excited as I am for a fun-filled, rewarding year ahead.

Yours sincerely,  
**Garima Lalwani**



# Get to know our Committee members...

## Sudeepta Dasgupta

- Vice President

[vicepresident@iwasingapore.org](mailto:vicepresident@iwasingapore.org)

Sudeepta (aka Lokhi) is currently one of the VPs of IWA and has been so for the past 3 years. IWA has been her second home in Singapore and she loves every minute of it....from all the club events to the I-care and integration events. IWA to her is fun, friends, laughter and joy!!!



## Chandan Lehal - Vice President:

[vicepresident@iwasingapore.org](mailto:vicepresident@iwasingapore.org)

Chandan believes that her 11 years in Singapore in general and 3 years at IWA in particular, have been very enriching and a huge learning experience. She has previously served as IWA Secretary 2015-17 and as the Music Club Chair 2015. She believes that volunteering does as much for you as an individual as it does for the community at large. While it is challenging at times, it is infinitely more rewarding. Live, Laugh and Sparkle!



## \*\*\*Tejashree Datey - Secretary:

[secretary@iwasingapore.org](mailto:secretary@iwasingapore.org)

A teacher by profession, Tejashree has been in IWA for the last 3 years and has served as Treasurer and Secretary. She is an avid photographer and passionate about cooking, travelling and serving the community. She is grateful to IWA for giving her the opportunity to make new friends with similar interests.



## Anuradha Shroff - Treasurer:

[treasurer@iwasingapore.org](mailto:treasurer@iwasingapore.org)

Anuradha is a Chartered Accountant and a finance professional with varied experience across India, USA and Singapore. She is an enthusiastic volunteer, avid book reader and music lover who is very happy with her life roles as a mother, wife, and a friend.



## Pallavi Agarwal

- Assistant Treasurer:

[assttreasurer@iwasingapore.org](mailto:assttreasurer@iwasingapore.org)

A doctorate in Mathematics, Pallavi taught in various Engineering and Management Institutes in India before moving to Singapore 5 years back. After completing a Teachers training programme from Cambridge (UK), she is now working in Singapore. She is also a graduate in the Kathak dance form and loves to dance in her free time.



## Kavita Daga - Media Director:

[media@iwasingapore.org](mailto:media@iwasingapore.org)

An IWA member for the past 7 years, Kavita is an engineer by education, an artist at heart and an entrepreneur by fate. She has worn many hats in the IWA committee and now keeps the e-machinery of IWA well-oiled and functional by overseeing Media and IT Support.



## \*\*\*Gowri Aiyar - Advisory To Executive Committee:

Gowri has been an IWA member since its inception. She currently holds the position of IWA Advisory and has been a Bazaar Co-Chair. She loves belonging to this group of talented and like-minded women and enjoys participating in the social and cultural activities organised by IWA. In her professional avatar, Gowri coaches, counsels and mentors high school students for university admissions.



## Preeti Dubey - Advisory To Executive Committee:

Life is about caring, connecting & celebrating! These three words that IWA lives by, created an instant connection with Preeti & before she realized she found herself as a committee member of IWA. She has served the organization as the Secretary, Treasurer, and Entrepreneur Club Chair and is currently Advisor to the committee. She is a full time professional who is passionate about contributing to the growth of IWA.



## Sukanya Pushkarna - Advisory To Executive Committee:

Sukanya has lived in Singapore for 7 years after a 23-year stint in the USA. She loves working with women and has enjoyed volunteering at IWA for five years. She is a Docent at the Asian Civilizations Museum and the Indian Heritage Centre. She loves traveling, learning new things, meeting people from different walks of life, and helping those who are less fortunate than herself. She also enjoys music and reading.



## Bhavani Bannerjee

- Legal Affairs:

[legal@iwasingapore.org](mailto:legal@iwasingapore.org)

Bhavani feels fortunate to be in the IWA Committee since it has given her a wider platform to get involved in various activities of volunteering and social service. She looks forward to many other opportunities to work and move together with IWA, and reach out to the society at large.



## Neeta Mirchandani - Events:

[events@iwasingapore.org](mailto:events@iwasingapore.org)

Neeta, who moved to Singapore in 2000, has been involved with IWA for over a decade in various roles including being a past Vice President of IWA. A real estate agent by profession, Neeta was a former model and has a Master's degree from Bombay University. Her hobbies include cooking, travelling and organizing events.



## Gauri Savadi - Membership:

[membership@iwasingapore.org](mailto:membership@iwasingapore.org)

Gauri Savadi has been co-chairing the Membership drive for the past 4 years. She



is a full-time working mother of two, a Sergeant in the Singapore Police Force and volunteers as an animal rescuer at a local organization. She has made full use of the many opportunities that living in Singapore has given her and is an enthusiastic adventurer who loves biking, kayaking and mountaineering.

## Abhinika Mitra - Membership:

[membership@iwasingapore.org](mailto:membership@iwasingapore.org)

Membership is the lifeline of IWA and Abhinika has been co-chairing it for the past 4 years. In addition to increasing membership substantially, she has helped IWA integrate with the local community by tapping into her close association with the Community Centres to initiate several joint ventures.



## Vidya Dasgupta

- Membership Privileges:

[privilege@iwasingapore.org](mailto:privilege@iwasingapore.org)

Vidya is an entrepreneur and the CEO of a financial consulting company. Outside her professional life, she actively volunteers in social initiatives and is a fitness and Yoga enthusiast. She enjoys travelling, reading and meditation.



## Seema Gupta - Media Sales:

[adsales@iwasingapore.org](mailto:adsales@iwasingapore.org)

In Singapore for the past 17 years, Seema, a post graduate in English Literature, worked for a couple of years post marriage but then decided to be a full time housewife and mother to her two beautiful daughters. She joined IWA 7 years ago and is a part of the Media Relations team. She enjoys reading (mostly fiction), sketching and cooking.



## Rakhi Shankar - Newsletter:

[newsletter@iwasingapore.org](mailto:newsletter@iwasingapore.org)

Rakhi has degrees in Engineering, Business Administration and Public Administration and has experience in software, finance and education industries. At present, she chooses to be a stay-at-home mom and indulge her diverse interests by actively participating in the varied activities that IWA has to offer. She is responsible for sending out the weekly IWA news update via the newsletter.



## Jyoti Verma - Website:

[website@iwasingapore.org](mailto:website@iwasingapore.org)

Jyoti finished her Masters in Computer Science before migrating to Singapore in 1993. She worked in the corporate world for a few years before settling comfortably into the role of a homemaker. She joined IWA two years back and has managed the IWA website for the past one year. Her hobbies are writing, singing, acting and trying to understand anything and everything on and beyond this universe.



# From the Editorial Team



**Alka Joglekar – Dhvani Editor**  
[editor@iwasingapore.org](mailto:editor@iwasingapore.org)

*Alka, an IT consultant by profession, has been an IWA member since she came to Singapore in 2014. An avid reader, a history buff and a keen student of local culture, tradition and food, she is enjoying exploring her creative side as Editor of Dhvani.*



## It's time to celebrate – let's raise a glass to 20 years of IWA!

**T**his special celebratory issue of Dhvani, is a tribute to all the big and small moments of IWA that led to the growth of a club for Indian expat women to a full fledged mature organization that celebrates the sisterhood, cares for those less fortunate and connects with the community.

In this issue, we go down memory lane with snippets and photographs from the history of IWA and with our past Presidents talking about how IWA has progressed and evolved over the last two decades. We list the major IWA-managed events of 2017 and showcase the amazing work done by our Clubs.

Hope you enjoy browsing through this special edition of Dhvani!



Sukanya Pushkarna



Rathantha Therese  
Devanesan



Neena Mittal



Lakshmi Raghavan



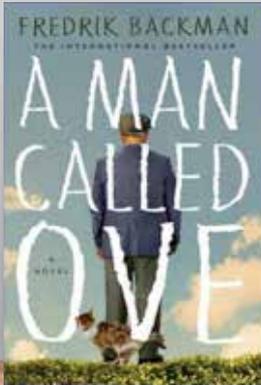
Hetal Shah



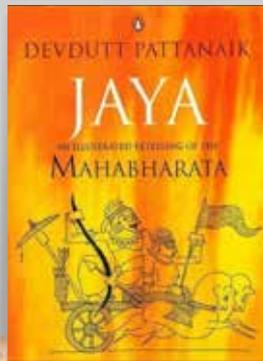
Lakshmi (Lucky)  
Padmanabhan

# What we read in 2017

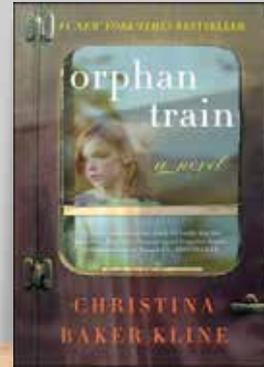
A list of the books read in the Book Club



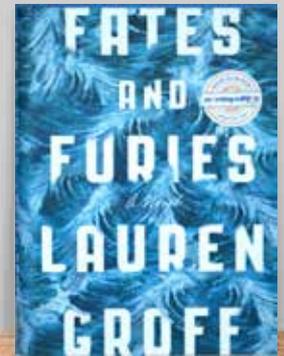
**February 2017**  
A Man called Ove  
*Fredrik Backman*



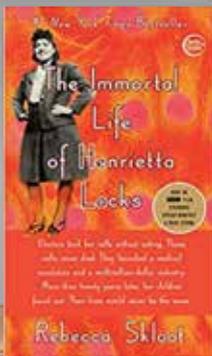
**March 2017**  
Jaya  
*Devdutt Pattanaik*



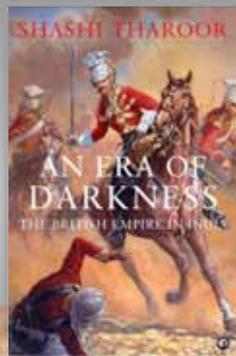
**April 2017**  
Orphan Train  
*Christina Baker Kline*



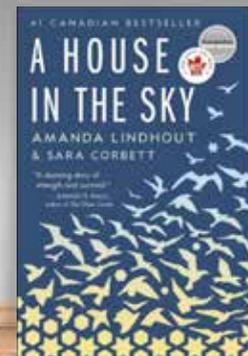
**May 2017**  
Fates and Furies  
*Lauren Groff*



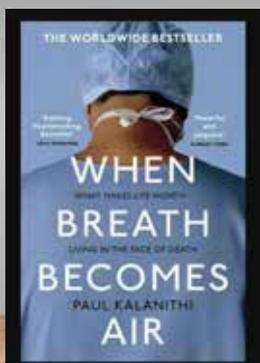
**July 2017**  
The Immortal Life of  
Henrietta Lacks  
*Rebecca Skloot*



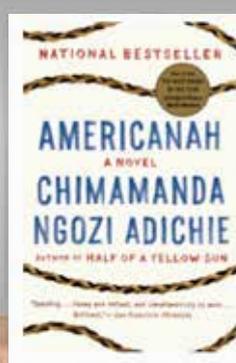
**August 2017**  
An Era of Darkness  
*Shashi Tharoor*



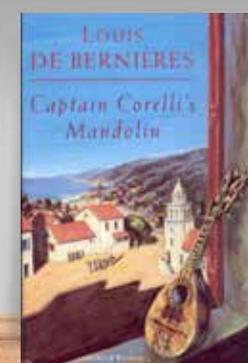
**September 2017**  
A House in the Sky  
*Amanda Lindhout*



**October 2017**  
When Breath  
Becomes Air  
*Dr. Paul Kalanithi*



**November 2017**  
Americanah  
*Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie*



**January 2018**  
Captain Corelli's  
Mandolin  
*Louis de Bernières*

# What we watched in 2017

A list of the movies screened in the Movie Club



**February 2017**

The Song of Sparrows  
Director Majid Majidi



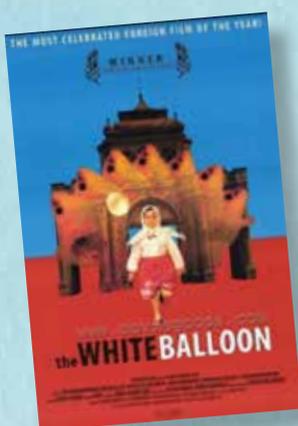
**March 2017**

The Color of Paradise  
Director Majid Majidi



**April 2017**

Baran  
Director Majid Majidi



**May 2017**

The White Balloon  
Director Jafar Panahi



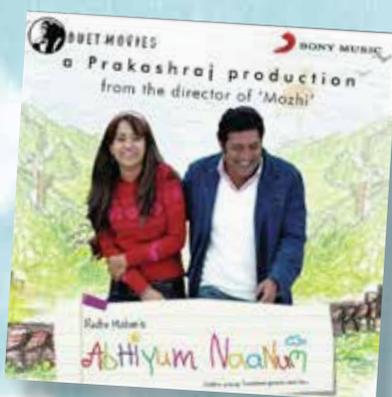
**July 2017**

Bela Seshe  
Directors Nandita Roy and  
Shiboprasad Mukherjee



**September 2017**

Sairat  
Director Nagraj Manjule



**October 2017**

Abhiyum Naanum  
Director Radha Mohan



**November 2017**

Anatomy of Violence  
Director Deepa Mehta



**December 2017**

Water  
Director Deepa Mehta

# What we talked about in 2017

The discussion topics in Adda Club



**Nirupa Vasudev**  
Adda Club Chair  
adda@iwasingapore.org

*Nirupa is a Singaporean and has been here since 1998. She is a realtor by profession and has been an IWA committee member for the past 7 years. She has served as IWA's vice-president, fitness club chair and has been moderating the Adda club for 4 years. She credits IWA for giving her the opportunity to grow and develop as a person and to be amidst vibrant and enterprising women.*

**Culture Shock: What surprised you the most in your travels?**

**IWA**  
Indian Women's Association

**2ND MARCH 2017**  
2-4 PM  
FUNCTION ROOM  
@ REGENCY PARK  
3 NATHAN ROAD  
SINGAPORE

## SELFISHNESS: A VIRTUE OR A VICE?

**IWA**  
Indian Women's Association

**When: 16th May 2017, 2pm-4pm**  
**Where: Function Room @ Regency Park**  
7 Raffles Road  
Singapore 248726

*What has the worst moment in our lives taught us?*



**How do you come to terms about aging?**

**IWA**  
Indian Women's Association

**Where: Function room @ Regency Park**  
3 Nathan road Singapore 248726

**When : 21st November 2017**  
**Time : 2pm-4pm.**

**IWA**  
Indian Women's Association

**How Tolerant are you? IS it your strength or weakness?**  
Discover on:  
March 30th  
Function room @regency park  
3 Nathan road  
Singapore  
Between 2pm-4pm

**Is it crucial to belong? if so, where do you belong?**  
when: 18th Sept 2017  
Time: 2-4 pm,  
where: 77 shelford Road.

**IWA**  
Indian Women's Association

**What news are you following?**

**IWA**  
Indian Women's Association

**30th JANUARY**  
1770 HILLCREST ROAD, SINGAPORE 238950

# IWA Working Committee's High Tea at the High Commissioner's Residence, India House.







**\*\*\*Richa Joshi-Kaul**  
Entrepreneur Club  
Chair  
business@  
iwasingapore.org

*Richa is a freelance business & strategic marketing analyst. She loves travelling, reading, dabbling in the kitchen and is passionate about sustainability & environmental issues. A resident of Singapore for the past 6 years, she was the Co-Chair of the Bazaar.*

*\*\*\* this member has stepped down*



**Mika Parekh**  
Entrepreneur Club  
Chair  
business@  
iwasingapore.org

*Mika has been a member of IWA for the past five years. She brings to IWA a background in Accounting & Tax and is excited to embrace her role as Co-Chair of the Entrepreneur Club.*



# Coffee Mixer

## Entrepreneurial Stories



## Working in Singapore

### Information Session for Dependent Pass Holders: Options for Working in Singapore.

The IWA Entrepreneur Club invited an expert to conduct an interactive session for DP holders where attendees learned more about the Letter of Consent (LOC), how to work as a freelancer, and be paid for products and services that they offer in Singapore.





# Gourmet Goddess Club Diwali

Festive finery and finger-licking food came together as we celebrated Diwali with our lovely members.

**\*\*\*Taniya Hathiramani**  
Gourmet Goddess  
Club Chair  
gourmet@iwasingapore.org

An active IWA member for the past 2 years, Taniya is an Interior Designer and English Teacher by profession. She lived in France for 20 years before moving to Singapore 6 years back. Her modeling days in Paris have helped her to develop a keen interest in different cultures and she can easily communicate with people coming from different countries & backgrounds. A mother of 2 beautiful children, she loves travelling and trying out different cuisines. Music has always been important to her and she has played the sitar, guitar and piano as a young girl.

\*\*\* this member has stepped down





# Music Gala

On 11th November 2017, the Music Club held its annual gala night "Maujan hi Maujan" at Moghul Mahal restaurant. It was a well-attended event where in the first half of the programme, the music club showcased its singing and dancing talents. After a sumptuous dinner, family members including children and husbands took to open mic and had a gala time singing and dancing to their heart's content. IWA President Garima Lalwani drew lucky draw prizes for some members of the audience.



# Past Presidents Reminisce...

## 2015 & 2016

Sukanya Pushkarna

## 2013 & 2014

Piu Lahiri

## 2011 & 2012

Subina Aurora Khaneja

## 2008 through 2010

Shalini Sinha

## 2007

Binifer Kaushal

## 2006

Vaniitha Narasimhan

## 2005

Nandini Gupta/  
Vaniitha Narasimhan

## 2004

Pinky Pant

## 2003

Radhika Kothari

## 2002

Bina Batlivala

## 2001

Lata Iyer

## 2000

Lubna Jumabhoy

## 1999

Lata Iyer

## 1997 & 1998

Julie Mehta



### Bina Batlivala,

IWA President 2002

*Mother to 3 lovely children, 1 daughter in law, 1 son in law, 2 beautiful grandchildren, retired teacher, avid traveler, passionate reader, wannabe bridge player, mad mahjong player and open to new activities and opportunities.*

I think back to my rich-with-experience IWA days with great fondness. Living outside India, I missed the "desi" camaraderie and in every place I lived, I promptly joined or formed an Indian women's group. My first large social outing in Singapore was an IWA meeting at the Indian Ambassador's residence; I met so many women that I could connect with and I was so excited to be part of the group.

As I reflect on what mattered to me most as President, I have no hesitation in responding, "being inclusive" and "giving back to the community." The incredible team that I was lucky to work with felt the same way: it was important to make each member feel valued and give them a sense of belonging. We organized coffee mornings where we made it a point to connect with each member in a personal way. We celebrated "Holi" and

"Diwali" and everything in between as a community and tried our best to infuse each meeting with warmth. The idea was to organize events and meetings that were as diverse as our members and give like-minded women a chance to meet.

The avenue we selected for giving back to the community was Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA), a self-help group established to uplift the socio-economic status of the Indian community. We organised a fashion show and pledged more than \$35,000 to SINDA's students. The spirit of giving strengthened our bonds as a community and was the start of a close association with SINDA that continues to this day.

My husband and I relocated to Florida two years ago. It's been an exceptionally happy, busy time being close to our three children and two grandchildren. Now that the dust has settled, I am back to one of my favorite activities-women's groups- and am currently on the board of the newly formed Women's Club in Parkland. I am not sure where it will lead but as Rumi the Persian philosopher and poet said, "only from the heart can you touch the sky."

May the club reach greater heights, and may each member remember it with as much affection as I do.



### Binifer Kaushal,

IWA President 2007

*IWA - ever close to my heart, no matter where I live! The memories I collected from this group of moms, managers, entrepreneurs, chefs et al always bring a warm glow to the heart.*

Each one came to IWA to learn in one way or another. Every single person made a positive contribution - The managing committee and every active member.

There was a lot going on when I stepped up to the task of president. A very informed book club, a super talented music club and a big winner was the lunch club which organized cooking demonstrations, at fabulous restaurants and homes, followed by a lip smacking meal.

The coffee mornings were the only events which were questioned and lacked quorum. Everyone felt they could grab a coffee anywhere, why go to an IWA coffee morning? This got us thinking and we started bringing in speakers. From a talk by a Vastu specialist, to information about feminine ailments and their homeopathic solutions, we covered a lot. A very interesting coffee morning was hosted at a gym where the trainers spoke about healthy living and ended the event with free training sessions by lucky draw. Soon, registrations for coffee mornings were back with a bang.

IWA has a fair number of entrepreneurs. With not many opportunities to showcase their wares, they went unnoticed. IWA Bazaar was born. The first one was held at the Pines Club and was very well subscribed to and attended. It was inaugurated by Mrs. Kiyoko Jaishankar, wife of the Indian High Commissioner to Singapore.

It's nice to know that all this is still a part of the IWA calendar. After Singapore, I moved to Taipei, then Mumbai and am in Dubai at present - catching up on my hobby, golf, and making quilts for charity. I am having a great time here and sometimes sit in my garden wondering, "where next?"

I wish IWA's committee and all members the very best and hope it grows positively every day.



**Subina Aurora Khaneja,**  
IWA President 2011 & 2012

I have been an IWA member since its inception and one of my cherished memories is sitting in on a meeting when the IWA constitution was being finalized at the Tanglin Club. I have been on its committee in various roles, as Chair of the Book Club, Children's Activities, Events and Entertainment.

The first big event I planned for IWA was "Holi on the Beach".

When I became President, I was driven by a clear need to make IWA more institutionalized and professionally run. In envisioning a role for IWA, I thought about the role an association like this fulfills and is therefore useful. What is our purpose? Why do we exist? What needs do we meet?

Ours is a Community Organization, and as for any community welfare body, we must visualize how we can aspire to make a difference. Its clear mandate must be to have a vision for the world it operates in and has some influence over. It must be able to identify its community's needs, and fill gaps in the society... AND it must have a vision for the future.

So, I started by setting out a Vision, and the three-pronged Care, Connect, Celebrate ethos was created to give IWA direction and clear objectives. While the social objectives of having coffee mornings continued, the scope of IWA widened to include the needs of the changing Indian diaspora in Singapore.

We hoped to create a new direction for IWA and it makes me very happy to see that every program we started is continuing 6-7 years after they were launched in 2011-2012.



**Piu Lahiri,**  
IWA President 2013 & 2014  
*Piu is based in Hanoi now and is on the governing council of the "Friends of Vietnam Heritage" and chairing the "Travel Around the World through food" circle for the Hanoi International Women's Club. She is also working on her book titled "Hennaed hands".*

On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013, I stood on the podium, before all the IWA members, taking the oath of the IWA President. In my years with IWA, I had seen the enormous talent of our members and decided to tap into that. My dream for IWA was a platform of friends where each member would feel they belonged, felt comfortable enough to contribute their skills, a place where each one's voice would be heard, and each member felt they were a cherished part of the IWA family. The core ideology remained the same, but many more clubs were started, chaired by enthusiastic members. So, whether you were passionate about food or keeping fit, about creative writing or starting a business - clubs were started to fill each need.

The IWA I inherited had an excellent online weekly newsletter and a website. So, the new clubs got advertised and the number of members attending the events increased. My focus was to get more members to attend our events - passion and not only perfection was the call of the hour. The IWA printed magazine was restarted with a new name, IWA Dhvani, and became a place where our members and their families started contributing their articles, paintings and photographs.

In the sphere of social service, we adopted a new project called "Beyond Social Services" where we worked with

children from financially weaker sections and numerous teachers in our fold jumped in for the monthly visits.

Another memory is of one of our former IWA Presidents, Bina Batlivala, visiting Singapore and I used it then as an opportunity to get all the former IWA Presidents together. At my request Mrs. Raghavan, our patron and spouse of the then Indian High Commissioner to Singapore, agreed to host the session and we had a lovely morning in India House.

An area where we needed to increase our visibility and focus was in the field of integration. We worked together with many organizations and these events were written about in the local media. This opened many more doors as several Singaporean organizations heard about IWA and the work we did. Our image became a warmer, all encompassing one and more Singaporeans joined our family.

We were invited to take part in the Chingay Parade activity where we made colourful flowers for trees out of big and small plastic bottles.

We increased our activities with the migrant workers organizing meditation and yoga camps, having fun filled Diwali parties for them, baking cupcakes for them, gifting phone cards and EZ link cards, and providing translation services. We earmarked funds to be used for their medical expenses. We also reached out and helped migrant maids who were in limbo due to non-payment of their salaries.

In the 2 years, over 100 activities were perfectly organized by the IWA team, volunteering their time and effort. A team, that worked hard together but did not hesitate to speak their mind when they felt I was getting "too big for my boots". They remain my cherished friends, my wonderful IWA family.

# Down Memory Lane...

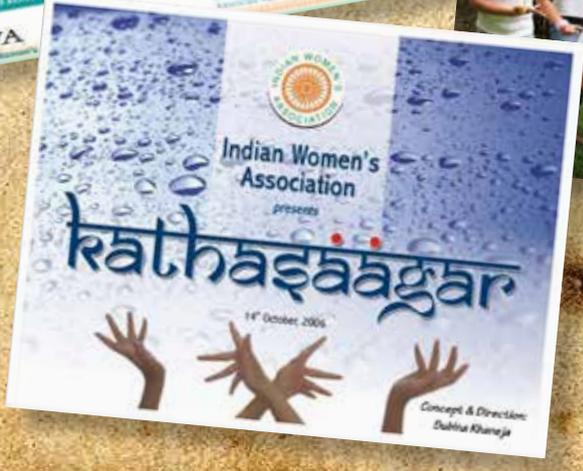
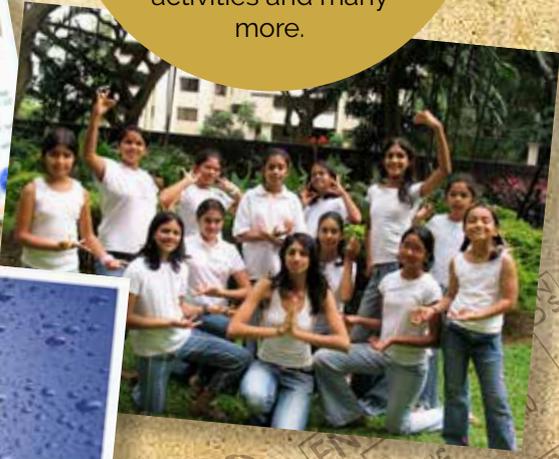
A big thank you to Gauri Shrivastav and Subina Aurora Khaneja for sharing their memories with us. We hope these snippets will bring some of the earlier years alive for you.

The Music Group from 2003 to 2007 was a serious affair with trained singers. No bathroom singers allowed! The themes were classical like "Basant" or "Gazals" or off-beat like "Sing in a language not your own". Each singer had to be fully prepared with her song and some information about it. Some of the classically trained singers would also get their own instruments and make it a concert-like event. Members eagerly looked forward to Workshops – one of which was conducted by a member's mother-in-law on the Rajasthani folk music, Maand!



Activities for children were conducted every month to introduce them to the arts, language and tradition. They were diverse and ranged from cricket coaching, arts & craft, mother & baby joint activities and many more.

Major stage productions were put together very successfully as part of the children's activities. Around 60-80 children were auditioned for these productions and they learnt much more than stagecraft. For the first production, *Once Upon a Time in Ayodhya*, the late President Nathan was the Chief Guest. The first production was followed by two more – *Krishna Leela* and *Kathasaagar*.



**A Sizzling Bazaar To Add A Sparkle To Your Summer**

# IWA SUMMER BAZAAR 2014

**Friday, 9th May 2014 10am – 8:30pm**  
**Holiday Inn Singapore (Orchard City Centre)**

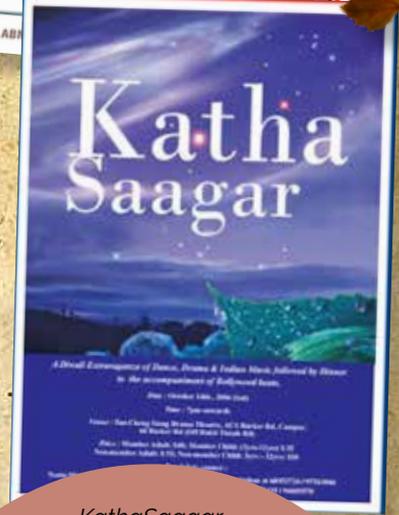
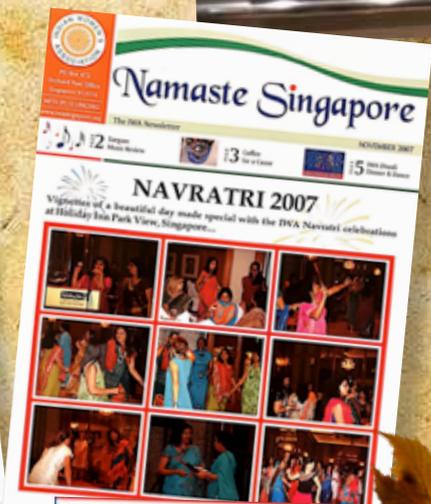
Vendor Registrations Open till 1st May 2014  
 Visit [www.iwasingapore.org/bazaar](http://www.iwasingapore.org/bazaar) for more information

Official Television Partner  
 ASIAN TIGERS MOBILITY, SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, INDONESIA

Part of the proceeds from this bazaar will go towards the emergency relief medical fund of Indian Migrant Workers



The Book Club had some strict rules – no food except for a sweet and a savoury snack! That way there would be no distraction from the business of books. One of the members had to prepare an in-depth review of the book and everybody else was expected to have read the book and discuss it.



*KathaSaagar* was a dance drama featuring the children of IWA. Showcasing the nine emotions of Indian performance Arts, the Navarasas, through dance, drama, poetry and singing, the show meandered thematically between semi classical and neo classical genres with music based on folk and children's songs. With a cast of nearly 70 children, this Deepavali entertainer aimed to entertain and educate the children by creating a platform while showcasing their talent.



The IWA Acts of Kindness Club celebrated "World Kindness Day" by spending a fulfilling morning volunteering at Willing Hearts, which operates a soup kitchen that prepares, cooks and distributes over 6,000 daily meals to over 40 locations, 365 days a year. The beneficiaries include the elderly, the disabled, low income families, children from single parent families or otherwise poverty stricken families, and migrant workers in Singapore. The IWA team was joined by some members of the American Women's Association, American Association of Singapore and Kamala Club.

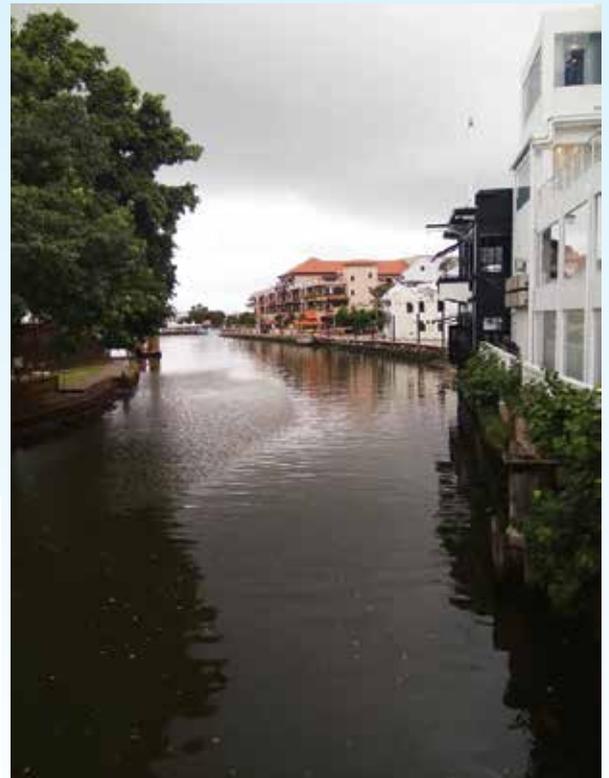




# IWA Travel Club enjoyed their first overseas trip – a 2 day trip to Melaka, Malaysia!

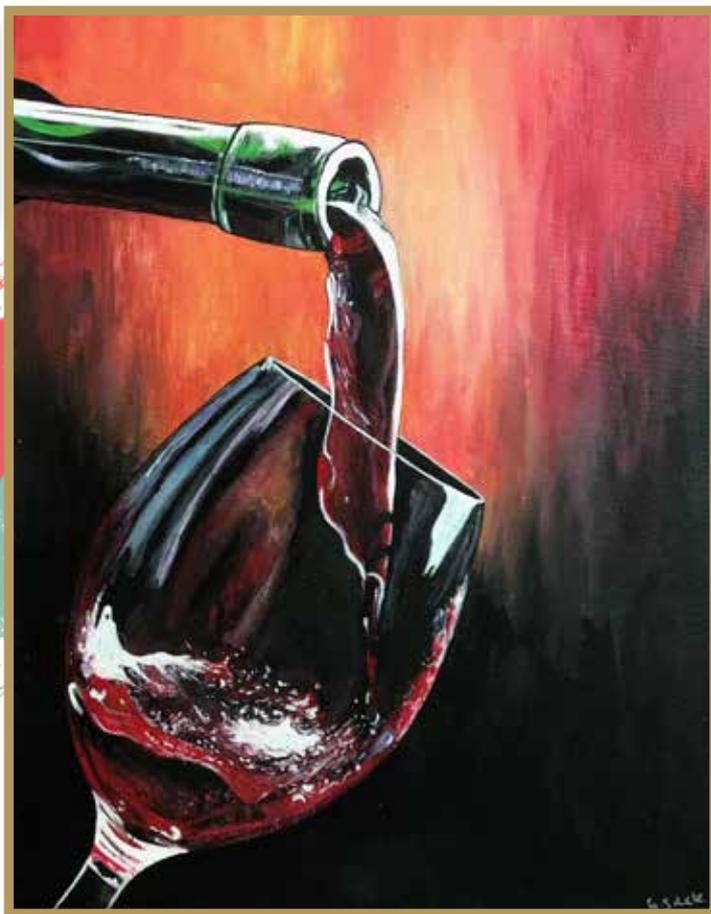
**Sukanya Pushkarna**  
Travel Club Chair  
travel@iwasingapore.org

*Sukanya has lived in Singapore for 7 years after a 23-year stint in the USA. She loves working with women and has enjoyed volunteering at IWA for five years. She is a Docent at the Asian Civilizations Museum and the Indian Heritage Centre. She loves traveling, learning new things, meeting people from different walks of life, and helping those who are less fortunate than herself. She also enjoys music and reading.*





Painting by  
Gayatri Lele



Painting by Siya Jain

## Congratulations!

Three members of IWA Writing Enthusiasts' Club (WEC) have added another feather in their caps last year.

Dr Aruna Shahani and Shilpa Dikshit Thapliyal (WEC Chair) had their poems published in anthologies in India and Singapore respectively. Jyoti Verma won the 'Best Story Award' in the Prerna Awards-2017.



Dr Aruna Shahani



Jyoti Verma



Shilpa Dikshit Thapliyal



## FIDDLING WITH RIDDLES

by Sumana Viswanathan



Here are some classic riddles for you!

**1.** I am taken from a mine, and shut up in a wooden case from which I'm never released, and yet I am used by many. What am I?

**2.** Many have heard me, but nobody has seen me, and I will not speak back until spoken to. What am I?

**3.** I'm at the beginning of the end and the start of eternity, at the end of time and space, in the middle of yesterday but nowhere in tomorrow. What am I?

**4.** The wetter I get, the more I dry. What am I?

**5.** I gurgle but never speak, run but never walk, have a bed but never sleep. What am I?

**Here are some riddles created by me!**

**6.** I take the time to court, yet my service to you is to avoid love. It's a game I like to play with you. What am I?

**7.** I'm the eyelid to your life. I hide you when you're inside. I wave in the wind. Draw me to see.

**8.** I have lots to say but never speak. I open but you cannot walk through me. My name is neither dusk nor dawn. But I like to follow both around. What am I?

Answers on page 21



# Creative Hands Club: Art For A Cause

Creative Hands Club not only held various creative workshops in 2017 but also conducted three outreach programmes.

## JAMIYAH HOME FOR THE AGED:

Helping the residents at Jamiyah create beautiful and colourful mandala mobiles.



## H.O.M.E Outreach:

The residents of H.O.M.E. enjoyed the session of handmade fabric jewellery organised by CHC.

## SINDA OUTREACH:

IWA Creative Hands Club led the fun, creative activities at SINDA's "Project Give" booth at the Deepavali Festival Village 2017 in Little India.





Themed 'Growing Networks, Strengthening Engagement', this year's Grassroots Seminar was held on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2017 from 9am to 1pm at Singapore Expo Hall



Indian Women's Association has been a supportive key partner of PA in reaching out to meet the needs and aspirations of the community.



Global Indian International School, East Coast Campus celebrated its Annual Day on August 26, 2017. The President of IWA, Ms. Garima Lalwani was the Guest of Honour for the first show. She motivated the students and was extremely happy to see the budding stars perform. The students presented her with the gift of a plant from their garden.



Our Members Privileges Partner, Raffles Hospital conducted an informative talk on the topic - *Breezing through Midlife Transition - Menopause*. The talk was led by Dr. Sivahami Sivanathan - Specialist in Obstetrics & Gynaecology who also cleared many doubts during the question and answer session.

## Photos of the Donor event at SINDA on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Madam Indranee Rajah, President of SINDA was the Guest of Honour.



IWA and KAH (Key Appointment holders) Besides IWA members those featured in this picture are: **SINDA CEO** - Mr Kumaran Barathan, **President** - Ms Indranee Rajah, **Vice Presidents** - Mr K V Rao, Mr Shekaran Krishnan, **Secretary** - Mr Sarjit Singh

## The much-anticipated Festive Bazaar was held on 5<sup>th</sup> September at Suntec City.



\*\*\*Richa Joshi-Kaul  
IWA Bazaar  
bazaar@iwasingapore.org

Richa is a freelance business & strategic marketing analyst. She loves travelling, reading, dabbling in the kitchen and is passionate about sustainability & environmental issues. A resident of Singapore for the past 6 years, she was the Co-Chair of the Bazaar.



\*\*\*Gowri Aiyar  
IWA Bazaar  
bazaar@iwasingapore.org

Gowri has been an IWA member since its inception. She currently holds the position of IWA Advisory and was the Bazaar Co-Chair. She loves belonging to this group of talented and like-minded women and enjoys participating in the social and cultural activities organized by IWA. In her professional avatar, Gowri coaches, counsels and mentors high school students for university admissions.

\*\*\* these members have stepped down

### ANSWERS TO RIDDLES

1. Pencil
2. Echo
3. The letter "E"
4. Towel
5. River
6. Tennis
7. Curtain
8. A book titled "Twilight"



**Ritu Kapoor**  
kindness@  
iwasingapore.org

**ACTS OF  
KINDNESS  
CLUB CHAIR**

Originally from Delhi, Ritu has been a trailing spouse for the past twenty two years living in over six countries before settling in Singapore. A giver at heart, simple by choice, graphic designer by passion and an idealist to a fault - she is happiest when engaged in her passion projects. Know her to know more!



**Lakshmi Padmanabhan**  
bookclub@iwasingapore.org

**BOOK CLUB  
CHAIR**

Lakshmi has been a part of IWA for 4 years. She is the Book Club chair and can be found at the Adda table or interacting with residents at SWAMI Home or teaching those willing to learn at the Sai center, to read, write and speak English. A Library Assistant in the previous avatar, she now has found her calling, be it editing, reading or volunteering!



**Monica Dovedy**  
creative@  
iwasingapore.org

**CREATIVE  
HANDS CLUB  
CHAIR**

Monica has been married to her best friend for over thirty years. She is blessed with two beautiful daughters. She's enhancing her creative skills through her business venture and enjoying it.





**Padmaja Balaji**  
fitness@iwasingapore.org

**FITNESS CLUB CHAIR**

Padmaja is a Hatha Vinyasa yoga instructor and has two sons Bharath (21 years) and Prithvi (19 years). Her life principles are Health, Nutrition, Fitness and mindfulness and she also enjoys singing and dancing. Her mantra to enjoy life fully is "Keep fit - Mentally, Physically & Spiritually."



**Anshoo Berry**  
scrabble@iwasingapore.org

**MAHJONG & SCRABBLE CLUB CHAIR**

Anshoo has been living in Singapore for the past 5 years and has been a committee member since 2014. She enjoys playing Mahjong and is the Mahjong and Scrabble Club Chair. She is an active member of the Bazaar team as well as an enthusiastic participant in other club and social events.



**Selmé Singh**  
movie@iwasingapore.org

**MOVIE CLUB CHAIR**

Selmé Singh has been an IWA member since 2013. Being a lover of world cinema, she wanted to share the magic and richness of this art form with IWA members and started the IWA Movie Club. She is also interested in modern and contemporary art and is a Docent at Singapore Art Museum and National Gallery Singapore. She has converted her passion of baking into a profession and now bakes on order.





**Madhu Suri**  
music@iwasingapore.org

**MUSIC CLUB CHAIR**

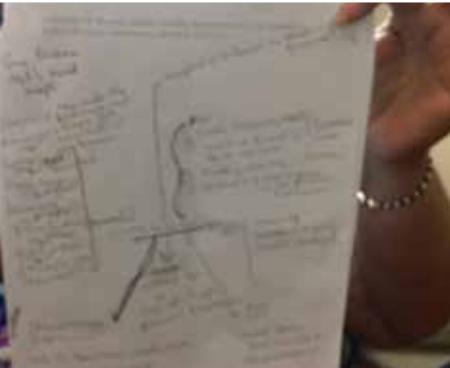
Madhu has been an active member of IWA for 6 years. She has chaired other IWA clubs earlier and is now the Music Club Chair. Madhu is a freelance actor and is active in the local theatre and movie industry.



**Shilpa Dikshit**  
Thapliyal  
writing@iwasingapore.org

**WRITING ENTHUSIASTS' CLUB CHAIR**

Meet Shilpa Dikshit Thapliyal - the chair of the Writing Enthusiasts' Club (WEC). She welcomes everybody to the club with these words: Ever had a thought so strong That niggled your mind for long ... An urge to write poetry, weave a story imaginary? Then come, join WEC!





**Raji Viswanathan**  
community@iwasingapore.org

**SWAMI HOME**

Raji is an accountant and a trained singer who has been a part of IWA since 2012. She is the Coordinator - SWAMI Home for Elderly at present and has helmed the Music Club and co-chaired the Bazaar earlier.



**Neeta Kapoor**  
relief@iwasingapore.org

**H.O.M.E & TWC2**

Neeta is the Chair for IWA Migrant Workers' Relief Work initiative supporting two organisations - TWC2 and H.O.M.E. A resident of Singapore since 1995, she is a Homeopath and a professional Counsellor. She is passionate about community work and was instrumental in starting the SWAMI home volunteering initiative in 2011.



**Bhanu Ramchandran**  
service@iwasingapore.org

**BEYOND SOCIAL SERVICES**

Bhanu, an IWA volunteer and member for the past 3 years, nurtures one of IWA's I-care community service projects. She has a background in management consulting and a special interest in communication. Currently, she is a full-time homemaker, part-time volunteer and any-time dancer.

it is back...

...the happiest bazaar in town!!

Tues  
17th  
April

10:30 am - 7:30 pm



# iwo Summer Bazaar

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& Exhibition Centre

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 /IWABazaar

 [bazaar@iwasingapore.org](mailto:bazaar@iwasingapore.org)