

IWA DHWANI

Indian Women's Association

Sounds of IWA, Singapore

Oct 2014 • MCI (P) 143/05/2013



Contents

| | |
|---|---------|
| Letter from the President | page 1 |
| A New Bride in the "Old" City <i>Madhu Suri</i> | page 2 |
| The Singapore I Knew in the 80's <i>Tara Dhar</i> | page 3 |
| Singapore Slingsing <i>Trpta Bains</i> | page 4 |
| A New Bride in the "New" City <i>Dr Anu Ranjan</i> | page 5 |
| "Away" <i>Mugdha Hedao</i> | page 6 |
| "MELTING POT" <i>Sohni Rakshit</i> | page 6 |
| Next Stop...The Olympics? <i>Ananya Lev Chadha</i> | page 7 |
| My Heart is in Singapore <i>Kanika Daga</i> | page 8 |
| Teamwork's Shweta Asnani <i>Manjula Bains</i> | page 9 |
| Friends, Artists & Associates | page 10 |
| IWA Committee & Clubs | page 12 |
| Caring Connecting Celebrating | page 13 |

IWA Committee for 2014

| | |
|--|--|
| President Piu Lahiri | Bazaar Team Bishnupriya Narayan Raji Vishwanathan |
| Vice President Nirupa Parthasarathy Neeta Mirchandani | Indian Migrant Workers Devika Misra Seema Chatterjee |
| Secretary Manjula Bains (Oct 2014) | IWA Vidya Scholarship Srividhya Maliwal |
| Hon Secretary Perna Rajpal | Integration Team Subina Khaneja, Piu Lahiri, Devika Misra, Vidhya Nair, Gowri Aiyar |
| Treasurer Preeti Dubey | Events Neeta Mirchandani Abhinika Mitra |
| Asst. Treasurer Vasanthi Ravi | IWA Dhwani Sukanya Pushkarna |
| Executive Members Gowri Aiyar Rashmi Gogna Sharmila Arora Vidhya Nair | CLUBS |
| Chair Legal Affairs Abha Kaul | Adda - Rashmi Gogna |
| Membership Gauri Savadi | Book Club - Sukanya Pushkarna |
| Membership Priviledges Archana Tapadia | Entrepreneur Club - Nalini Thite, Archana Tapadia |
| Media Team Kavita Daga Sudeepta dasgupta Poojha Meshra | Gourmet Goddess Club Vidhya Nair, Neelam Lara, Kavita Daga |
| Media Sales Seema Gupta | Health and Fitness Club Nirupa Parthasarathy, Padmaja Balaji |
| Beyond Social Services Mehak Krishnamani | KidzVenture Club - Gauri Savadi, Monali Rudra |
| SWAMI Home Mohini Kumar Manjula Bains Vasanthi Ravi | Let's go Green Club - Perna Rajpal |
| | Music Club - Raji Viswanathan |
| | Scrabble Club - Mohini Kumar |
| | Writing Enthusiasts' Club Tara Dhar Hasnain |

Indian Migrant Workers and IWA



Sponsor a smile for an Indian migrant worker through IWA's 'I Give' program. The funds raised are earmarked for our partner NGO, Transient Workers Count Too. TWC2 transient workers count too

Indian Migrant Workers come to Singapore often selling the shirts off their backs to pay for their fare. Sometimes, the whole village pitches in or they resort to selling the only piece of land they own. On arriving they are often shocked to find themselves in the hands of unscrupulous agents and employers. Jobs promised to them sometimes do not exist and some employers refuse to pay their wages on time or compensate them for injuries suffered at work.

IWA's new initiative 'I give' will help these workers in need of food, healthcare and shelter during troubled times.

IWA has supports migrant workers with TWC2s Project Roof and Fare-Go's programs for emergency relief. (Add story link)

'I give' to IWA'S emergency relief world.

\$10/ month
Once in 12 months=\$120
A one-time contribution

For further information please email relief@iwasingapore.org.

For advertising enquiries please log on to
www.iwasingapore.org/rates

Visit us at www.iwasingapore.org
www.facebook.com/iwasingapore



CLUBS CONTACT INFO

| | |
|--|--|
| Adda Club adda@iwasingapore.org | Kidzventure Club kidzventure@iwasingapore.org |
| Book Club bookclub@iwasingapore.org | Let's Go Green Club gogreen@iwasingapore.org |
| Entrepreneur Club business@iwasingapore.org | Music Club music@iwasingapore.org |
| Gourmet Goddess Club gourmet@iwasingapore.org | Scrabble Club scrabble@iwasingapore.org |
| Health and Fitness Club fitness@iwasingapore.org | Writing Enthusiasts' Club writing@iwasingapore.org |

GOING BEYOND SOCIAL SERVICE

A group of IWA volunteers regularly visits BSS Waterfall Student Care Centre. The Centre operates as a before and after school care centre for primary school children from low-income backgrounds, many of whom have mild to moderate learning disabilities. The kids love these visits, enthusiastically participating in the art & craft, storytelling and other interactive activities we do with them.

The Centre has indicated that the kids would also enjoy and benefit from outdoor activities. Something like a football or volleyball based activity – playing with them, organising a mini-match among them, giving them playing tips, quizzing them on the game or game trivia. This would not only channel their energies positively, but also give them a much needed fresh air break from their exam preparation routine. Plus, sports could create a strong connect, draw them out of their shells and help us to engage these children even better.

This is a great opportunity for the more sporty among us to make a difference – if you can volunteer your time and ideas to conduct a sports-based activity for a couple of hours in the morning on Saturday 11th Oct. Especially for the men who can combine their weekend fitness with a good cause! Or for our own high school children - who could bring out their bats and do an 'intro to cricket' session for the BSS Centre kids.

Date : 11th October

Time : 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Place : Block 51, Langkok Bahru, Waterfall Student Care, Near Redhill MRT

Letter from the PRESIDENT



Singapore-making it my home.

I was a wide eyed young woman, dazzled by the shopping at Tangs and Takashimaya during my first trip to Singapore as a tourist in the 1990s. Memories of eating my first chili crab at Newton Food court, the

magical cable car ride to Sentosa, are still fresh in my mind. Once i started living in Singapore I began to learn about its interesting corners and historic by lanes. Two organizations worked simultaneously to make me feel at home -The IWA and the Friends of the Museum. I joined IWA primarily to be part of the book club and immediately found myself signing up for a visit to the artist Ketna Patel's colorful home and taking part in a wonderful Holi celebration at Fort Canning Hill surrounded by majestic trees. I was beginning to feel at home!

I then joined the Friends of the Museums Docent training program and discovered the rich history of this gleaming modern city state, dating back to the third century, much before Sir. Stamford Raffles ever "discovered" Singapura. As part of the FOM training, I visited the Mariamman temple, built almost 200 years ago. Even as I learned the history of this nation, I got acquainted with the modern city of Singapore through my involvement with IWA. In 1997 , the Expatriate Indian Women's Club, Singapore was formally launched under the patronage of the High

Commission of India as India celebrated its 50th year of Independence. It was like a lifeline for women coming into Singapore, a support network, a link, a home away from home. The Club's charter was changed in a very short time so as to include all women of Indian origin residing in Singapore and the Indian Women's Association (IWA) was born.

Since then, apart from organizing celebrations for different festivals, hosting or showcasing Indian as well as international artists and designers, providing regular meeting grounds for people with different interests, to running bazaars- IWA has grown to become an organization that today appeals to a wide range of people. Nowadays, while an Indian woman coming to live in Singapore, will neither be as dazzled by the glitter of Orchard Road as I was 20 years ago, nor need to know Singapore's ancient and colonial past to feel at home, I hope that the IWA will still be a welcome place, a home away from home, where she is appreciated and can grow her talents, make personal and professional connections, find friends and flourish.

As Singapore gets ready to celebrate its 50th year anniversary, we hope that we as individuals who have adopted this country as our own and IWA as an organization, will find ourselves growing even closer and reaching newer heights together. Majulah Singapura!

Piu Lahiri

President, Indian Women's Association



On the cover

Artist: Shivali Mathur

Title: "it fits!"

Medium: Acrylic on Canvas

The background is a blend of Indian rangoli and henna designs, Chinese peony flowers and Malay batik art.

This is how we are learning from each of these cultures even as we blend and fuse them. Unless we all fit in like the jigsaw pieces, it will not be a complete picture of our Singapore.

IWA Dhwani editorial team: Lakshmi Padmanabhan, Lakshmi Raghavan, Rashantha Therese Devanesan, Sudeepta Dasgupta, Sukeshi Pandit and Sukanya Pushkarna (editor)

IWA Dhwani is printed and designed by Xpress Print Pte Ltd, No. 1 Kallang Way 2A, Singapore 347495
UEN No.S97SS0085J in iROSES

For IWA subscription, advertising, and further information, please log on to www.iwasingapore.org

We hope you like this issue of IWA Dhwani. If you have any feedback or suggestions regarding articles and features or if you would like to contribute articles or artwork to our magazine, please write to editor@iwasingapore.org

A New Bride

in the “Old” City

by Madhu Suri



I landed at the Paya Lebar airport on the 14th of October 1980 as a new bride with my husband Rajiv, a Singaporean by birth. My mother-in-law (mum) came here as a 5 year old girl in 1922 and is now at the ripe old age of 97.

My social life revolved around attending events with my mum at the local Sikh Gurudwaras and The Laxmi Narayan Temple in Chander Road. I also accompanied her for our weekly grocery shopping at Serangoon Road. There was a makeshift vegetable market at the corner where The Verge Shopping Mall now stands. For groceries we would go to Govindasamy Pillai who had a fairly big shop facing the main road where Little India Arcade is located. He also had a sari shop next door. However, my mum and I preferred to do our sari shopping at the New India Emporium in High Street Centre. Even our guests from India loved to shop there for French chiffons, Japanese synthetic saris and Swiss lace. High Street Centre in North Bridge Road was ‘the place’ to shop for VCRs, colour TVs, tape recorders and cheap perfumes.



Madhu and her daughters at Singapore Zoo in the late 80's

In the 80's, the North Indian population was still a minority compared to the South Indians and the Sikhs. I had no problem mixing with the locals at the Community

Madhu Suri is a freelance theatre and film actor and also an active member of the IWA music and Gourmet Clubs

Centers where I would take baking or quilting lessons. I also took a liking for local hawker food and durians.

When the Hindi school opened in 1990, I started coming in contact with more Indians from all over India. Sundays became exciting for me as I looked forward to meeting like-minded friends. Subina Khaneja was one such friend and we used to have fun chatting about the latest Bollywood movies and organizing the Annual Day of the Hindi school. Subina used to choreograph dances for the girls.

In the early 80's, Singapore was still on the threshold of modernization. While Orchard Road boasted of Tangs, Robinsons, Metro and Cold Storage then, it was far from the bustling metropolis it has become today.

Former PM Mr Lee Kuan Yew's campaign to clean up the Singapore River resulted in a more vibrant nightlife with Al Fresco style dining experience on the banks of the river. The Singapore Government's efforts to bring in more educated foreigners into the work force here also was a catalyst for the change in the arts scene here. I am now a happy Singaporean feeling right at home, celebrating festivals, sharing recipes and love for music with IWA friends. I feel lucky to have the best of both worlds.

The Singapore

I Knew in the 80's

by Tara Dhar



The author's parents at the Singapore Botanic Garden

Touchdown! Not sure what to expect as we flew in from Geneva, I had read up about this 'Asian Tiger', a city of fines and Campaigns- flush the toilet after use, be kind to others, two kids are enough (Yes, it is true!), speak Good English...

As I peeked out of the taxi taking us to our city-centre hotel, I saw row upon row of high-rise apartment blocks, but also manicured green spaces with shady trees, even a park, and beyond them, a tranquil sea dotted with ships of all sizes, Coleridge's 'painted ships upon a painted ocean'. The Marina area hotels, even the Raffles City ones, were yet to come up.

Over the next few weeks, I came to enjoy the lovely parks, especially the Singapore Botanic Gardens, with its tall, shady heritage trees, and the Chinese and Japanese Gardens, a star attraction those days, with their lovely pavilions, decorative bridges, and the cooling effect of water.

We also explored those uniquely Singapore establishments, the hawker centers, with their dizzying choice of freshly prepared food, all safe to eat, and most attractive, their fresh fruit and juice stalls.

Initially, after living many years in people-sparse Geneva, I felt unnerved by the crowds everywhere. And this was when Singapore had only half its present number of people!

All in all, a very safe city with a lovely relaxed feel, green, and squeaky clean, with friendly people, and

easy to get by with just English. There were few shows, except the occasional SSO concert or play in the Victoria complex, the main concert venue. On weekends, the locals were out in large numbers at the public parks, many of which had barbecue pits, grilling, cycling, and even fishing.

There was NO COE, no ERP, no GST, no monthly 'maid levy'. Most buses were not air-conditioned, but they seemed to arrive efficiently, and the MRT was just starting up. The Clark Quay area as a dining option was yet to develop.

What I missed though, were bookstores- there were just too few...that hasn't changed much.

I still remember some of the puzzling questions- 'what race?' I replied that I had no clue. But on seeing my passport, the doctor's receptionist responded, 'That's your race, lah, INDIAN'. This telescoping of nationality into race left me dumbfounded.

As an Indian, a lot was different. There were few Indian families here then, since no Indian University degrees were recognized. No IWA either! House-owners were quite chary of renting to Indians. We were even asked how many meals we would cook in their house each week- would you have known the answer to that?! People would ask where I was from, and look disbelieving when I said, I was Indian- 'must be Eurasian, lah- your face, your English...' Race Indian, but must be Eurasian- a conundrum, no less!

We soon made friends, not just with fellow 'expats', but also with wonderful

locals. Dr. Kirpal Singh, the poet/ writer some of you heard this March at our Writers' event, is one of them. Such long friendships across communities made and continue to make living in Singapore much more enriching.



The author's son at the Jurong Bird Park in the 80's



Singapore Slings

by Trpta Bains



Being surrounded by multitudes of orchids, endless trails of bougainvillea, and upright hibiscus', along with the freshness of frangipanis is what comes to my mind when I reminisce about my Singapore, which I consider home.

Having had to complete my high school from Kodaikanal International School India, and presently at UC San Diego, Singapore is still the home I come back to. Even though I moved to Singapore at the age of five, with my memories afresh, my mother and I have soaked in this island with all it has to offer.

I remember my first Christmas evening shopping at Robinsons, with bags in my hands, waiting at the taxi stand. Orchard road was quite the busy sight – people were getting in and out of taxis, the Salvation Army volunteers were ringing their bells, and one could still smell the freshly fallen rain. Amidst the frenzy of the Christmas season, I remember my mother pulling me out of the queue and making me sit beside her on the steps. She said, "Trpta, can you hear something?" I listened, confused not knowing what she wanted me to listen to. Knowing her love for trees, I looked up at the trees and instantly tuned in to the loud chirping of the birds.

Amazed, and still amazed we go back every now and then when I visit Singapore, just to hear the birds.

My first home on River Valley Road found us exploring the local delicacies. Boon Tong Key introduced us to Chicken Rice, Laksa, and my mother's all time favorite – Char Kway Teow. Just yesterday, as I flew in from Los Angeles, the crew offered me an extensive menu and I spotted Chicken Rice. Unwilling to listen to the rest of the menu, the crew smiled and reserved my order.

As everyone has encountered the unofficial dialect of "Singlish," my mother is amused that I have perfected the art of having a full-fledged conversation in Singlish. No laughing matter this, it is truly a delight. Only last year whilst waiting at LAX, I met an elderly Captain on holiday, who asked where I was headed. Reeling from the stress of my biology exams, unwilling to make a conversation, his Singlish broke the ice. After that there was no stopping me and I made a wonderful friend. Over the two hours of waiting, we shared many a laughter, and with his last words being "girl, see you on the plane lah."

The red dot is actually a vortex spinning our lives with good friends, infinite opportunities, and cherished memories. We don't know where we will in the future, but Singapore will always be a treasured place where we have spent a good part of our lives together.

Trpta Bains is an undergraduate student studying Human Biology at the University of California, San Diego. She is also a pianist having received the "Young Achievers Award" in India, 2011.

A New **Bridgē** in the “New” City

by Dr Anu Ranjan



May 2013, she alighted on the land of Singapore with lots of dreams and aspirations in her eyes. That was not just her first step into a foreign country but also

into her new life as a bride. So though there was a lot of excitement, deep within were some apprehensions too. ‘How would the new country treat her?’ Did she make the right decision in choosing Ritesh as her prince charming? She had yet to discover that.

To her delight, Singapore had a lot to offer. It was like a platter with varied delicacies. Her first impression of Singapore was that it was a vibrant, colorful country with world-class infrastructure. In terms of safety, cleanliness, law and order, the country was unrivalled. It was a multicultural land with land specific areas designed for Indians, Chinese etc. One could go to Little India on Diwali and Chinatown for Chinese New Year. It catered to every class. On one hand there were affordable public transport and hawker centers, while on the other hand, there were expensive taxis and restaurants. Interestingly she discovered that most public interacted in ‘Singlish’. So words like ‘Makan’, Lah, can/cannot, Kaypoh were commonly heard of. Singlish was

expressive and concise. Luckily she had a loving hubby who took her around to all the popular attractions. She loved the adventure rides at Universal Studios and Sentosa, the ambience and night life of Clarke Quay and Marina Bay, and the soothing breeze of ECP to name a few.

After a while, gradually, loneliness started creeping in. She missed her friend and family back home. She missed her promising career as a Dental Surgeon. She was depressed more often than not. She went back to her passion for painting to kill those frustrating lonely hours and promoted her paintings with the help of social media. But as they say, nothing lasts forever and this too shall pass. Time took its course. She fortunately shifted to an apartment in Melville Park. It was like a home for Indians. People there cared for and supported each other. She soon became popular as a talented artist and made many friends. She became a member of The Indian Women’s Association. The feeling of ‘Loneliness’ became hazier now. Landing a job at AIA as Financial Service Consultant, also brought new hopes and aspirations.

But, she knows that the journey has just begun and she has miles to go before she sleeps.....

P.S: That ‘she’ is ‘me’.

“AWAY”

by Mugdha Hedao



This piece is titled 'Away' - mixed media on canvas (18x24').

I had made this painting for a very good friend who's been living in the US for a while now. The thought behind this theme was that while each one of us has this innate drive to go on a soul-searching journey outside of our 'home', there is an invisible bond that ties us to our roots. Like the thrill of a bungee jump can only be experienced once you return back to your base, the adventurous journey that we all are a part of, can be fully fathomed only if our link to our roots is strong.

Now that I've been living in Singapore for over 2 years, I have a new found place in my heart for this painting. While Singapore has given me more than I could have asked for, my respect and longing for my homeland is only increasing each day. It's true what they say - a picture is worth a 1000 words.

“MELTING POT”

by Sohni Rakshit

This western abstract artwork is inspired by my interactions and experiences with fellow NAFA students belonging to varied nationalities ranging from Singapore, Malaysia, India, Indonesia, Denmark, USA, Germany, Switzerland, Kenya and Argentina.

The vibrant colors used in the painting depict my interaction with fellow students at NAFA (Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts,) their thoughts, their cultures which add vibrancy and dynamism to our class. The mixing and convergence of colors depict that previously staunch boundaries of world order and religion are getting blurred as people from different cultural backgrounds and nationalities come together under one roof. There is an infinite supply of new messages, thoughts and ideas being exchanged on a daily basis at NAFA. People are shedding the age-old myths/stereotypes and have become more receptive and accommodating in accepting other religions and cultures. This multi-faceted and multi-dimensional congregation of people from different societies and walks of life depicts the power of integration, which epitomizes Singapore.

The stint at NAFA helped me in mixing with the locals and expatriates, sharing our culture with them, getting inspired by theirs and celebrating each one's festivals with la of of pride and fanfare. The myriad colors used in the painting reiterate the belief that people in Singapore continuously broaden their horizons by embracing new things and new people.

I have incorporated all the colorful experiences i have shared with fellow NAFA students in this painting and hence have named it "Melting Pot".



*“Melting Pot” Acrylic on Paper
By Sohni S. Rakshit*

Next Stop... The Olympics?

by Ananya Lev Chadha



Hi ! My name is Ananya Lev Chadha and I'm 12 years old. In the summer of 2010, I held the foil for the very first time. The little musketeer in me was thrilled. Brave at heart, I remember the pride with which I held my blade. After a year full of fun filled training with Coach Leo, I was knighted in shining armour. Little did I know then that, what I thought of as child's play, was moulding me into a champion.

In little less than 2 years, I started competing at club level tournaments and had a rough start. I learned to experience and manage losses, frustrations and disappointments. With my mentor Maestro Coach James Wong at my side I learned to



overcome my setbacks. I rose through ranks and in Sept 2012 got my first podium finish. My first winter camp was an unforgettable experience held at one of the most prestigious fencing Olympic training centres at the Fecht Club Tauberbischofsheim,

Germany. I was ranked 12th in VS- Cup Germany. Thereafter I qualified for the 4th Mini National Fencing Championship India. I bagged an individual Silver and Team Bronze for the state of Delhi.

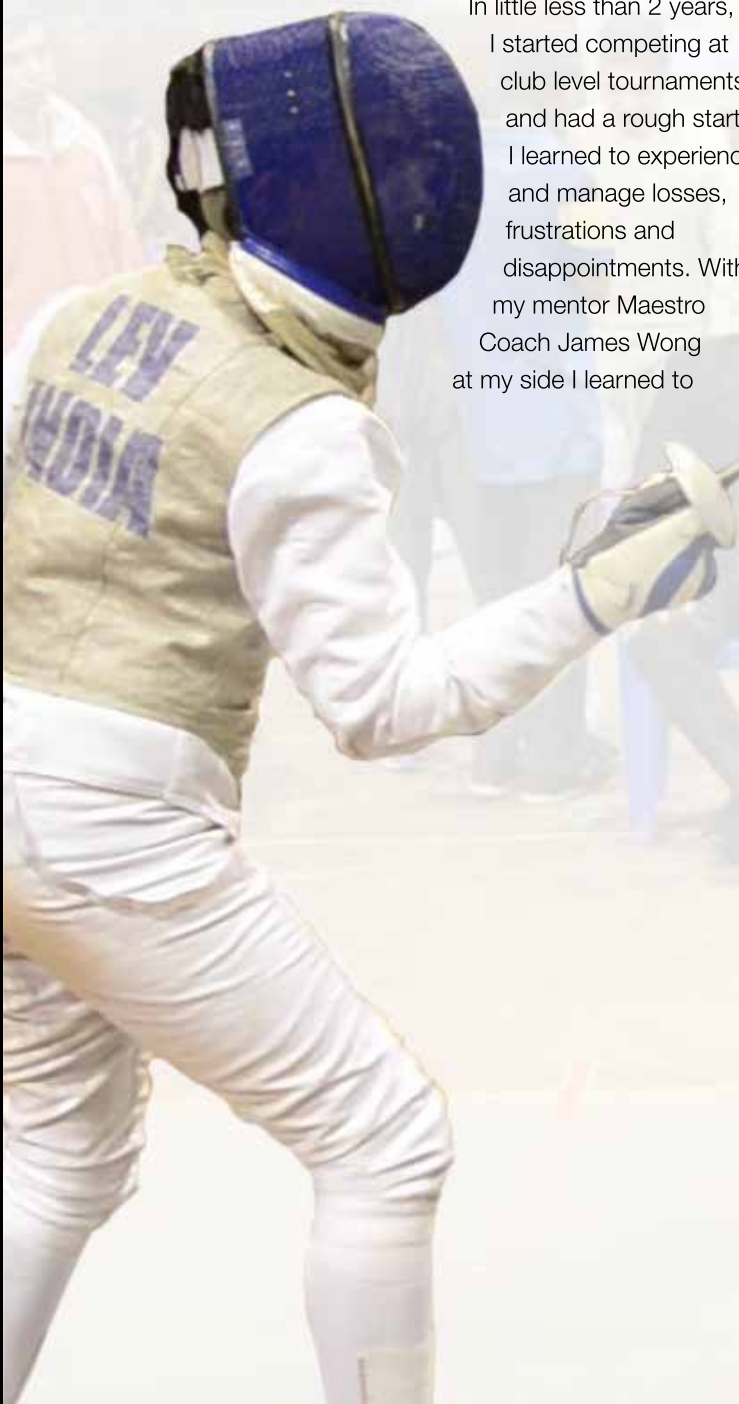
In the last 2 years I had competed in Sub Junior and Cadet, Indian Nationals, Singapore Minime 2014 (Rank -8), Asian Children Fencing Hong Kong 2014 (rank-9), Festival of Sports Hong Kong, Fencing Masters Philippines 2014 (Silver) and multiple club level tournaments winning 1 Gold, 2 Silvers, 4 Bronze and achieved top 10 ranking in most of the tournaments.

I was awarded "Value Award for Focus" and "Believe Award for Olympics" by my club Z- Fencing in 2013. The award was presented by my role model Peter Joppich (5 times world fencing champion).

I received my first corporate award by Tech Mahindra in 2013.

My accomplishment fuelled more passion in my fencing. The excitement of winning every point in my favour instilled in me more focus and determination. Now I train intensively four times a week for 3-4 hours each session. What it comes down to is I love the sport and have a loads of fun doing it. With the love and support of my family I feel blessed. I desire to win a medal for India at the Olympics and World Championships.

I am a Grade 7 student of Overseas Family school.
Ananya Lev Chadha (Son of IWA member Reena Chadha)





My (He)art is in Singapore

by Kanika Daga

I am an artist by hobby and a student by profession. Even though I found my calling in medicine, my heart lies in all things related to art. It is my way to de-stress and express, as I am normally rather introverted.

I lived in India for the first ten years of my life before moving to Singapore for the next eight, succeeding a brief stint in Tokyo. Since I did the majority of my growing up in Singapore, and because I've made the majority of my friends here, this city has indirectly yet indelibly shaped the person I am today. I am currently in the second year of medicine in the UK, and although I am out of the country for the most part of the year, I consider Singapore my home, as this is where my family lives. Singapore has infused in me an international outlook while still maintaining distinctly Asian cultural values. I believe this small island nation is wondrous in its all-encompassing nature. Where the wilds of nature is preserved along with a vibrant urban landscape, where development is balanced with preservation, both culturally and environmentally.

It is somewhat similar to what I am striving to do now...strive in my academic field while using my art to relax. I find beauty in all mediums. I learnt pottery for a while. Last summer I picked up sewing, and designed and made a few outfits for my mom and myself! Creation of something always gives such a high! Drawing and painting has always been in me since I can remember.

In fact, my passion for art began ever since I could walk—so I could trail my mother around as she painted on canvasses larger than my two-year-old self the grandest works of art that ever existed. Since then, art, for me, has been more on the sidelines to escape the monotonous grind of everyday life: mostly in the form of doodles at corner of my page that sometimes transcend into the state of a full-fledged painting.

My personal style is generally to imbue as much color possible in a painting. Since that is something of me that stretches across media, I like to work with watercolor and acrylics for the speed involved and oils to proceed at a leisurely pace. As I prefer to draw inspiration from my immediate surroundings, an unusual composition is usually what piques my interest and is what is most likely to get painted by me.



TEAMWORK'S SHWETA ASNANI

Singapore has recently watched the "Farhan Akhtar Live" organized by Teamwork Productions & still reeling in its euphoria. IWA Dhvani caught up with multi talented Shweta Ansari in an exclusive for its readers.

Shweta's Background:

We were surprised to hear that Shweta has a background in fashion designing with a degree from The Fashion Institute (FIT) New York. She reminisces that at the time she moved to Singapore more than ten years ago, the market was entirely different had few opportunities for her as a designer. Shweta worked at GAP for a year, but that work was not exciting enough. Teamwork was a company she knew from Delhi and decided to partner with them and open up Teamwork in Singapore in 2001.

Over the last 13 years, Shweta and Teamwork have produced many festivals including Asian festival of 1st Films, Out of the box and Celebrating India In Singapore. Since 2002 they have been working with Esplanade to help produce Kala Utsavam. Teamwork also produces specialized shows for corporate clients. Over the years

they have brought in many exciting and different acts for Singapore audiences - Indian Ocean, Strings, an evening with Gulzar, Shankar Ehsaan Loy, Sunidhi Chauhan, KK, Kailash Kher, Hariharan, ShahRukh Khan Live, Aditi Mangaldas, Nrityagram, Plays Like Dance like a Man, Blue Mug, 12th Night, Hamlet, Flowers and many more.

Her experiences as a woman entrepreneur:

Shweta believes that women are super humans. Event management does have its challenges but she thinks every working woman faces the same dilemma - how to maintain a balance between the home, children, friends and also pursue personal growth? Having worked since she was 19, her



work has been the most important gift and a blessed opportunity. Shweta sincerely believes that if one keeps one's head down and works with the right intentions, one is sure to experience the adventure of a life time."

Speaking of success:

Shweta says, success for them at Teamworks, is about the experiences so whether it is sitting and talking to Shubha Mudgal after a concert or Indian Ocean breaking into a mini concert at one of their homes after a fabulous show, each experience has been unique and memorable. The last 13 years have been a great success! She still remembers an incident when Vikku Vinayak and his group missed a flight connection and were not sure if they would get in on time for a concert which was a full house! He did not have a sip of water or eat anything and only prayed to make it here on time. Vikku ji broke his fast after the show and sitting next to him at that time made every bit worth it. Walking with Gulzar Sahib to find Ice Cream for him in the rain and he breaks into a poem about the rain in Singapore or seeing tears roll down a first director or actor after winning the Asian Festival of first films and so many more. Shweta has a busy but fulfilling life and Singapore is much the richer for it. We wish her and Teamwork Singapore a very happy future!

Interviewed by Manjula Bains

Friends, Artists & Associates

Kumuda & Shivali, are contemporary artists based in Singapore and are keen to promote an appreciation and awareness of Indian art. They are co-founders of Stroke arts, an organisation that is created to help teach art, conduct workshops, and present exhibitions. They are keenly interested and inspired by folk art painting styles from all over the world, especially South East Asia. They are trained artists of different styles of folk art painting from India and south East Asian styles such as batik, textile art, mural art and scroll paintings.

The unique fact about their art is that they often work on the same canvas sitting across each other, or sometimes working in layers and bringing their input to the same piece of artwork. They realised that they each have a set of skills that they can bring to the table and work on it in a complementary way. Living in Singapore has helped them connect and come together to create a successful artistic and business partnership.



Inviting Contributions



IWA Dhvani is your quarterly magazine and we want you to showcase what excites and interests you. Please send in your contributions to editor@iwasingapore.org.

Cover Picture Contribution

We invite contributions of artwork or photographs for the next issue's cover picture. If you find something you would like to capture please send in your original work to us.

We request that the artwork or photograph be horizontal, at least 300dpi and at least 200mm in width. We discourage photos taken on camera phones. If you can, please send a description of the photograph in a couple of lines.

Celebrating Talent

Please send a 300 word essay on talented children, men and women who are members, partners or children of IWA to editor@iwasingapore.org

Kidz Corner Contribution

IWA is not just about women but also about our families and in IWA Dhvani we are hoping to create a special space for IWA children.

We invite members' children to contribute a 400 word essay on any aspect of life in Singapore which excites or interests them. For example among other things it might range from people they have met, places they have visited in Singapore, new food they have tasted or a talent they have had a chance to hone in this land. An accompanying photograph (no phone camera photographs) or original corresponding artwork should also be submitted.

The Unsinkable Ship

I was going for a treasure hunt and found a magic ring. I thought what would happen when I put the ring on. It was so hard to think so I just put the ring on.

I saw that I was on a grand ocean liner. I looked at the name. It was RMS Titanic.

(Four Days Later)

It was 11:40 PM. Fredrick Fleet, the lookout, spotted an iceberg. "Iceberg, right ahead", he said. It wasn't the too long until the iceberg scraped the starboard or the right side of the ship. I woke to the noise of that. I and Thomas Andrews checked the lower decks. They were flooding. I had to give the order to start lowering the lifeboats. There were 14 main lifeboats, 2 emergency boats and 4 collapsible boats.

First officer William Murdoch was loading the lifeboats on one side and other side was second officer Lightoller. Phillips and Bride sent distress signals for help.

Now the water was until the nameplate. The third class cabins were flooding. The time was 1:10 AM. The front part, which is called bow, was going down first so it was flooding first.

At 2:00 AM, the propellers rose out of the water and there was only one lifeboat left.

At 2:17 AM, Titanic cracked into two parts. There was so much danger.

So I just took out the magic ring. In a flash... I was home. Just then Antto came. I told him the sad story of the Titanic. The life of the survivors won't be the same again.

Moral 1 : A big ship should go slow.

Moral 2: How much ever unsinkable, a ship can always sink.

by Ojas Vaidya

Vihaara - a Wandering



This Exhibition is a visual narrative of the tales of two princes in two art forms: Buddha, inspired by the murals of the ancient Ajanta Caves and the life of Rama presented in the intricate Madhubani style of painting.

Kumuda and Shivali are Singapore based contemporary artists who have a keen interest in and are inspired by folk art painting styles from India and South East Asia. They are trained in Indian art forms from South East Asia such as Miniature art, textile art, batik, murals, and frescoes, scroll art and oil painting. They strive to bring about a confluence of different schools of painting and art forms into their contemporary art and like to experiment with different mediums.

5-8 October 2014, 11 am to 8 pm
Gallery, Arts House, 1 Old Parliament Lane
Singapore 179429



www.strokearts.com
vihaara2014@gmail.com



IWA Committee & Clubs



Gourmet Goddessess



Music Club



Book Club



Caring Connecting Celebrating



BSS



SWAMI HOME





LANTERNS

Oil on Canvas

As I was walking on the street on a routine Singaporean afternoon, this scene immediately arrested my interest as some courteous citizen had nonchalantly thrown together this intricate composition for me. Those impish, toy-like lanterns begged to be the centre of attention and what followed is, I hope, a decent study in texture and colour to help the viewer to pause and simply appreciate the refreshing idiosyncrasies of the world around us. I was captured by the way the transparencies of glass can contrast with the thick vegetation behind. How the sheen of metal stands out against the rusted railings! KANIKA DAGA