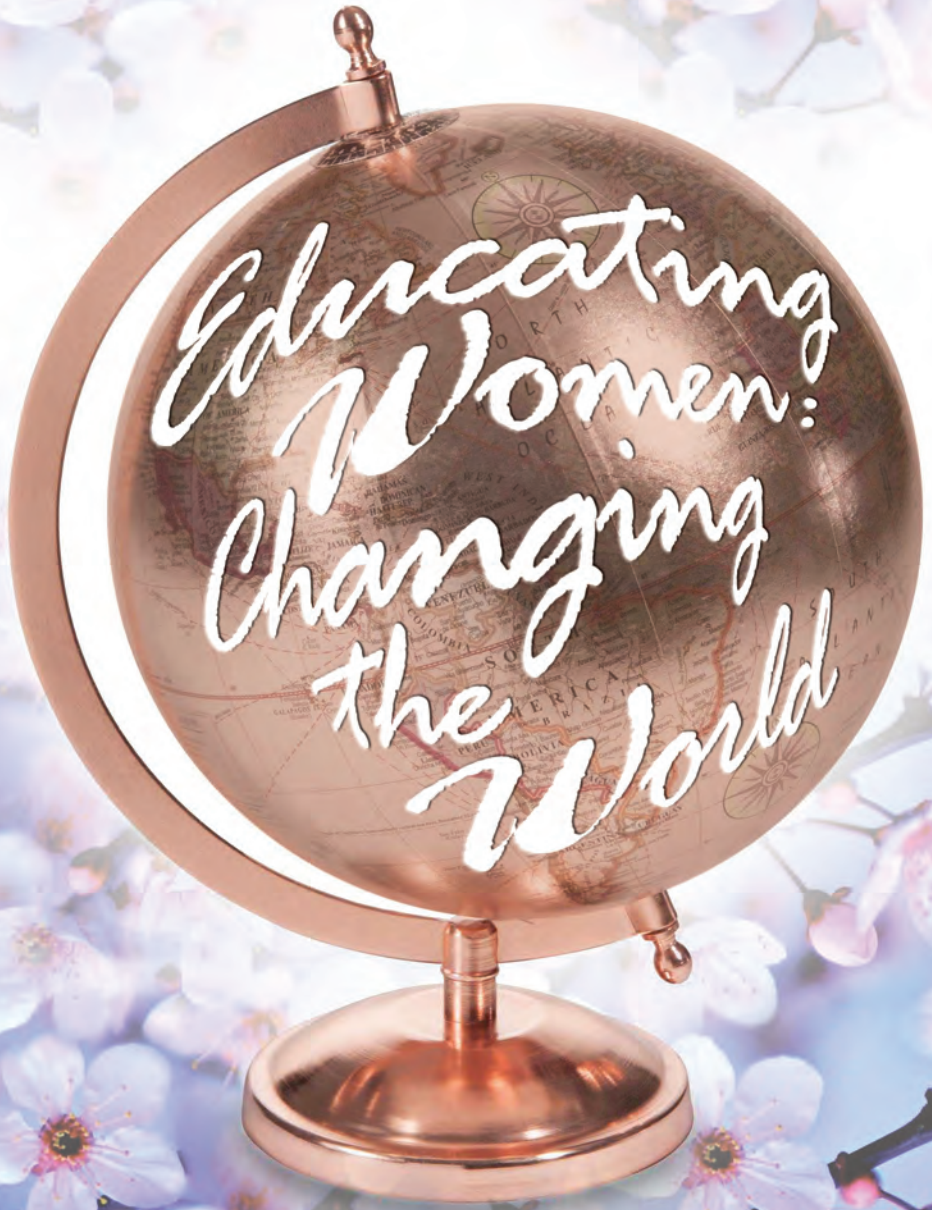
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Welcome Clubs International, Inc. Magazine

Vol. 8 | Winter 2017 / 2018

The Power of Friendship



Hosted By
Welcome To Washington
International Club

15th BIENNIAL
WCI International Conference Program

MAY 25–30, 2018 | WASHINGTON, DC | USA

CELEBRATING 32 YEARS OF WELCOME CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

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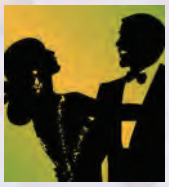
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Welcome To Washington President
1966-1968



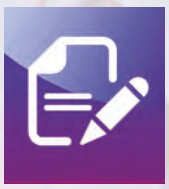
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History of The Cherry Blossom Trees and Festival

Each year, the National Cherry Blossom Festival commemorates the 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees from Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo to the city of Washington.

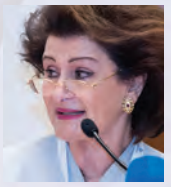
A first batch of 2,000 trees arrived diseased in 1910, but this did not deter the two parties—more than 3,000 trees arrived in Washington in 1912. In a simple ceremony on March 27, 1912, First Lady Helen Herron Taft and Viscountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese ambassador, planted the first two trees on the north bank of the Tidal Basin in West Potomac Park. The nation's First Ladies have been proponents of the Festival ever since.

Over the years, gifts have been exchanged between the two countries, and in 1981, the cycle of giving came full circle when cuttings from the original gifted trees were sent from the United States to Japan to replace cherry trees which had been destroyed in a flood.

The first "festival" was held in 1927, and the 100-year anniversary of Japan's gift was marked with a five-week celebration in 2012. Today, the Festival spans

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Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani



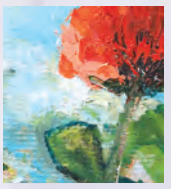
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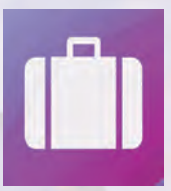
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IN WASHINGTON, DC



TIDAL BASIN IN WEST POTOMAC PARK

four weekends and heralds spring in the nation's capitol.

On average, the peak bloom occurs around the last week of March through the first week or so of April.

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Volume 8
Winter 2017/2018

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Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani
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Debi Tepper

Liaison to theLINK Magazine
Kim Riedel

Read Online
You may view or download theLINK Magazine from the WCI website at: www.WCIclubs.org

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Maria Robinson
Designs On You, LLC

from the President

Maria Fernanda Arduino



It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this new edition of theLINK Magazine. *A special thank you goes to Kim Riedel, WCI Liaison to* theLINK, *and to Maria Robinson, our graphic designer. The Magazine has been the collective effort of all our Sister Clubs who contributed articles, photos, and ideas to support a quality magazine that portrays the values of Welcome Clubs International.*

In our increasingly challenging world, WCI's mission of promoting friendship and understanding among cultures takes on prominent importance. As differing societies come in contact across frontiers like education, business, medicine, and technology, the urgency to communicate with respect, empathy, and compassion grows and decidedly influences the real possibility of living together peacefully.

In our ever-changing societies, with immigration being a key factor, there seems to be a growing need for women's traits—those that women have always used within their own families and communities. Examples of their attributes are organizing activities for the common good; nurturing, persuasiveness, and an inclusive team-building leadership style; a process-oriented approach rather than effective-oriented; focusing on the merit of core human values over rules of behaviour; the capacity for risk taking, and the ability to learn from adversity.

WCI celebrates the opportunity to embrace these new challenges, and we kindly invite our members and guests to our 15th Biennial International Conference, hosted by Welcome to Washington International Club in Washington, DC, United States. As WCI grows with the times, we encourage you to join in the theme of this Conference—*Educating Women: Changing the World.*

Emphasizing the goal of education, and in keeping with the generous spirit of WCI Founder Marian Adair, WCI is reaching out to women by encouraging and supporting them to engage their talents to benefit their own communities and the entire world.

WCI acts as a forum for international women's clubs and their members to communicate. It coordinates and facilitates the sharing of information and news, thereby linking its membership together. WCI offers a network for women of cultural differences to communicate and learn from one another. It is a non-profit and non-political organization.

To live in our times with joy and hope, I invite you to join our international circle of friendship and understanding by reading our Magazine and sharing your stories in the Sister Club News. Visit our website, learn about one another through active communication on WCI's blog, and participate in our events.

It is our pleasure and honour to have welcomed the following clubs to our organization in 2017:

- Welcome to Korea International Club, South Korea
- Welcome International Club Jakarta, Indonesia
- International Women's Club Baku, Azerbaijan

May there continue to be more international associations joining our mission of friendship, understanding and education so that an ever-growing WCI

There seems to be a growing need for women's traits. Through education, women can engage their talents to help others live in a more peaceful and compassionate world.

membership may become ambassadors of goodwill throughout the world.

It has been my privilege to serve WCI as President for the past two years. My deepest appreciation and gratitude goes to each WCI Executive Committee Member—they have served with passion and commitment to our organization's mission. Throughout the past two years we have striven to perform as a team and to elect our decisions in the best interest of WCI.

In the coming year, I look forward to continue serving WCI in significant ways with pride and devotion. I thank you for your trust and friendship.

With Appreciation & Gratitude,

Maria Fernanda Arduino
WCI President



Friendship through Understanding, and Understanding through Education & Friendship

The WCI Executive Committee voted in November 2017 to update our Motto to include WCI's new initiative—*Educating Women*. We invite our Sister Clubs to promote this initiative because we believe educating women will have positive consequences on the education of children and the wellbeing of families—in turn having positive affects on their communities, the nations, and thus, the world.

Through our new initiative, WCI strives to respond to current times with compassion. The sensitivity of women who join hands to work together for education in the manner best suited to their circumstances will have a global impact. WCI is also searching for more international organizations to establish meaningful partnerships that work effectively in the world.



NEW WCI INITIATIVE

Maria Fernanda Arduino
Kim Riedel

Educating Women

Focusing on Women Globally Through Education

WCI WOULD LIKE TO RESPOND to the current challenging times with a spirit of generosity and compassion specifically towards women in our local communities. We believe that it is through education that we can use our talents and capabilities to help others live in a peaceful and compassionate world.

THIS INITIATIVE IS AN INVITATION to emphasize projects that promote education. Many clubs are already involved in education programs. We want to highlight those programs and encourage other clubs to consider embarking on one.



MISSION

Support the education of women to help the world grow in peace, in understanding, and in compassion.

VISION

For women to contribute in today's world utilizing their talents and capabilities.



OBJECTIVES

1. Offer a guide to provide educational opportunities to women.
2. Offer initiatives for clubs to use per their own resources, structure and potential, and to work within the parameters of their Bylaws and the reality of their home towns.
3. Encourage WCI members worldwide to partner with institutions and organizations fostering the betterment and education of women.

IMPLEMENTATION IDEAS

- Organize English Classes
- Provide High School Diploma Classes
- Supply Mentoring
- Provide Tutoring
- Advise on Educational Opportunities
- Deliver Classes through a club's member talent bank, such as for Cooking Dance, Recreation, Sewing, and Computers
- Create a blog with educational videos and articles for the benefit of women.

EVALUATION

Discuss WCI Project Kit with the Board of Directors, and brainstorm ideas and suggestions. We have begun to hold Skype Conferences with Club Presidents and Liaisons to discuss the following questions:

1. What do you understand by WCI Initiative: Educating Women?
2. How do you suggest this initiative should be put into practice?
3. What does your Club do with respect to the education of women?

Celebrating WCI Founder



Former WCI President Reflects on Her Mother's Time in Ethiopia

by Caroline Adair Dimmers, Founder's Representative, WCI President 2012-2014

My mother, Marian Adair, moved with my Dad, Ambassador E. Ross Adair, to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where Dad had been appointed to serve as the United States Ambassador to Ethiopia. They settled into their new home, the embassy in Addis.

Immediately, both Mom and Dad wanted to learn about this interesting country, and they wished to make friends. Dad, of course, knew the men of the diplomatic corps (at that time almost all diplomats were men). He was set. But, how would Mom get acquainted?

In Washington, DC, and in other cities, Mom had made friends and brought women together through International Clubs featuring Interest Groups.

Mom had packed all of her "eggery" supplies to move with her to Africa. She was skilled at decorating eggs with elegant trims, sparkly jewels and often, cut out doors. Dad was skeptical. What in the world would she do with all the supplies?



A large glass tukul stood on the embassy grounds. The Ethiopian villagers lived in tukuls –round homes with thatched roofs. Roofs had a hole in the center for an air vent, and the glass tukul at the embassy also was round with a thatched roof and circled a big tree. Out the glass sides we could see the Riff Valley–a beautiful view. The embassy's tukul usually hosted social events. Mother saw another use.

Mom thought her Tukul would serve nicely as a gathering place for local and international women to come together to learn to create beautifully decorated eggs. The word went out, and women came to meet the Ambassador's wife, to see the glass tukul, and to imagine what could be done with an egg! The idea appealed—women came once a week to enjoy learning this new skill, and as they sat at tables, the women talked, and many long-lasting, warm friendships developed.

After a few months, the women had produced many gorgeous, decorated eggs. Mom asked if they would be interested in a "craft exhibit"? Husbands and family would be invited to the tukul for a cocktail party, and the eggs would be displayed. The women were enthusiastic, and a lovely evening was spent with the women introducing their husbands to their new friends, and showing off their beautifully decorated eggs.

Mother and Dad's years in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, were happy, memorable ones. Once more, Mother's passion for people provided a place and a reason for women to gather in friendship. She knew no boundaries, loving people of every nationality. She believed that sharing our best would bring friendships and perhaps a more peaceful world.

A Simple But Powerful Goal—Friendship and Understanding

by Eshrat Demougeot
Founder's Representative



Marian Adair, Founder of Welcome Clubs International and its mother club, Welcome to Washington, worked throughout her life toward a simple but powerful goal . . . to bring women of all cultures together through Friendship and Understanding, free of political and religious differences.

My personal journey of getting to know and work with Marian began on a bus trip arranged by Welcome to Washington in 1989 to Charlottesville, Virginia, for visiting members of our sister club Welcome to London. I was sitting at the back of the bus when this very distinguished lady came and sat next to me and introduced herself as Marian Adair.

I had recently moved back to America from London where I had been a member of Welcome to London. I therefore, had no idea who she really was. Marian quickly struck up a conversation and wanted to know all about me. When asked, I shared that I had served on the Newsletter committee of the London Club, and to my surprise, she immediately asked if I would help her in drafting her correspondence exchanges with member clubs in her capacity as Chair of the umbrella committee, Welcome Clubs International. I had no idea what was involved, but I realized that I was not just being asked, but told.

Over the ensuing years Marian and I developed a close relationship. In 1990, my husband decided to take early retirement. In the winter of 1991, after enduring harsh winters in Annapolis, Maryland, we decided to drive down south to look into places where we could spend three months of the year away from the cold. Marian, learning of our planned trip, invited us to come and spend a few days with her in Bonita Springs. She had never met George, my husband, but welcomed him anyway. To cut the long story short, after

(continued on page 15)

Marian Wood Adair

by Lois Sprigg Hazell, published in The Star-News, circa 1974

Mrs. Hazell was President of Welcome To Washington International Club from 1966-1968

Submitted by Caroline Adair Dimmers
Founder's Representative
Welcome to Washington International Club

A Lion Came For Cocktails

Have you ever shared hors d'oeuvres with a lion?

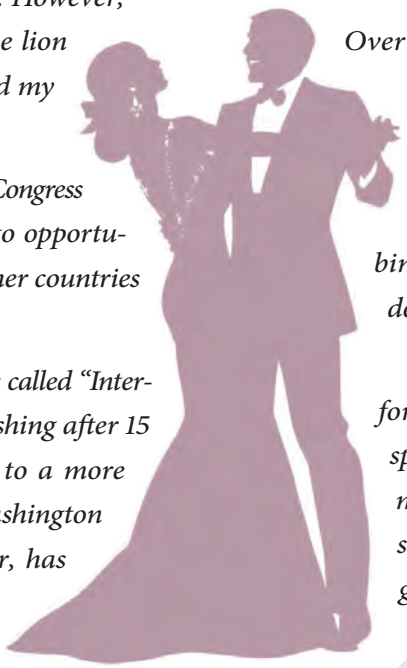
A guest in Addis Ababa asked Marian Adair, wife of the United States Ambassador to Ethiopia, E. Ross Adair, if his pet lion might come with him to her cocktail party.

Why not? His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor Haile Selassie, has one in his palace, thought Mrs. Adair, who said, "Of course." Warm hospitality is one of her endearing qualities.

The cuddly, 100-pound lion cub padded into the Embassy with his master, was served a few tasty morsels, then curled up contentedly under a table. However, whenever his master was out of sight, the lion became restless and, said Marian, "So did my other guests."

When Mr. Adair was a member of Congress from Indiana, Marian was always open to opportunities for friendships between people of other countries who were stationed here.

She organized a series of luncheons called "International Neighbors," which are still flourishing after 15 years. The success of these meetings led to a more ambitious program. "The Welcome to Washington International Club," now in its 14th year, has 800 members from 65 countries and is very much part of the Washington scene.



In the same spirit, Mrs. Adair has drawn people around her in Addis Ababa. Believing that a shared hobby can be a sure bridge to friendship, she has started a craft class for her friends, which meets Tuesday mornings in the Embassy Tukul. The Tukul is a round, glass-enclosed garden house with a thatched roof, and has a tree growing right up through the center.

Over coffee and cookies, women from seven or eight countries plan their program for the morning: decorating eggs—little ones, middle-sized ones, and big ostrich eggs, which make beautiful jewel boxes. The newest interest is "stone rubbing" and a few energetic souls are undertaking decoupage.

Though Ambassador and Mrs. Adair conform to protocol, their Indiana hospitality gives special warmth to their Embassy. A British diplomat remarked, "Mrs. Adair gives this residence such a 'homey' feeling, we love to come here. It's a good place for conversation."

How Welcome to Washington Club Became the Inspiration for WCI



Andrew Ellicott's 1792 revision of L'Enfant's 1791 plan for the "Federal City," later Washington City, District of Columbia (Thackara & Vallance, 1792)

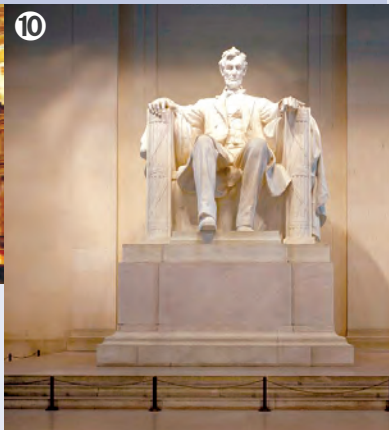




The Welcome to Washington International Club was founded in 1959 by Marian Adair. At that time, Washington, DC, was a very different place than it is today. The opportunities for visiting wives and professional women to make social contacts was extremely limited. There were few social, cultural and educational organizations available to them.













1. First American President George Washington
2. Mt. Vernon Estate
3. Lincoln and Washington Memorials
4. Jefferson Memorial at Tidal Basin
5. Members of Welcome to Washington
6. Marian Adair (far left) at U.S. Capitol
7. Members of Welcome to Washington



8. WCI Founder Marian Adair
9. Library of U.S. Congress
10. (Abraham) Lincoln Memorial
11. (George) Washington Memorial
12. U.S. Constitution
13. Members of Welcome to Washington



People to People

Being well aware of the challenges facing women, an inspired Marian Adair recognized the need for an organization devoted to interaction between U.S. women and those from other nations. In 1950, Marian came to Washington from Ann Arbor, Michigan, when her husband, Ross, was elected to the U.S. Congress. She understood and took to heart President Dwight D. Eisenhower's 1958 initiative, "People to People," which promoted international peace through developing and nurturing personal relationships across international borders.

During her 20 years in the DC area, Marian fulfilled her goal of creating opportunities for womens' interactions by founding, among many other organizations, the Welcome to Washington International Club. On April 13, 1959, the Club's first meeting took place—and, as a positive indication of things to come, 135 women attended. The Club was on its way!

Upon returning to their home countries (or U.S. cities), members were forming new clubs modeled after Welcome to Washington International Club. In 1986, it became apparent that an "umbrella organization" was needed to support those members transitioning away from Washington's Club. It was then that Welcome Clubs International (WCI) was created. Today, WCI continues to support and link international women's clubs around the globe. With the 15th Biennial Conference hosted in Washington, DC, we come full circle and meet in the city where it all began.

Visiting Washington, DC

Founded on July 16, 1790, Washington is unique among American cities because it was established by the Constitution of the United States to serve as the nation's capitol. The city was named for the first President of the country, George Washington, who chose the city's location. The District of Columbia (DC) was named for the Italian explorer Christopher Columbus.

President Washington appointed a French-born American military engineer, Pierre Charles L'Enfant, to design the new city. L'Enfant presented a vision of a bold, modern city featuring grand boulevards and ceremonial spaces reminiscent of another great world capitol, L'Enfant's native Paris.

After more than 200 years as the U.S. capitol, Washington, DC has developed into a complex city with distinctive character: an international center of power, a town for locals, and a beautiful place to visit.

The Welcome to Washington International Club looks forward to meeting members of our Sister Clubs, reuniting with old friends, and fostering new ones. It is a pleasure for our Club to present our city, its heritage, and its culture to our special guests. Ample opportunity will be available for guests to explore the Washington, DC area.







The Positive Impact of Intercultural Experiences on Young Adults



Maria Fernanda Arduino, EdD
WCI President

An Exploration into The Lived Experiences of Young Adults Who Have Made International Moves: A Qualitative Approach

This Applied Dissertation was presented at SIETAR—Society for Intercultural Education, Training and Research—Congress, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on September 14, 2017.

The following article shows the results of a research conducted to gain a meaningful understanding of the experiences of a group of young adults who underwent international moves due to their parents' career choices. The researcher conducted interviews with eight individuals between the ages of 18 and 20 using a phenomenological approach. Through detailed, intensive analysis of the data gathered from the interviews, the researcher saw what themes emerged to better understand this complex reality. [1]

Results of this study revealed that young adults who face international moves due to their parents' career choices have some transformative experiences and face some cultural challenges as well as attain cultural gains. Young adults generally move with their nuclear families, and, as such, they develop close ties with family members. On the other hand, extended family members who reside in the home country act upon young adults as the providers of permanent relationships that support the otherwise ever-changing lifestyle. Some of the cultural gains are related to language, such as the improvement of English, as young adults usually attend international schools when they move internationally. One other cultural gain is the growth of cultural sensitivity and awareness. Some of the challenges include the emphasis on both linguistic and cultural differences as part of the transition time when settling in the new environment.

Findings also showed that young adults undergo changes in the identity due to the international moves that they face. On the one hand, cultural differences force young adults to make an effort to understand this new society. They gradually start adopting some of the social customs, thus making some changes in their personal identity. On the other hand, they grow in self-identity and self-worth, and this intrinsic dignity of the self sustains them through the many changes that they undergo to be able to operate in the new environment.

Friends play a vital role throughout the international moves, and the age span between 18 and 20 shows friends to be important social references. Consequently, there are many gains that young adults grow to attain as a result of the moves they face. Essentially, they seem to develop empathy and understanding to other realities and perspectives. This reality helps them to grow to be compassionate human beings.

The results of this study indicated that language and academic gains are intertwined with cultural awareness and cultural sensitivity, and they all seem to be the young adults' gains and growth as a consequence of the international moves. This result is corroborated by the findings of Wahyudi, (2012), who further stated, "Identities are observable through the use of language" (p. 1785). Consequently, language, culture, and identity are related and compose the process through which young adults grow as a result of facing international moves. Wahyudi referred to "intercultural communicative competence" (p. 1783) as the awareness that makes it possible for young adults to comprehend different realities and to relate to them.

The story of young adults who have faced international moves is worthwhile. Young adults who have moved internationally seem to have developed some characteristics that could support a better world for all human beings, such as cultural sensitivity, cultural awareness, empathy, and human compassion. As one participant stated, "People are the same everywhere. The painting changes, but, in the end, we all want to get involved with others, to rest, to work, to have a good life."

[1] This article presents a brief synopsis of a doctoral dissertation published by Institut d´Estudis Superiors de la Família Universitat Internacional de Catalunya

Congress Proceedings
ISBN: 978-8
ic.es/sites/default/files/actas_ii_international_conference_family_and_society.pdf, 397-416
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sites/default/files/actas_ii_international_conference_family_and_society.pdf

With Gratitude



THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY **HOSPITAL**

Welcome Clubs International

Appreciates the Ongoing Sponsorship from The George Washington University Hospital.

THANK YOU.

In recognition of women, WCI has launched the Education Initiative that aims to help educate women around the world. We can be inspired by the work of women who have changed the course of history with their important work:

British Chemist Rosiland Franklin's groundbreaking research on DNA helped improve our understanding of its structure. She was jointly awarded a Nobel Prize in 1962.

Kenyan Environmentalist and Political Activist Wangari Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement in the 1970s to empower rural women. She received the Nobel Prize in 2004.

Iranian Human Rights Activist and Lawyer Shirin Ebadi was the first female judge in Iran and the first Muslim woman to receive the Nobel Prize (2003) for her work in activism against the Iranian regime.

Guatemalan/Mayan Rigoberta Menchu'Tum has dedicated her life to fighting for the rights of indigenous peoples and is a founder of the Nobel Women's Initiative.

Mother Teresa "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with Great Love."

contributed by Kim Riedel

INTRODUCING THE WCI BLOG—

A New Addition to the WCI Communications Platform

In addition to the information our members rely on from the website like conferences, our member clubs, and our mission, the blog allows our members an additional way to interact and share with one another. WCI Projects and initiatives will be regularly posted, allowing members to become more involved and to communicate across clubs. Access the "Reading Room," a project curated by Irene Jacoby from Welcome to Washington that spotlights some of the diverse literature from our member countries that should be required reading for our member clubs. This is an direct opportunity to learn more about the unique heritages, voices and values of our member club countries, as well as how we are unique and alike. Engage in discussions, and share your thoughts. Comment and let us know what you found interesting. And, it's simple to use. Log on to the WCI website, click on "Blog" in the top menu, read up on the latest project and initiative, and get involved.

15th BIENNIAL

WCI International Conference Program

MAY 25–30, 2018 | WASHINGTON, DC | USA

CELEBRATING 32 YEARS OF WELCOME CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

Educating Women: Changing The World.

SPEAKERS & PANELS WORKING TO ADVANCE THE MISSION OF WCI

MAY 25 FRI

DAYTIME

- Guests arrive and are met at the Airport by Hostesses, and are driven to the Embassy Suites Hotel
- Conference Registration

EVENING

- Complimentary Cocktails in Embassy Suite Hotel Lobby
- Welcome Dinner and Cocktails at Maggiano's



MAY 26 SAT

MORNING

- Welcome to Conference Delegates
- Tour of the Stevens F. Udvar–Hazy Centre *(see back cover)*

AFTERNOON

- Lunch in Hotel
- Keynote Speaker

EVENING

- Dinner with Friends at Welcome to Washington Members' Homes



MAY 27 SUN

MORNING

- WCI Business Meetings
- Optional Tour of Smithsonian Museums

AFTERNOON

- Lunch at Twin Oaks with Guest Speaker

EVENING

- Cocktail Reception at the Embassy of the Republic of Botswana



WCI Post-Conference Trip • May 30–June 2, 2018

Wednesday • May 30

Depart this morning from Washington by bus to Historic Williamsburg, Virginia

We will stop for Lunch
(lunch will be on your own)

Accommodation / Williamsburg Lodge Hotel and Dinner *(included)*

Thursday • May 31

Breakfast at the Hotel *(included)*

This day will be dedicated to the visit of the Historic Area of Williamsburg

Lunch / Dinner / Tickets to the site *(included)*

Friday • June 1

Depart Williamsburg after Breakfast *(included)*

Visit Historic Berkeley Plantation on the James River, built in 1726

Lunch will be served at Upper Shirley Vineyard *(included)*

Depart for Richmond to Omni Richmond Hotel in the Historic District of Richmond

We will give you options when we arrive Richmond, time permitting, to visit on your own; all sites within walking distance of hotel

Omni Richmond Hotel

Dinner *(included)*

Saturday • June 2

After Breakfast *(included)*, at a set time we will depart Richmond

Today's Highlight will be a visit to President Thomas Jefferson's home in Monticello

We will tour the historic house & its gardens

The 15th Biennial WCI International Conference will be hosted in Washington, DC.

Chevy Chase Embassy Suites Pavilion
4300 Military Road NW
Washington, District of Columbia 20015

TEL:
FAX:

Local Transportation:
www.EmbassySuitesDCmetro.com

All participants are responsible for making their hotel arrangements through the hotel's website. Rooms have been set aside for WCI members and their guests. Please indicate you are attending the WCI conference when booking with the hotel.

All participants must **register by February 15, 2018,** with our host club—Welcome to Washington International Club.

You can contact our host club at:
WelcomeToWashingtonClub.org for more information on costs, and bank transfer information regarding the conference.

Conference Program is subject to slight changes.

Please turn to **page 20 for TRAVEL TIPS** and more information about visiting Washington, DC.

For additional information or possible changes to the Program, please go the WCI website:
www.WCIclubs.org/Memberclubs/international-conferences



Chevy Chase Embassy Suites Pavilion



MORNING
- Round Table Discussions

AFTERNOON
- Lunch and Tour of Mt. Vernon Estate (home of George and Martha Washington)

EVENING
- Dinner at a local restaurant with Guest Speaker



Lunch will be served at Historic Michie Tavern *(included)*

After lunch we will drive back to Washington

Estimated arrival time to Washington Dulles Airport is 3:00 pm; please, if you are returning that night back to your home, make sure you book flights after 7:00 pm

Hotel Accommodation will be Dulles Marriott Hotel (165$) Tel: 703-471-9500

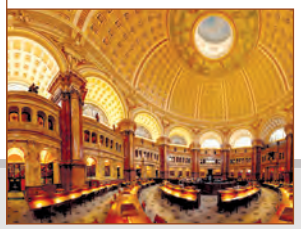
Dinner and Hotel Accommodation is not included; you must make your own arrangements if you are staying in Washington overnight



MORNING
- Tour of The Library of Congress and the U.S. Capitol building

AFTERNOON
- Lunch at the Embassy of Columbia with Guest Speaker

EVENING
- Dinner at Top of the Town
- Presentation of Marian Adair Award
- Evening Bus Tour of Monuments



Bus will make another 1 or 2 stops in the city to disembark the rest of the passengers

Location of these stops will be decided later

• PRICE •

Double Room: 1300$ per person
(two people sharing the same room)

Single Room: 1500$

Space is limited to first 30 participants who make their reservation and pay for the trip

When your payment is received, we will send you an email confirming your place for this private, special trip



MORNING
- Tour of the Kennedy Center
- Lunchtime departure for Post-Conference Trip

contributed by
Marie Carr
Conference Chair



• IMPORTANT •

This trip is not for everyone; we will have long days and long walks to multiple sites, including steps to climb to visit the sites

You will be responsible for your suitcase when porters are not available

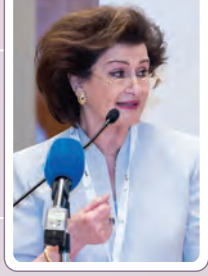
Going in and out of the bus might not be comfortable for some

Please consider every detail for this trip before making your reservation

Welcome To Washington or any other member traveling should not feel responsible for you

Thank you for your consideration

Haifa
Fahoum
Al Kaylani



Fellow, Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative
and Founder Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum

Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani

Leading the Way for Women in the Arab World and Internationally

I extend my warmest thanks to Maria Fernanda Arduino, President of WCI, for kindly inviting me to contribute this article and share some of the initiatives and key issues that I have championed over the last three decades working through a wide variety of charities, cultural institutions, NGOs and the private sector in the UK, Arab world and internationally, culminating in my recent appointment as a Fellow of Harvard University's Advanced Leadership Initiative.

Both personally and as Founder Chairman of the Arab International Women's Forum, I am proud indeed to have a longstanding relationship with Welcome Clubs International that dates back to my Presidency of the Federation of International Women's Associations in London in 1998-2000. Welcome Clubs International has been a valued member of FIWAL, and I had many wonderful opportunities to speak at a great number of distinguished WCI meetings in London, Washington, DC, and many other cities all over the world.

Founding the Arab International Women's Forum

A bedrock belief of mine is the role women can and do play as bridge builders and community builders. As a development economist, I truly believe that economic, social and political development is imperiled in any community that may exclude the full participation of women. This is why I founded AIWF in 2001 in London as a non-profit, non-governmental, non-religious, non-political development organization with the clear aim of supporting the role of women in the Arab world and beyond.

A BEDROCK BELIEF OF MINE IS THE IMPACTFUL ROLE WOMEN CAN AND DO PLAY AS BRIDGE BUILDERS AND COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Now in its 16th year, AIWF has grown into a global network dedicated to leading the way forward for women in the Arab world and beyond. AIWF works to give Arab women leaders a voice and platform to prosper, and as Chairman of AIWF, I have worked tirelessly across the board, with governments, educators, NGOs and the private sector to advance gender equality, placing special emphasis on the role of women as engines of economic growth towards the realization of our Founding Mission, "Building Bridges, Building Business."

First Arab to Join Harvard Women's Leadership Board

I was able to further pursue my keen interest in gender diversity in 2004, when I was invited to join the Harvard Women's Leadership Board. Members of the Women's Leadership Board at Harvard come from the most senior levels of government, business, academia and the non-profit sector mainly in the USA but increasingly internationally. Based at Harvard Kennedy School, we serve as key supporters and ambassadors to Harvard's Women and Public Policy Program, specializing in "rigorous, high-impact" gender research and recognizing that gender equality is an enduring global issue that requires international collaboration, innovative solutions and partnerships at the highest level.

As the first Arab to be invited to join the Harvard Women's Leadership Board, I am dedicated to and very active in supporting the next generation of women leaders, collaborating with and supporting the work of the Board in creating opportunities for young women leaders everywhere, and recently worked closely with WAPPP to support research fellowships and student internship program in Jordan.

Fellow of Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative

I was delighted in 2017 to join Harvard University as a Fellow of the Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative. Forty-five global leaders were selected for an intensive, multi-disciplinary program and yearlong Fellowship to solve significant social problems. It is indeed a great privilege to have been nominated and subsequently invited to join Harvard as a Fellow of the Advanced Leadership Initiative.

Harvard's Advanced Leadership Initiative is an exciting new "third stage" in higher education designed to prepare experienced global leaders to take on new challenges in the social sector, and carry the impact made in their careers forward towards even greater societal good. As an ALI Fellow, I participate in a rigorous core course, field experiences and intensive

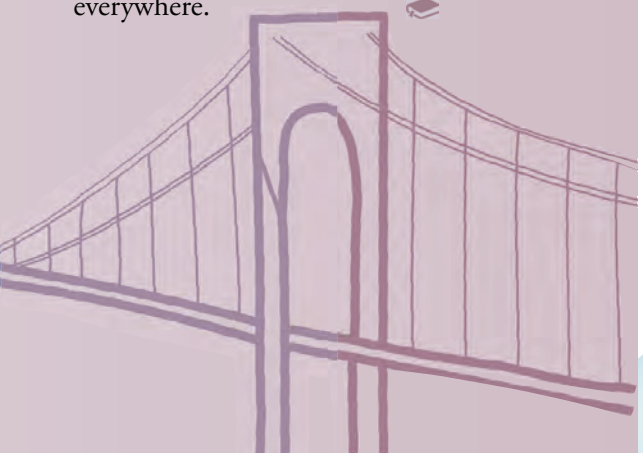


deep dives on vital social issues, with a focus on health, the environment, and education. My Fellowship will culminate in a capstone event where I, and all ALI Fellows, will be invited to present our projects and plans to make a lasting difference in the world. Following the program year, I will be invited to join the ALI Coalition, a group dedicated to making ongoing social progress and impact across a broad range of sectors and development spheres.

Job Creation, Entrepreneurship, Education and Economic Empowerment

Having successfully led AIWF since its inception in London in 2001, I am proud on a personal level to be taking the time to undertake this important Fellowship, and to have this opportunity to carry forward on a global level the mission I care deeply about and to which I have devoted over three decades of my life—economic development through the empowerment and advancement of Arab women and youth, with a special focus on job creation, entrepreneurship, education and economic empowerment. As women leaders, change agents, role models and members of the international business community, I believe we can all make a difference by taking a step forward, by being engaged, by dedicating ourselves to effecting change and progress from our diverse platforms and within our various roles in public life and in the private sector.

I conclude by reiterating how proud I am to have collaborated with Welcome Clubs International over the years, and how much I look forward to continuing a warm and fruitful relationship with WCI into the future, taking forward the important progress our respective organizations have made, and finding innovative ways to collaborate, address new challenges and leverage every opportunity to support and develop women leaders everywhere.



Celebrating Marian Adair

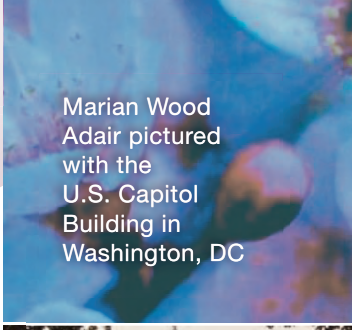
(continued from page 6)

a few winters down south, we ended up settling in Florida permanently, in Marian's neighborhood!

Marian was delighted and sponsored me to become a member of Welcome to Florida. This move opened many doors for me, as well as many lasting friendships which I continue to enjoy today. My being Persian by origin soon connected me with three other Persian couples who had moved there from Iran after The Revolution. My husband George referred to our small group of four couples as the "Persian Mafia!" Although she was not part of the "Persian Mafia," Marian became a part of our family. She once stated to me how much she enjoyed being with us "internationals" where there was much fun and laughter! She was old in age, but always young at heart. The feeling was mutual as she shared her wisdom, knowledge and joie de vivre with all those who came in contact with her.

Two memorable reflections of my time with her was one during a Brazilian Ball sponsored by one of our members where we all had to wear masks and where a few young men were invited to chaperone a few single women. Marian, getting wind of this, approached one of the young men and asked him if he was one of the "Gigolos!" You can imagine the surprise on this young man's face, who happened to be a lawyer by profession and had accompanied his parents for the occasion. He introduced himself and recounted the incident to us to our outburst of laughter. On another occasion, Marian told George and I that her last wish as she lay dying would be to eat a Hot Fudge Sundae and for her last check to bounce. Marian was a chocoholic.

Marian was a vibrant and dynamic lady, one who left a lasting memory on everyone she encountered. Her vision and dream lives, on and it is upon us to pass the torch and indoctrinate the next generation of leaders to keep her dream alive, and take her message to the world stage where it belongs.



Marian Wood Adair pictured with the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, DC



Mother was a total extrovert. She loved the "internationals." She wanted women of all cultures to share their stories. Today she would wish to have more clubs in the United States as well as internationally so that women can continue to share, learn, and make friendships.

~ CAROLINE ADAIR DIMMERS

Welcome!

Embracing Our New WCI Clubs

This year, Welcome Clubs International warmly received 3 new clubs.
Access to sister club newsletters that are provided to WCI can be found on the WCI website at: www.wciclubs.org/memberclubs/sister-clubs.

Women's International Club Jakarta

WIC Jakarta was founded in 1950 by ladies of four nationalities – India, Indonesia, UK and USA. The Club's motto is "Friendship Through Understanding."

WIC has become a gathering place for women of many more nationalities, coming together in friendship, taking part in the many circles, learning from each other, getting involved in social welfare activities and joining hands in raising funds together by organizing the WIC Annual Charity Bazaar.

The Club is a secular and strictly non-political, non-profit organisation, open only to women, and run by a mixed Indonesian/expatriate Executive Committee elected by the membership.

The aims of the Club are to:

1. Foster friendship and mutual understanding between women of different nationalities;
2. Contribute to the cultural development of women in general;
3. Contribute to social improvement.

Some worthwhile events:

The trip to Palembag was marked with a spectacular evening at the official residence of the Governor of South Sumatera, and a visit to the streamlined stadium that will host the 2018 Asian Games.

A special milestone was the installation of the WIC sponsorship plaque at the entryway of a Social Welfare Institution that we support. With the addition of funds from our national patron, our Social Welfare ladies were able to organize a renovation of the Institution's main hall and classrooms, and the result was an airy, clean and safe environment for the children.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB JAKARTA



WKIC



Welcome to Korea International Club

WKIC was born on September 2, 2016, and the core purpose of its founding is to promote broad acquaintances among women of all nationalities residing in Korea through cultural, social and educational exchange in the spirit of fostering friendship and understanding. Dr. Jungsook Kim, who was a former Congresswoman and is now working as the president of International Council of Women, was elected as the president. WKIC consists of 140 members of professional women, stay-at-home moms, singles, retirees, artists, entrepreneurs, lawyers, and freelancers. WKIC holds monthly board meetings to plan and enhance programs that will strengthen and empower members.

Some of the past activities have been:

Went on a fabulous excursion to the island of Ganghwado, which has many historical remains including dolmens (natural fortification serving as observation post and history museum), and an old temple.

Cultural and historical tour to Hongyoo-Neung and Gamgo-Dang "Remembering King Gojong" series tour II: Hong-Yoo-Neung has the royal tombs of Emperor Gojong, Empress Myungseong, and their sons and daughters.

Hanji Class: members get to design their own original work of Hanji (Korean traditional paper).

Chojun Textile-Quilt Art Museum: Master Soonhee Kim is well known for her effort and achievement in reviving the costumes worn by Princess Duckhae and the royal family during Choson Dynasty from the Japanese possession.

International Women's Club of Baku

Established in 1994, the International Women's Club of Baku is a social, non-profit organization that promotes friendship, fellowship and mutual understanding for women of every nationality through its many activities and social events. Our membership includes 108 members, 40 of those are Azerbaijani as of June 2017. Many members are involved in fundraising activities for humanitarian projects, supporting orphanages, seniors homes, and those in severe need of a helping hand. The club is non-profit, non-political, non-sectarian and encourages members to share their culture and traditions freely.

The aims of the club are to:

1. Promote friendship and mutual understanding among women of different nationalities.
2. Do humanitarian work in Azerbaijan and raise funds in support of humanitarian needs.
3. Organize educational, cultural and social activities for its members.

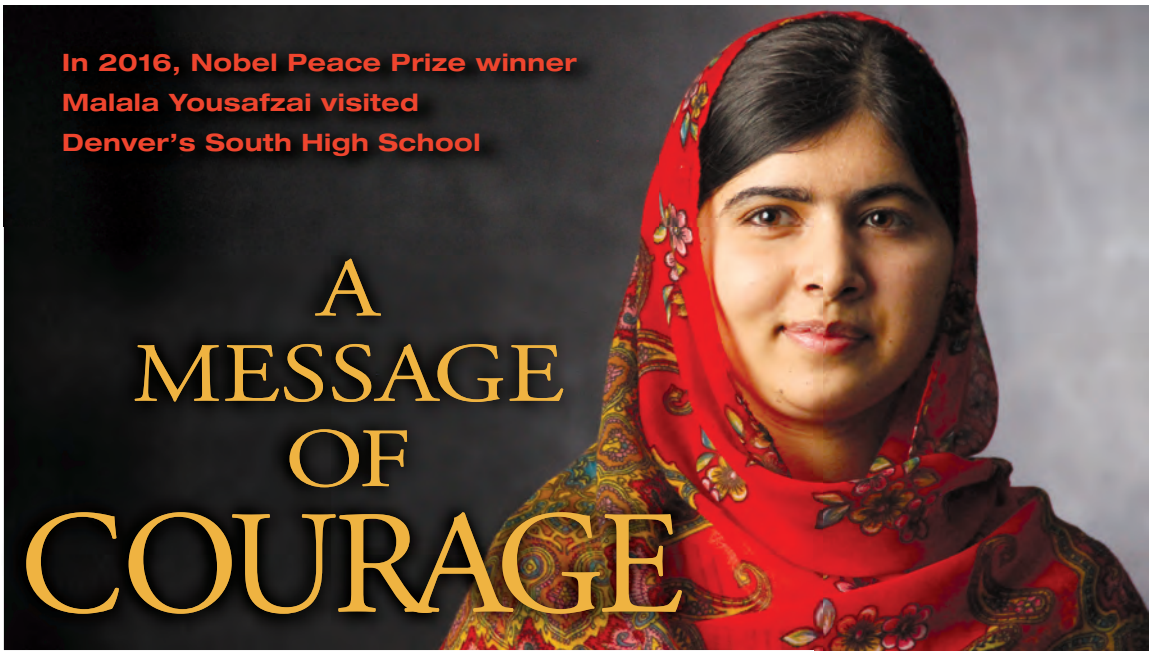
Some of its ongoing events include:

The Charity group visited Buzovni, an old people's house and is a project developed by women to help reinvent the outdoor space suitable for relaxing and enjoying life. It is a development that allowed some of the residents to help build it as well. The Charity team then went to a children's house in Ganjilik, as an IWC project, they bought milk and Pampers to be given to them. They also sent 4 wheelchairs to Lenkeran special boarding school for Khurban Bayram.





Foster WCI's Education Initiative to support women through your local member club. Visit the blog on WCI's website for more information: www.wciclubs.org/memberclubs/blog-2



Excerpts from The Denver Post published October 2016, reported by Noelle Phillips.

When Malala Yousafzai, a 19-year-old Nobel laureate, makes a surprise visit to your school, it's hard to speak. It's hard to hold back tears. It can even be hard to stay on your feet.

ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE A REFUGEE whose parents fled war or famine or political oppression so you can have an education and an opportunity.

"It was amazing. I almost fainted," said Viola Konneh, a Denver South High School junior, who shared the stage with Yousafzai, if only to get a hug and an autograph. "She's showing us that girls can do anything they want. You have the power to own your life."

Yousafzai visited after hearing about South High School during a visit to Denver in 2015, and promised to come back. The School's assembly was the last stop on her most recent world tour to advocate for girls' education around the globe.

South High School is a "newcomer center" with programs designed for refugees who have had limited or interrupted education in their home countries. Students there represent more than 60 countries.

In assembly that day, three students shared their stories about immigrating to the United States before Yousafzai appeared on stage to tell her story and offer encouragement.

SHAMBE ZERU, 18, TOLD OF WALKING 28 HOURS to flee Eritrea in east Africa on the Red Sea and its poverty and military conscription for boys. He reached a refugee camp in Ethiopia. There, he lived in a small clay hut with eight other children before he and his brother were brought to Denver by a local charity. Zeru has not seen his family in seven years. But, in America he has found the opportunities he wanted. "You guys have a lot of options," Zeru said. "I didn't have options".

TULU CHEV, A 19-YEAR-OLD SENIOR, DESCRIBED BEING HIT in a Cambodian school for not answering a question correctly. She was doubled-over with emotion as she explained that her father left his family for two years to go into hiding because he disagreed with the country's political leaders. The family escaped to Thailand where Chev worked in a restaurant with her parents when she was

submitted by Julia Banks
WCI Administrative Consultant,
Welcome to Colorado International Club

6 years old. They finally made it to the United States where Chev struggled in school because she was so far behind in her education. She promised herself she would be an honor student one day. Chev is now an AP honors student.

Jeneba Berety shared how she has been her mother's interpreter since they arrived in the United States when she was in kindergarten. Berety's family fled Sierra Leone during a civil war, and her mother gave birth to her in a forest. Jeneba said "It would be selfish for me to come here and waste my life because my mom went through hell and back to bring me here; it's my chance to show her I'm going to support her and I'm going to fix it."

As the three told their stories, classmates cheered and shouted encouragement when their words were lost in crying. Yousafzai's visit had been kept a secret. As she walked onto the stage when the three students finished speaking, South's student body erupted into cheers and screams. "It gave me a lot of energy. It was great to hear some amazing and inspirational speeches," Yosafzai said to the three. "The stories you shared were really inspiring." Yousafzai told the story of how she became an advocate for female education after the Taliban took control of her region in the Swat Valley of Pakistan. Yousafzai, whose father was a teacher, became a vocal critic of a crackdown that kept girls away from schools. In October, 2012, a Taliban gunman shot her in the head as she rode a bus home from school. She was taken to a hospital in Birmingham, England where she fully recovered and became more determined to push for girls to have a chance to go to school. "It was at that point I had seen the worst things I can see in my life and the terrorists had done all they could do to stop me, and they were not successful," she said. "I should continue my campaign for education." In 2014, Yousafzai became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

> "When people start criticizing you, you should know you're having an impact because your voice is reaching them."
>
> MALALA YOUSAFZAI

After the assembly, Yousafzai and her Father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, met with 15 boys and girls to answer questions. The students asked how she was able to talk to presidents and prime ministers around the world. Malala urged the students to have courage and to not be afraid amid criticism stating "when people start criticizing you, you should know you're having an impact because your voice is reaching them." She said "Take it as a positive. Be open to criticism. If it is something good, then try to think about it. But if it is something about you and they will not accept you for no reason, it is not good to waste your time on those comments. Keep focused on your work and what you want to do."

photo courtesy Joyce Wilson



(left to right) Sara Geeretsadik, Rahel Geeretsadik, South High School principal Jen Hanson, Rocaya Abdulameer, Zahra Abdulameer

Two of the students, Zahra and Sara, who met with Yousafzai, are following in her footsteps. They recently attended a Denver City Council meeting concerning harassment of South High students on public buses, which lead to a Social Justice Proclamation.



Awareness painting by Nijolë Rasmussen

TRAVEL TIPS

For your stay in Washington, DC at the 15th Biennial WCI International Conference May 25-30, 2018

The Welcome to Washington International Club looks forward to hosting you in Washington, DC (District of Columbia), the capitol of the United States of America.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

Before you set out on your journey, make sure that your passport is up-to-date and that you have the correct entry visa for the U.S. If you are not sure or have any questions, please contact the U.S. Consulate in your country.

DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

When you arrive, you will have your passport checked and then you will proceed through customs. You will have provided your airport arrival time in advance to the Welcome to Washington Club. If possible, you will be met by a club member and driven to the hotel.

If you need to take transportation, there is a taxi service available any time of day or night called Washington Flyer Taxi. They are curbside on the Ground Transportation Level of the Terminal Building. The cost is approximately $65 to the Embassy Suites Hotel. Payment can be made by credit card.

CURRENCY

U.S. Dollars: All places take major credit cards but some cash is also necessary for incidentals. It is advisable to buy your U.S. dollars in your country. Washington Dulles International Airport has International Currency Exchange booths; however, they are not always open so relying on them is inadvisable.

The Embassy Suites Hotel and the banks in Friendship Heights cannot exchange currency.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The local area is called Friendship Heights.

Embassy Suites Hotel
At The Chevy Chase Pavilion
4300 Military Road NW
Washington, DC 20015

Reservation Desk Telephone:

..to harmony

Nijolë Rasmussen Expresses Beauty and A Rich Emotional Life Through Her Art

Nijolë Rasmussen was born and raised in Lithuania. Since 1992 she has lived in Denver, Colorado, and became a member of Welcome to Colorado in 1993. She has exhibited her paintings in Denver, Colorado, and Chicago, Illinois, USA.

"PAINTING ALLOWS ME to access the deepest, remotest and most private corners of my imagination, where I can be free to welcome many opportunities for happy accidents to appear. My desire is to communicate to the viewer my thoughts and emotions through the language of shapes and colors.

"ART IS A HARMONY of nature, soul and spirit. It gives me power to express myself without much involvement of the rational mind. This harmony that my eyes welcome and my soul responds to is the result of my art. When I paint, it seems that my soul takes better shape, that longing for life and beauty empowers my creative process which was already there a long time ago... nature influences my art. Where nature ends, my abstract forms begin its journey. Perhaps the path traveled matters less, but the will to emerge is sufficient. Giving preference to form, shape and color, I am led to unknown places, places where beautiful world exits, the world I am willing to share with the like-minded.

"WHEN BEAUTY IS UNDERSTOOD, it has this power to illuminate the senses, still the mind and enchant the heart. My vision to interpret the reality in abstract form is my way of saying yes to spirituality, to beauty and to life."

submitted by Debi Tepper, Welcome To Colorado International Club



Artist Nijolë Rasmussen

WEATHER

The weather is difficult to predict. We suggest you bring lightweight clothing for touring, a jacket for the evenings, and a good pair of walking shoes. For lunches in the Embassies, both men and women will need business attire; jeans and tennis shoes are not acceptable. For evenings in an Embassy and the Gala Dinner, ladies will need cocktail dresses or the equivalent. Gentlemen must wear a tie and suit jackets to all Embassy events.

ELECTRICITY

Electric power is 120; you may need a transformer and plug.

SHOPPING

Friendship Heights: The hotel is situated in an attractive shopping area. Shops range from top end—Jimmy Choo, Eileen Fisher, Gucci, Dior, Cartier, Ralph Lauren, Saks, Bloomingdales, Neiman Marcus—to bargain stores like TJ Maxx. All are in close proximity to the hotel.

RESTAURANTS

There are many eateries close by. One of the more well-known restaurants is Range, found in the Chevy Chase Pavilion (the same building that the hotel is in). There are good Indian restaurants, American restaurants such as Clyde's, and Italian restaurants such as Mia's on Willard Avenue. One stop on the subway will take you to Bethesda, which is a gold mine of ethnic eating.

TIPPING

It is customary to tip approximately 20% for all services.

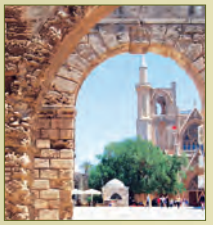
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Conference attendees will have transportation available by bus or private car. Public transportation is also easily accessible; maps of the Metro Rail System will be provided upon your arrival. The Friendship Heights Metro Station is literally below the Chevy Chase Pavilion. It is a 20-minute ride to downtown Washington. Taxis are also readily available.

Welcome to Washington International Club wishes everyone bon voyage!

Report: Board of Directors Meeting





Cyprus, May 15–20, 2017

MONDAY, May 15

The week started with WCI members and attendees arriving at Kyrenia. In the early afternoon, WCI members and guests attended the Conference on "The Leadership of Women: Cross-Cultural Competences in the 21st Century," delivered by WCI President, Maria Fernanda Arduino, at the campus of Girne American University.

In the evening, there was the welcome cocktail reception at Colony Hotel followed by a delicious dinner.

TUESDAY, May 16

The WCI Board of Directors Meeting started at Colony Hotel at 9 AM. The Minutes from the Board of Directors meeting in Prague, May 2016, and the Financial Report were approved. WCI President offered a presentation on WCI in which the international consortium was defined and explained especially to the new WCI Clubs.

In the afternoon, WCI members and guests listened to Guest Speaker Mrs. Narin Ferdi Şefik – TRNC Chief Justice, President of the High Administrative Court, Member of the Supreme Council of Judiciary and the Senior Electoral Council – on "The Legal and Social Position of Turkish Cypriot Women Past and Present." It was very interesting to learn about the situation of women in Turkish Cyprus and to deepen the understanding of the current reality through the knowledge of the history of Cyprus.

Evenings were a wonderful opportunity to get to know various WCI members while enjoying the very delicious Cypriot food.

WEDNESDAY, May 17

The second WCI Board of Directors Meeting was held. Club Presidents and sometimes Club Liaisons or Club Board Members presented their clubs. This is a unique way to learn about events other clubs organize and to share experiences. Both WCI Initiative and WCI Blog were presented to the Board of Directors, who, in turn, offered valuable advice to put them into practice.

In the afternoon, WCI members and guests listened to Guest Speaker, Mr. Ergun Olgun – Former Undersecretary to the TRNC Presidency and Turkish Cypriot Negotiator – on "Cyprus: The Way Forward." The audience asked him many questions arisen from the deep interest in his conference.



"The Leadership of Women: Cross-Cultural Competences in the 21st Century" Conference was delivered by WCI President, Maria Fernanda Arduino, EdD





In the evening, WCI members and guests had dinner at Kybele Restaurant in Bella-Pais Village, and then there was a simply unique concert at Bella-Pais Abbey. The views were magnificent as was the sunset.

THURSDAY, May 18

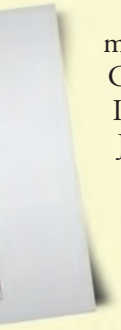
Thursday started with a visit to Ramadan Cemil Private Museum where beautiful examples of Cypriot art were shown and delicious Turkish coffee was served. All through the week, the hospitality of Welcome to Turkish Cyprus Club — Işin Ramadan Cemil, President, Inci Mousaniff, Liaison, and all the members — made each event a token of friendship and warmth. Hifziye Zincir, WCI Director of Conferences, together with Işin Ramadan Cemil, supervised every detail and ensured every success.



Attendees enjoyed sightseeing in the Old Town and in Nicosia; they also appreciated SOS Village and the work done to provide children with a home and the possibility to attend school. In the evening, executives of the Cyprus Turkish Orthopaedic Disabled Association came to Colony Hotel to have dinner with attendees.

FRIDAY, May 19

The day of the Farewell Dinner arrived. In the morning, Girne Harbour, Girne Museum and Girne Castle were visited and enjoyed. The ladies from International Women Club Baku hosted a lunch at Jasmine Hotel. They showed a video on Baku, and they danced and sang to music from Azerbaijan. It was a lovely reception.



In the evening, attendees were pampered to an exquisite Farewell Dinner with entertainment, a local folklore dancing group, and live music which invited all present to dance in a spirit of friendship and joy. As a surprise, Işin Ramadan Cemil, President of Welcome to Turkish Cyprus Club, gave a WCI flag to WCI President Maria Fernanda Arduino.

SATURDAY, May 20

A group of attendees went to a three-day trip to Famagusta to enjoy the beach and some wonderful relaxing time with friends.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to all those who worked so hard to make the Board of Directors meeting such a huge success.

Maria Fernanda Arduino

CARNIVAL!

The People's Festival

The Origin of the World-Renowned Brazilian Carnival

Like many, I have always been curious about the Brazilian festivities. Carnival is passionately celebrated nationwide, and for this reason I decided to research its origin. The word carnival comes from the Latin *carne vale,* or "farewell to the flesh." The Portuguese brought the practice of Carnival to Brazil around 1850, patterning it mainly on the Parisian tradition of holding masquerade parties and balls at this time of the year. However, the Brazilians transformed this celebration into a version uniquely their own, and over time, added elements from its people's African and indigenous cultural backgrounds.

Carnival is celebrated all over the country; and celebrations differ slightly according to the region, but Rio de Janeiro's celebration is the most popular, drawing crowds of 500,000 foreigners annually from across the globe. The elaborate parades staged by major samba schools are some of the highlights of Rio's Carnival. The samba schools work year-round to prepare for their Carnival parade entry, and the immense Sambodromo (samba stadium) facility was built specifically to showcase this unique form of expression.

This celebration takes place 46 days before Easter and, although celebrated mostly by Roman Catholics (as well as other Christian denominations), it is believed to have pagan roots, as do many of the modern Christian celebrations. This celebration technically and traditionally signifies the giving up of meat for Lent. Today, Carnival is characterized by brightly colored costumes, opulent decorations and infectious, rhythmic music. Dance and music parades fill the streets as the audience looks on and joins in the festivities. These celebrations carry on, day and night, for days on end (sometimes exceeding a week).

I take this opportunity to invite WCI members to know more about Brazil and its famous Carnival celebration.

submitted by Zulmira Contino Sommer, WCI Liaison for IWC Porto Alegre and WCI Regional Chair for Mexico, Central and South America



WCI MEMBER CLUBS

AZERBAIJAN
International Women's Club Baku

BRAZIL
International Women's Club of Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul

GERMANY
International Women's Club of Hamburg e.V.

Anglo-German International Women's Association e.V.

INDONESIA
Women's International Club Jakarta

LEBANON
Women's League of Beirut

SOUTH KOREA
Welcome to Korea International Club

TAIWAN (Republic of China)
Welcome to Taipei International Club

TURKEY
International Women's Club Ankara

Welcome to Turkish Cyprus Club

UNITED KINGDOM
Welcome to London International Club

Federation of International Women's Associations in London (Associate Member)

UNITED STATES

California
Welcome to California International Club (San Diego)

Women's International Border Club (Chula Vista)

Colorado
Welcome to Colorado International Club

District of Columbia
Welcome to Washington International Club

Florida
Broward International Women's Club (Fort Lauderdale)

Welcome to Florida International Club (Naples, Marco Island, Bonita Springs)

Maine
International Women's Club of New England

Massachusetts
Berkshire International Club

Pennsylvania
International Women's Club of Philadelphia

Join WCI Friend and Supporter Buz Carpenter as he leads us on a Tour through THE SMITHSONIAN Stevens F. Udvar–Hazy Centre, Saturday morning, May 26.

Aviation Hall of Famer





WCI Treasurer Nancy Carpenter with her husband Buz

Buz Carpenter, WCI friend and supporter—and husband of Nancy Carpenter, WCI Treasurer—was inducted into the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame in November 2017. WCI joins in congratulating Buz on his stellar contribution to the field of aviation and to the state of Virginia. He will lead WCI members and guests on a tour through the Steven F. Udvar–Hazy Center during the 15th Biennial WCI International Conference in Washington, DC, in May of 2018.

The Udvar–Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia, is located on the National Mall in Washington. Opened in 2003, its two huge hangars display thousands of aviation and space artifacts, including a Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird, a Concorde, and the Space Shuttle Discovery. The Center also offers the Airbus IMAX® Theater and the Donald D. Engen Observation Tower, which gives a 360-degree bird's-eye view of Washington Dulles International Airport and the surrounding area. The Udvar–Hazy Center is also home to the Mary Baker Engen Restoration Hangar where preservation of the National Air and Space Museum's collections takes place. A glassed-in mezzanine provides a view of the restoration projects in progress.



BUZ CARPENTER
Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame Honoree

Smithsonian Air & Space Docent

Retired Pilot