

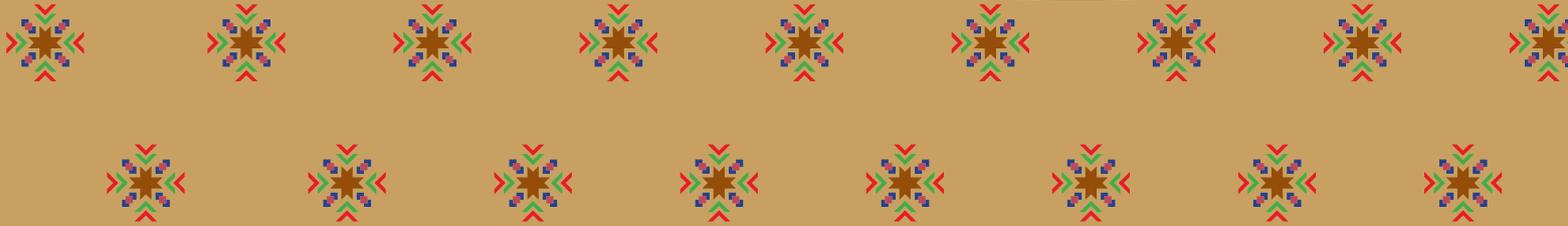


IWA DHWANI

Indian Women's Association

February 2019 • MCI (P) 143/05/2013

Sounds of IWA, Singapore



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver."

-Maya Angelou

Dear Members,

As I prepare to step down as president, Maya Angelou's words couldn't ring truer for me. Thank you to all members for allowing me to serve as your president. It has been an honour, a joy and an experience that I shall forever cherish. It's hard to believe how quickly the year has passed. It has certainly been a very busy one with a lot of fun, often demanding, yet always rewarding; and I have loved it all.

It takes a small army to run an organization – an army that's committed and feels invested, is what makes the difference. And that's what distinguishes IWA and makes it stand out. Our hardworking committee members have inspired and motivated me every day. From our Club and Community Service Chairs, who constantly engaged our current members and attracted new members; Bazaar Team who kept us profitable;

our Media and Dhvani Teams who delivered our message to our members and community at large; our Membership Team who consistently put out successful special events; to my fellow Vice Presidents who were always there to give advice and step in when help was needed; our Secretary and Treasurer and their deputies who kept us on track with financial and operational matters....this teamwork has made IWA stronger and very well positioned in the Indian diaspora in Singapore.

I hope that this year each member will find a way to get involved and participate in activities and events. I'm excited for the incoming committee and know that with your ongoing support, they will take IWA to even greater heights!

With gratitude,
Chandan Lehal

ABOUT THE COVER

The 2018 IWA Committee with Guest of Honour Prof. Fatimah Lateef at IWA Festive Bazaar on 11th September 2018
1st row (sitting) from left to right: Bhanu Ramchandran, Neeta Mirchandani, Arpana Sarkar, Padmaja Balaji, Ruchita Chheda, Bhavani Banerjee

2nd row (sitting) from left to right: Vidya Dasgupta, Neeta Kapoor, Preeti Dubey, Kavita Daga, Gowri Aiyar, Chandan Lehal, Prof. Fatimah Lateef, Anuradha Shroff, Madhu Suri, Gurpreet Kaur, Abhinika Mittra, Praveena Jain

3rd row (standing) from left to right: Manju Banka, Lakshmi Padmanabhan, Alka Joglekar, Rajashree Viswanathan, Sudepta Dasgupta, Priyanka Chandhok, Selme Singh, Tejali Sarangdhar, Seema Gupta, Ritu Kapoor, Sukanya Pushkarna, Prerna Shahi (2nd Secretary, High Commission of India in Singapore).

IWA Committee 2018

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Children's Club

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FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM



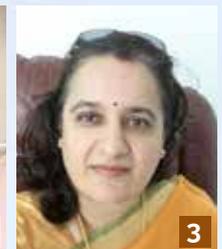
Dhwani wishes all its readers a very Happy New Year!

The old year draws to a close and a fresh new one dawns. A new year always heralds new beginnings and that is what 2019 will bring to all the readers of Dhwani. It is time for this Editorial team to bid adieu and clear the decks for the next team.

My two years as Editor of Dhwani have been enlightening, enriching and exciting. I have been extremely fortunate to have a great Editorial team and together we have presented six vibrant and informative issues of Dhwani.

My best wishes to the new team and I know that Dhwani under the leadership of its capable new Editor will fly higher and stronger.

I cannot help but quote the very apt lines of Winnie-the-pooh - *how lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard!*



1. Alka Joglekar
2. Hetal Shah
3. Lakshmi (Lucky) Padmanabhan
4. Lakshmi Raghavan
5. Neena Mittal
6. Rashantha Therese Devanesan
7. Sukanya Pushkarna

IWA **Connect** nnect



Deepavali High Tea - IWA was represented at the Deepavali high tea hosted by Hindu Endowment Board. The Guest of Honour was none other than the President of Singapore, Madame Halimah Yacob, an epitome of grace and poise! The gathering itself had representatives from various religious and cultural groups and was another step forward towards understanding and appreciating our similarities and differences, towards better social cohesion. An amazing array of specially made and beautifully displayed Indian snacks and sweets were a feast for the eyes and stomach alike.....



Threads of Courage - IWA donation to Threads of Courage, a project under Fei Yue Family Services towards funding purchase of 20 sewing machines.



WINGS - IWA at WINGS Counselling Centre to present the donation cheque for their Foreigners Support Programme.



Pakistani Association - IWA was invited by Singapore Pakistani Association for a coffee morning and screening of the documentary "Dust to Dust" and post screening Q&A session with the film maker, Mahnoor Zaidi. It was a pleasure meeting members of the SPA and we look forward to further collaborations.



Myanmar Club - IWA was invited by Myanmar Club (Singapore) to the opening of a photo exhibition *Bagan for World Heritage 2019* at the National Gallery. We had the opportunity to meet Mr. Okkar, Minister/Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Mr. Tin Maung Win from the Myanmar Club. We look forward to further collaborations with the association.



MCCY Dinner - IWA was represented at the MCCY Appreciation Dinner 2018 hosted by Minister Grace Fu, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. This event is organised in honour of stakeholders (like IWA) who have helped build a caring and cohesive society and an endearing home for all Singaporeans.





SCWO Insights - SCWO Insights series where women leaders and SCWO members come together to discuss topics of interest. The guest of honour was Ms. Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and the topic was: Women in Leadership.



Chathayam Lunch - Representing IWA at the Chathayam Lunch at Sree Narayana Mission - with Mr. Shanavas Vijayan, President SNM, Minister of Education Mr. Ong Ye Kung, Mr. Devendran CEO SNM.



FOM 40th Anniv - IWA at the 40th Anniversary celebrations of the Friends of the Museums.



Millionth meal TWC2 - IWA supported TWC2 in their celebration of "One millionth meal served" by organising 2 hand phones and 102 phone cards to be distributed to the workers. The IWA Music Club members sang a Tamil & a Bengali song to celebrate the occasion. TWC2 acknowledged IWA's support by giving a certificate & box of chocolates.

IWA Committee 2018



Chandan Lehal
President



Anuradha Shroff
Vice-President₁



Gowri Aiyar
Vice-President₂/ Bazaar Advisory



Selme Singh
Secretary/Movie Club



Tejali Sarangdhar
Assistant Secretary



Rajashree Viswanathan
Treasurer/Bazaar Advisory/
SWAMI Home



Garima Lalwani
Immediate Past President



Preeti Dubey
Advisory



Sukanya Pushkarna
Advisory/Travel Club



Neeta Mirchandani
Advisory/Events Chair



Priyanka Chandhok
Bazaar Chair



Sudeepta Dasgupta
Bazaar Co-Chair/Newsletter



Alka Joglekar
Dhwani



Gauri Savadi
Membership



Abhinika Mitra
Membership



Kavita Daga
Media Director



Seema Gupta
Media Sales



Vidya Dasgupta
Membership Privileges/
Entrepreneur Club



Bhargavi Rathi
Social Media



Jyoti Verma
Website



Bhanu Ramchandran
Beyond Social Services



Neeta Kapoor
Migrant Workers' Relief Team
H.O.M.E & TWC 2



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Bhavani Banerjee
SWAMI Home



Ritu Kapoor
Acts of Kindness Club



Nirupa Vasudev
Adda Club



Lakshmi Padmanabhan
Book Club



Praveena Jain
Children's Club



Monica Dovedy
Creative Hands Club



Arpana Sarkar
Dance Club



Padmaja Balaji
Fitness Club



Manju Banka
Games Club



Gurpreet Kaur
Gourmet Goddess Club



Madhu Suri
Music Club



Shilpa Dikshit Thapliyal
Writing Enthusiasts' Club



IWA Working Committee 2018

IWA BAZAAR

The mission behind the bi-annual IWA Bazaars is to provide a platform to budding entrepreneurs within the existing IWA membership and to raise funds to support our I-Care arm.

From starting out in a 1000 sq. ft area of a condo function room, the Bazaar has now moved to a 100,000 sq. ft exhibition area with over 80 vendors both local and international. This exponential growth has been brought about by the vision and efforts of the successive Bazaar teams supported by the committee at large.

The Bazaar team puts in a lot of effort to ensure that the Bazaars are well planned and impeccably executed. This starts from the blocking of the date, which is not as easy as it seems and once that is in place, the Bazaar team is ready to roll. The application forms are made available online, the vendors are curated, their myriad questions are answered, and the invoices are issued. The Bazaar and the Treasury teams work closely to track the payments from the vendors.

The biggest job of the Bazaar team is to ensure that the layout of the exhibition is done in the best possible way by giving the vendors maximum space but also ensuring that the visitors to the Bazaar do not feel cramped.

The Bazaar and Media teams work hard to get the Bazaar good publicity ensuring an excellent footfall. Food being an intrinsic part of the Indian psyche, it is essential to make sure we have a good food vendor on board. The IWA Bazaar also takes its social responsibility seriously and reserves a few tables at the entrance for non-profit organizations. The Lucky Draw at the Bazaar helps boost our fund-raising efforts with generous prizes donated by our privilege partners and some vendors.

Our motivation is getting a smile on everyone's face and on the day of the Bazaar, the entire IWA team rallies together to ensure that both the vendors and shoppers know that they are at the happiest Bazaar in town!

DHWANI

Dhwani, the IWA magazine, is a chronicle of IWA events as well as a platform to showcase the creativity of IWA members and their families.

There are 3 issues of Dhwani published in a year – the first in February/March to coincide with the AGM, the second in April/May for the Summer Bazaar and the third in September for the Festive Bazaar. Each IWA member receives the Dhwani by post and it is also distributed to a large number of prominent organizations and individuals in Singapore.

The aim of the Dhwani team is to make it the true voice of IWA with varied, entertaining, thought-provoking and interesting articles.

IWA EVENTS

There are some events and activities that IWA conducts which do not fit under any of the individual club umbrellas but are educational and fun. Some events are time-specific eg. a walk was planned during the Chinese New Year in Chinatown when it is at its vibrant best. Others are planned with a specific purpose eg. a talk on skin care and make up before Diwali which was very useful when dressing up for the festivities!

IWA MEMBERSHIP TEAM

A new member has much to look forward to as IWA provides the platform for various social service activities along with many clubs catering to varied interests. We at the IWA Membership team are the connectors: we try to woo newcomers into the IWA family and once they are a part of it, keep them engaged and happy.

We organize member-only events like the Rendezvous Lunch where old and new members bond over fun and frolic. We also join forces with local community groups to organize family events on festive occasions like Holi, Eid and Diwali. These events help members to remain connected to their Indian roots as well as introduce Indian culture within the community.

In the year 2018, the Community Expressions event in collaboration with IHC (The Indian Heritage Centre) celebrated the in-house talent in IWA with scintillating dances, melodious music, a thought-provoking play and a poetry recital. The varied skills and talents of the IWA Clubs were displayed via interactive cultural sessions and craft stalls. The grand finale was a glamorous fashion show with IWA members sashaying on the runway draped in brilliant sarees showcasing the traditional weaves of India.

It is not only fun and games – we also present events on serious issues like helping women understand their rights in the unfortunate likelihood of a divorce.

The IWA Membership team provides all members a 360-degree view of everything that Indian Women's Association Singapore can offer and suggests many opportunities for members to care, connect and celebrate. In the coming years the IWA Membership team aims to enrich the tapestry of IWA by making it more inclusive and expand its outreach to new horizons.

IWA Media Team 2018

IWA Media Team has a significant role in the overall expansion and progress of the organisation. The team consists of six chairpersons - Media Director, Media Sales, Newsletter, Social Media, Website and Membership Privileges.

MEDIA DIRECTOR



Branding is vital for growth; hence the Media Director manages and designs an effective brand strategy to create an upsurge in visibility of IWA both within the organisation and outside - in reaching out to Indians and other expatriate communities. The Media Director is actively involved in generating publicity for the IWA Bazaar by targeting the Indian diaspora through social media and print media campaigns. She also creates the audio-visuals used to introduce IWA to prospective event partners and potential clients.

MEDIA SALES



The Media Sales Chair is in constant communication with clients through personal contacts and meetings to promote IWA and its outreach in Singapore. This sales pitch translates into advertisements placed in the IWA newsletter and IWA Dhvani by the clients. The response in terms of getting advertisements has been very positive and is growing, building some new and loyal patrons.

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES



These refer to all the contractual arrangements done by IWA to enable members to enjoy discounts and special offers from selected partners.

While selecting Partners, the Membership Privileges chair puts in a lot of effort and consideration is given to the following factors: -

- Is what the partner offers of the desired quality?
- How can the Partner's offer benefit members?
- Is the Partner's offer in line with any of the IWA Club's activities?

NEWSLETTER



The IWA Newsletter is an excellent medium of weekly contact with the members and the 8500+ Facebook followers. The Newsletter In-Charge ensures the timely release of the newsletter every Wednesday. This involves collating information about the events of the week and putting it together in an engaging, efficient and timely manner. The newsletter significantly contributes to generating revenue for IWA through advertisements.

SOCIAL MEDIA



Building awareness of brand IWA and reaching out to the community through social media has been the prime focus of the Social Media Chair. Details of IWA activities are posted on Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook. The IWA Festive Bazaar is one of the most popular events of brand IWA and the last Bazaar received 1000+ hits on IWA's Facebook page for the first time. The introduction of Google Drive has greatly facilitated the storage of pictures in one place, connecting profiles, scheduling posts and tracking performances.

WEBSITE



The Website Chair is responsible for maintaining the IWA website which is the face of IWA and a platform for members to get updates on events and happenings in different clubs and in the organisation. She works closely with the Newsletter In-Charge to create the links to weekly events listed in the newsletter.

Music GALA

Jhankar

The IWA Music Club's Annual Gala "Jhankar" took place on 6th October at the Orchid Ballroom@ Clark Quay and was a great hit with the IWA members, a few non-members and their families. In the first part of the show, the IWA Music Club members entertained the guests with a medley of songs and dances from different regions of India. Members' families including children, parents and in-laws participated enthusiastically in games organised by our Emcees Anuradha Shroff and Gurpreet (Meenu) Kaur and danced happily to the DJ's music. There were attractive lucky draw prizes for the guests, and everyone enjoyed the sumptuous dinner and drinks.





SINDA PROJECT GIVE

In the month of October 2018, Creative Hands Club's cheerful volunteers brought smiles and joy to the faces of more than 170 kids and adults who walked into SINDA's PROJECT GIVE booth at Campbell Road. The participants enjoyed creating artwork in picture frames and decorating glitter diyas.

Minister for Communications and Information Mr. Iswaran visited the PROJECT GIVE booth and met the organisers.



Diwali Party at Sree Narayana Mission

IWA volunteers and their families had a fulfilling and fun filled morning at the Diwali Party with the residents of Sree Narayana Mission. We heard the residents' amazing stories during the Diwali card making session. Young at heart, they were full of laughter and enthusiasm.

There were activities and games (drawing competition for the little ones, egg-basket race for the volunteers and spoon race for the residents). There was dancing and everybody, especially the children, had a great time. We saw how competitively the residents played Bingo! The children had prepared lovely dance performances and the residents could not stop themselves from dancing along with them.

As we ended the show, the Mission presented us a painting made by the residents. We were touched by the beautiful gesture and thanked the wonderful residents for allowing us into their home and hearts.



Health Talk



IWA Privilege Partner Raffles Hospital along with IWA Health and Fitness Club held a Health Talk "Dealing with Sports Injuries". Orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Ganesan Naidu from Raffles Hospital spoke about the various injuries to the knee, like Patellar Femoral joint injury, meniscus tear and ACL tear and answered questions regarding sports injuries. He also explained the anatomy as well as methods to fix the problem via surgery. The talk was followed by a pre-workout warmup and a post workout cool down by the IWA Health and Fitness Club Chair Padmaja Balaji.



Community Expressions – IWA@Indian Heritage Centre

IWA in collaboration with Indian Heritage Centre showcased uniquely Indian crafts, fashion, food and performances at August 2018's Community Expression.





Festive Bazaar 2018







ACTS OF KINDNESS CLUB



Passing the Good Karma around.....



2018 saw the AOK (Acts of Kindness) Club continue to engage its members in meaningful community service activities. One such activity that truly left a mark on everyone was the Mother's Day event held in May 2018. AOK partnered with a local charity called Angel Hearts which supports grieving families who have lost their babies at childbirth or during pregnancy. Wedding gowns were collected from donors and were deconstructed by volunteers. These were sewn into beautiful angel gowns that were later distributed to needy families in hospitals. It was a deeply moving morning for all who came to participate as well as those who simply heard about the activity. One such person was a resident of H.O.M.E (a shelter for foreign workers in distress in Singapore) who was so impacted by the initiative, that she crocheted a bagful of beautiful baby bonnets and sent it across as her contribution to the cause. This remarkable act of kindness further went to prove that this Mother's Day AOK event had touched people from many quarters and had been aptly labelled "Mother to Mother".



It also goes to prove that what goes around comes around and good karma was certainly created in abundance in 2018 as AOK continued in its mission to touch lives meaningfully. It celebrated International Women's Day sorting food supplies for the needy at a food bank; Earth Day at a hydroponic farm in the heart of the city that supports restaurants hiring the differently

abled; Mother's Day with Angel Hearts; Children's Day at Snow City with the boys from the Ramakrishna Mission Home; Seniors Day at Changi T4 with the elderly from Sree Narayana Mission; a joyful Diwali celebration lighting up a ward at Yishun Community Hospital - it was quite a kaleidoscope.

Heart-warmingly along the way, several non-IWA members joined us to make a greater impact on our community and it remained a touching hallmark of AOK activities this year. Whether it was a large-hearted shopkeeper who gave us soccer shoes for the RKM boys or the compassionate van company which offered transportation for the children or the generous stall owner in a narrow by-lane of Little India who happily donated her entire lot of henna cones to cheer the elderly for the Diwali event, it all rounded up



another remarkable year for AOK of giving kindness and receiving it back manifold.

AOK Club hopes to continue this endeavour in the years to come and pass the good karma around the community.





ADDA CLUB



Adda is a 2-hour discussion forum that dwells on topics of personal and social relevance. This club has been operational since 2012 and is evolving into an open forum where opinions are comfortably exchanged. Topics are usually chosen keeping in mind the challenges that women face in rapidly changing times. Sessions end up being fruitful where a solution is generated, an outlook is changed, and awareness is created.

The leading questions posed by the moderator help keep the discussion tight. This ensures that the topic is comprehensively covered and forces participants to think out of the box. The forum attracts 15-20 members per session, giving enough time to each participant to express herself.



Adda has had a good run thanks to our participating members who assist by fixing venues, actively suggesting topics and participating in discussions. Hope that in 2019 it will surge forward with continued enthusiasm!



WRITING ENTHUSIASTS' CLUB



The IWA Writing Enthusiasts' Club comprises members who are keen to write and share their work with one another. As a club, we have done poetry workshops, short story workshops, prompt writing, among others.

As a part of our community outreach, we have staged a confluence of poetry and dance at a PA integration event and an exhibit of poems written by our club members at the Indian Heritage Centre.

The club is always keen to collaborate with other local communities for workshops on poetry, creative writing, memoir writing, spoken word etc. for adults as well as children.

The first event of the year was 'Awaken the writer within' on 15th January 2019. Members did a writing exercise of penning a letter to their younger selves. Members found it very cathartic and sharing it with others was very therapeutic.



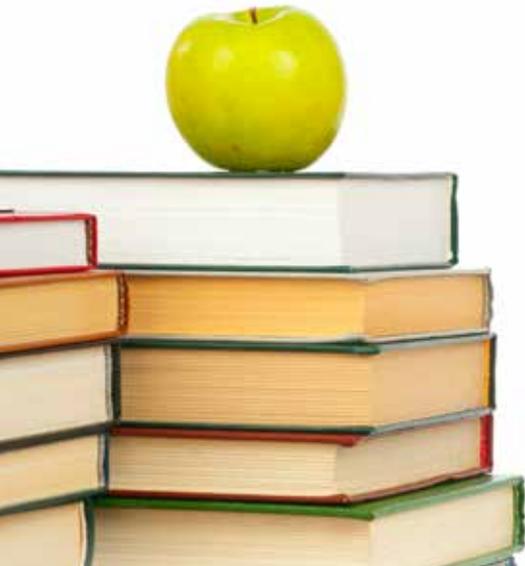


BOOK CLUB



As between the closed covers of a book, the written words breathe on, the doors of a book club never quite shut down. As the year draws to a close, the hand that coordinated the Club hands over the reins to another pair of caring hands. However the Reading goes on, for ever! After all, to read, to enjoy and share is what a Book Club is all about. The march of books this year to mention a few, from *The Book Thief* along the *Light of Oceans* through *An Era of Darkness* to *Sapiens* to capture *The Catcher in the Rye* to learn to flow with the river in *Siddhartha* and then to the warmth of the hearth in the home of the Marches in *Little Women*...was a nostalgic journey....Is there ever an equal or sequel to a book!? Perhaps only another book and The Book Club holds it all!

To borrow the lovely words from a Preface to an edition of *Little Women* "Go then, my little book and show to all that entertain and bid thee welcome" and these words are adapted from John Bunyan, the Preface says.





GAMES CLUB



Playing social games such as Mahjong, Scrabble, and Bridge helps in bonding with your peers and is good for the soul.

While we play all the above, our current favourite is Mahjong. This is a strategic game that requires concentration and intelligence. Initially, it may seem a bit confusing and tough, but once you get the hang of it, you are addicted! Regardless of your age, games that require logical thinking are food for the brain, good for cognitive awareness and a memory boost.

Mahjong crosses many cultures, generations and styles of play. We play the international style in a low stress, fun and learner-friendly atmosphere twice a month at any of the member volunteer's home.



DANCE CLUB



IWA Dance Club swayed to the music and sashayed onto the dance floor. By the end of the workshop, we were twisting and twirling like pros!

The IWA Dance Club started in the middle of 2018 as a platform for the budding talent of IWA dancers. Since its inception, the club has explored various dance forms like Ghoomar, Garba, Salsa and Cha Cha Cha. It has also celebrated the great contributions of poets like Tagore, actors like Madhuri, Rekha and Govinda and festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi and Sawan with dances choreographed to appropriate songs.

The club was privileged to have the opportunity to engage with the residents of Sree Narayana Mission at Diwali celebrations with enthusiastic dancing, singing and games.

2019 looks promising as more and more dance forms will be explored. While the Club ensures that all members have a great learning experience and lots of fun, it also looks forward to a deeper involvement in varied social causes to spread more smiles.



CREATIVE HANDS CLUB



IWA Creative Hands Club (CHC) is an interactive club where the members, with a penchant for arts and crafts, meet up each month. The members' creativity and talents are brought forward as they actively collaborate, teach and learn from each other, to create beautiful handmade art. A variety of interesting workshops have been regularly available to the members. Some completed products are showcased at IWA events like the Community Expressions event at the Indian Heritage Centre. In addition to the scheduled workshops, there are ad-hoc activities facilitated on the CHC Whatsapp group, where members showcase their own talents while appreciating the talents of others.

CHC has partnered with various community agencies (e.g. SINDA, Jamiyah Home for the Aged, H.O.M.E.) to give our members the opportunity to invest their creativity in contributing to social causes. In the upcoming year, we will continue to partner with I-Care, using our creative skills to give back to the community.



ENTREPRENEUR CLUB

The IWA Entrepreneur Club aims to foster a spirit of entrepreneurship among women business owners and aspiring businesswomen in Singapore. This group provides a platform to share challenges, learn key skills, network and get inspired.

We do this through two key pillars:

Learning Sessions: We do learning-oriented events every quarter, like talks or interactive workshops where members learn about different aspects of setting up and running a business. We try to bring speakers who can inspire, motivate and educate members on relevant topics which will help them in their entrepreneurial journey.

We recently conducted a Digital Marketing Workshop and two back to back sessions on Cryptocurrency and its working.

Networking Sessions: Our networking events, "Coffee Mixers", give an opportunity to our members to interact with each other in an informal setting. These Coffee Mixers often provide



value and insight, but the prime focus remains networking.

Our vision is to provide education and resources for women entrepreneurs, so they can grow both personally and professionally in their everyday life. We believe that personal growth leads to professional success.



►
*Demystifying
Cryptocurrency, Bitcoins,
Blockchain - Workshop
conducted by Mr. Shashwat
Gupta*

HEALTH AND FITNESS CLUB

Health and fitness are of utmost importance for everyone to realize their full potential - and that's exactly the reason for the Health and Fitness Club's three-prong strategy.

Firstly, the Club arranges talks by doctors and health professionals related to women's health and well-being. Secondly, it introduces a range of exciting new workouts and yoga sessions for its members. Thirdly, it conducts regular Sunday morning walks and weekday evening walks to explore the different nature trails in Singapore to refresh the mind, body and soul.



Some of the events conducted by the Club are as follows:-

How to become a Cancer Thriver (Talk)

An inspiring talk on how to not only deal with cancer and heal from it but also how to thrive in the face of cancer. Five cancer thriver tips were discussed. The role of a caregiver was also touched upon. A simple relaxation technique was introduced to the members.

Chestnut Nature Park (Weekday Evening Walk)

The members enjoyed exploring Chestnut Nature Park Trail located near Dairy Farm. The walk ended with an impromptu picnic near the trail and taking fun pictures in different yoga poses.





GOURMET GODDESS CLUB



The Gourmet Goddess Club is all about the love for food. Whether you enjoy cooking, eating, or both, we regularly plan and execute new and entertaining activities which help us learn about and explore different cuisines. Join us to share this passion and enrich our lives with delicious food!



CHILDREN'S CLUB



The IWA Children's Club started in May 2018 with a trial event at Marina Barrage with kite flying and team bonding activities. Our next event was a visit to Future World at the Arts and Science Museum in August, where the children enjoyed the digital installations displayed there.

In September we had a joint event with AOK Club where we took children from the Ramakrishna Mission to Snow City. The last event for the year in November 2018 was also a joint event with the Dance Club celebrating Diwali with the elderly at Sree Narayana Mission.





MOVIE CLUB



IWA Movie Club's endeavour is to watch movies from across the world with the intention of exploring different cultures and understanding and appreciating the diverse world we live in.

We, as an expatriate community, live with people from different backgrounds, different beliefs and different value systems, so it becomes important to integrate as well as adapt.

At the end of every movie, we discuss the directorial style, the story and the cultural nuances that are sometimes familiar but often not. We learn something new every time!

The first step of breaking free from our cultural conditioning requires that we understand that most people in the world do not actually perceive the world in the same way...and there is no better way to learn this than watching movies from around the world. These not only help us come out of our mental cage, but also help in broadening our point of view.

We meet on the last Friday of every month. Come join us next time!



TRAVEL CLUB

Now in its second year, the IWA Travel club has made some bold moves and stepped to farther shores. We have also visited special exhibitions at various museums in Singapore and traveled in a different way.

As the saying goes - The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeing new sights, but in looking with new eyes - Proust

Our most recent outing was on the 2nd of October 2018 in collaboration with the Acts of Kindness Club.

20 IWA volunteers rode the Metro from various parts of the city to meet up at the Tanah Merah MRT station. Here, we boarded the train to Changi airport T1 and then took the shuttle bus to T4, the newly opened, terminal at Changi. For many of the volunteers, this was already a novel experience but there was more to come.

At T4, we waited at the beautiful, open entrance to receive some very special guests - 18 senior residents of the Sree Narayana Mission and a few daycare personnel. IWA volunteers were to host this special group for a fun lunch and exploration experience at this very swank and fully automated terminal. It was a great learning for us just watching the three specially equipped buses off-load the wheelchair bound uncles and aunties. You could see the anticipation in their smiles - some shy and tentative and some exuberant and wide.

Each volunteer took charge of her guest and wheeled them over to the mezzanine food court. We were going

to have the pleasure of hosting our guest to a meal of his or her choice and then sitting down for a chat over lunch. Language was a small barrier but we could clearly see them enjoying the food. When we wheeled them to the viewing gallery where they could watch planes take-off and land, their childlike excitement was palpable. The photographs we took there are worth a thousand words. Later, we gave the group a tour of the terminal and took many photographs under some beautiful hanging lamps that had been put up for the Mid-Autumn Festival.

The two and half hours went by quickly and before long we were gathered at the front door again for group photographs and goodbyes. Some shy smiles had become warmer and wider and some others were chatting like old friends. Who knew that a short trip that terminated at the terminal could be such a wonderful learning journey. Our hearts were warm for we had brought some sparkle and joy to our guests, and in the process, we had learned so much.

Join us on our adventures in 2019 as we continue exploring the world around us.





MUSIC CLUB



Music Club members meet every third Thursday of the month. The event is hosted by a member at her home or in a function hall. The host gets to choose the theme and the dress code for the event. In September 2018, we sang songs of music composer O. P. Nayyar and in November, the theme was "Bengalis in Bollywood".



SWAMI HOME

It was heart-warming to celebrate birthdays and Christmas with the old folks of SWAMI Home with melodious carol singing by Noella Menon and a graceful dance by IWA ladies!

IWA sponsored almost 400 gifts – each was beautifully packed with attached handmade cards and given away by our Santa Claus.

In addition, IWA handed over the annual donation cheque to SWAMI Home.



TWC2 MIGRANT WORKERS

Outing with TWC2 Migrant Workers

A truly satisfying day spent with beneficiaries of TWC2!

It was heart-warming to see the usually wary and reserved workers responding to IWA volunteers' efforts to engage them. They shared news about their families back home as well as life stories and experiences. They told us how much they enjoyed the time spent with us and for an opportunity like this that helped them forget about their struggles for a while.

We celebrated the birthdays of the workers by cutting a cake and it was gratifying to see the smiles and happiness this simple gesture brought to them. The boat ride truly relaxed them as they sang songs, danced and took selfies along the way.



A big bow to the invisible super heroes who help build Singapore and make it rise and shine each day!



BEYOND SOCIAL SERVICES



IWA-BSS volunteers at 'Fairground for All'

No time to eat, drink, go to the restroom, not even to sit down!

That's how busy it was for the BSS I-Care club manning the flea market tables at the flagship outreach event of our community service partner Beyond.

Our team of 9 volunteers split into 2 shifts to manage the set-up at 10am, the full-day event and the wind down

at 7pm. Between 1pm and 6pm, an average of 10 IWA volunteers worked tirelessly to find the most appropriate ladies' and kids' clothes and toys for the thronging crowd of beneficiaries.

IWA also sponsored a photobooth for the event, which was a hit with the families.

Our work was much appreciated by BSS Executive Director Mr. Gerard Ee and the GoH Mr. Baey Yam Keng, Senior Parliamentary Secretary in MCCY.

For our volunteers, the fulfillment and fun made the hard work seem like nothing!



Our caring and creative BSS volunteers shared the spirit of the festive season at Healthy Start CDC (the BSS childcare centre for underprivileged kids), helping the kids paint and decorate 'diyas'.





iwo Summer Bazaar

IT'S TIME TO SHOP AGAIN

mark your calendars,

LOWRES it is here!

30th April 2019

the happiest
bazaar in town

Suntec City Convention & Exhibition Centre
Summit 1, Level 3, 1 Raffles Boulevard,
Suntec City
Singapore 039593