SISTER CLUB NEWS

Friendship through Understanding... Understanding through Education and Friendship



VIVIENNE SHEN
WCI President

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

It is my great privilege and honor to serve as the WCI President from July 2023 to June 2025. Since assuming this role, I have convened five WCI Board Meetings—three online and two in person. The first in person one was held in Taipei, Taiwan during the 2024 WCI Conference, and the other in Naples, USA. I truly enjoyed communicating with our board members and hearing the reports from our 18 sister clubs, including two newly joined clubs this biennium: the Chinese Ladies' Association of Guam and Welcome to London International Club (reinstated), and one Associate Member organization. Each club has its unique approach to fostering friendship and mutual understanding among members with WCI's spirit of diversity and inclusion.

Our most recent Board Meeting took place in Naples, Florida. I extend my sincere thanks to WFLIC President Luba and her team for organizing and accomplishing such a demanding task. Every attendee felt warmly welcomed and found the meeting to be fruitful and enriching.

The 2024 WCI Conference was successfully held in Taipei—six years after our last conference hosted by the Welcome to Washington International Club in 2018. My heartfelt appreciation goes to all the volunteers from the Welcome to Taipei International Club for their tireless efforts in making this event a great success, despite challenges such as a severe earthquake that occurred just days before the conference.

Following WCI's recognition with Special Consultative Status by UN ECOSOC in 2020 the WCI UN Council was established. Under the leadership of Maria Fernanda Arduino and later Sunny Shin, the Council has impressively hosted three WCI CSW67, 68 and 69 virtual Parallel Events, drawing approximately 150 participants online respectively. I am immensely proud of our achievements on contributing to global discussions about empowering women through service and advocacy.

Last but not least, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Women's International Club of Jakarta for their willingness to host the 2026 WCI Conference from April 26 to May 1. All members of sister clubs are welcome with their families and friends. Please begin planning your trip to Jakarta to take part in what promises to be a vibrant and multicultural celebration for education, friendship and understanding. I am looking forward to meeting you in Jakarta!

Best Wishes,
Vivienne Shen
WCI President

WCI NEWS

WCI sincerely thanks and congratulates Welcome to Florida International Club (WFLIC) President Luba Rotzstain, her team members Lucy Williams and SooKhim Eriksen, and the many WFLIC volunteers for organizing and hosting a fantastic Annual Board of Directors' (BOD) Meeting held on March 24-27 in Naples, Florida. WCI also thanks WFLIC's Board and club members for their very warm welcome.

At the joint WCI/WFLIC luncheon, Certificates of Appreciation were presented to outgoing WCI President Vivienne Shen for her exemplary service, to Dr. Jungsook Kim, President of Welcome to Korea and Past President of the International Council of Women for her continued support and guidance, and to Luba and her team for successfully hosting the Board Meeting in March.

Broward IWC extends an invitation to Sister Club members to join them in celebrating their Club's 50th anniversary on November 7. See page 15. WCI congratulates Broward IWC on this important milestone!

Women's International Club (WIC) Jakarta
is excited to welcome members from all Sister Clubs, their family and friends to Jakarta and Yogyakarta, Indonesia for the
Welcome Clubs International's 17th International Conference
in April 2026.
The Program of Activities, Registration Form, Cost, and information on the Post-Conference Trip will be available in August.

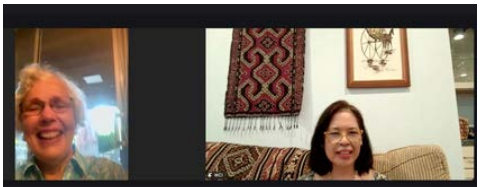
See the conference flyer on pages 47-49 for a preview of the fabulous program.

We look forward to seeing you in "Wonderful Indonesia!"



WCI also congratulates IWC Hamburg and IWC Philadelphia who are celebrating their club's 35th anniversary this year!

At a virtual Executive Committee meeting and Swearing-In ceremony on June 10, Incoming President Lea Hesse 2025-2027 took her oath of office. She was sworn in by Founder's Representative Caroline Adair Dimmers.



Caroline Dimmers *Lea Hesse*

WCI proudly congratulates outgoing WCI President Vivienne Shen who was elected International Director in the Zonta International Board. Zonta International, an NGO with General Consultative with the UN, is a global organization of 26,000+ individuals in 64 countries working together to build a better world for women and girls.

EDITOR'S ZONE



LEA HESSE
Editor | Designer

Dear Ladies,

Welcome to the 2025 edition of the Sister Club News! WCI had another exciting year highlighted by the Board of Directors' Meeting held in Naples, Florida.

We bid a fond farewell to President Vivienne Shen and her excellent Executive Committee and wish them boundless success and achievements in all their endeavors.

Many thanks to the Sister Clubs for your submissions! We wish you a fun and healthy summer (or winter) wherever you may be!

In WCI friendship,
Lea

DISCLAIMER: WCI publishes Sister Club News with content provided by WCI member clubs. Each club is responsible for the information and photos provided to WCI. WCI reserves the right to edit information or refuse to publish any material deemed to be inappropriate or inconsistent with WCI standards and objectives.

Sister Club News is distributed to WCI Affiliate and Associate members and appears on WCI's website and is used by WCI to promote membership in WCI.

In Loving Memory

WCI extends its heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of three most valued and devoted members. In President Vivienne Shen's words "Their contributions to WCI were immeasurable. Their passion and commitment left a lasting impact on all who had the privilege to work with them. Their spirit and dedication will remain in our hearts forever."



Julia Banks

Julia Banks, a longtime and valued member of Welcome to Colorado International Club passed away on April 4. She served as President of WTC then as WTC's Liaison to WCI for many years.

Julia was elected President of WCI from 2010-2012. She also served in WCI's Executive Committee for many years as Legal Adviser and Marketing Consultant.



Servet Erkmen

Servet Erkmen, President of Welcome to Turkish Cyprus Club, passed away on May 20. She served the club for four years as its President.

She played an active role during WCI's Board of Directors Meeting in Cyprus in the year 2017.

She will be greatly missed, but her hard work and dedication to WCI and Welcome to Turkish Cyprus Club, will always be remembered by its members.



Faye Fang

Faye Fang, an esteemed and longtime member of Welcome to Taipei International Club passed away peacefully on April 18.

Madam Fang served as President of WTIC from 1991-1993 and served on the Board for many years.

She also served in WCI's Executive Committee as Regional Membership Chair for Asia from 2000-2003.

2025
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING REPORT

by
VIVIENNE SHEN
WCI President



Welcome Clubs International's (WCI) Annual Board of Directors Meeting was held on March 24-26, 2025 in Naples, Florida. The event was hosted by the Welcome to Florida International Club (WFLIC).

DAY 1: MARCH 24 - ART STUDIO VISIT; CHECK-IN & WELCOME RECEPTION

Prior to the welcome reception, a special visit was arranged at the Naples Art Institute to view Tomaso Albertini's exhibit. The artist shared his life story and the inspiration behind his unique artwork, engaging in a meaningful dialogue with WCI Board members who attended the visit.


Tomaso Albertini.

That evening, approximately 80 members and guests, including WFLIC members, attended the welcome reception. WFLIC President Luba Rotzstain warmly welcomed everyone and presented tokens of appreciation to each WCI Board Member, who were introduced individually by President Vivienne Shen. Guests enjoyed reconnecting with old friends and making new ones, while beautifully arranged food added to the delightful atmosphere.


L-R: WCI President Vivienne Shen & WFLIC President Luba Rotsztain welcoming the attendees


Each WCI EC & BOD member was gifted a necklace created by WFLIC member & artist (at left)


Reception area



DAY 2: MARCH 25 - WCI BOARD MEETING; SUNSET DINNER CRUISE

The WCI Board Meeting began at 10:00 AM with 28 participants. Executive Committee members presented their annual reports, including the WCI annual financial statement. WCI UN Council members—Maria Fernanda Arduino, Eshrat Demougeot, and Dr. Jung Sook Kim—shared updates on WCI's involvement with CSW69. President Vivienne Shen then announced the result of the WCI presidential election: Lea Hesse was elected as WCI President for the 2025–2027 Biennium.





















In the afternoon, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM, representatives from 16 WCI sister clubs presented their club reports. The reinstatement of the Welcome to London International Club was officially announced, making it the 18th WCI affiliate club. Charter President Nesrin Comert gave a brief introduction of the club. To close the session, Seemun Leong, representing the International Women's Club of Jakarta—the host of the 2026 WCI Conference—invited all members to Jakarta and introduced the preliminary conference agenda, including a post-conference trip to Bali.

Member Club Representatives











That evening, attendees enjoyed a cruise dinner on the Gulf of Mexico. The stunning views, delicious cuisine, and warm camaraderie made for an unforgettable evening.






















DAY 3: MARCH 26 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING; JOINT WCI/WFLIC LUNCHEON

An Executive Committee (EC) meeting was held from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM. In addition to regular reports, Nesrin Comert was invited to provide further details about the Welcome to London International Club.



WCI Executive Committee

A combined WCI & WFLIC luncheon followed, with over 110 participants. WFLIC President Luba delivered a welcome address, followed by President Vivienne Shen's expression of gratitude to WFLIC for their contributions to the Meeting. She presented certificates of appreciation and gifts to Luba, Lucy, and SooKhim for their tireless efforts to make this Meeting possible and successful.



L-R: WFLIC President Luba Rotsztain & WCI President Vivienne Shen



President Shen presented Dr. Jungsook Kim, past President of the International Council of Women, with a Certificate of Appreciation for her continued support of WCI



WCI Founder's Representative Eshrat Demougeot presented outgoing President Shen with a Certificate of Appreciation and a farewell gift from WCI

President Vivienne formally re-announced the election of Lea Hesse as the incoming WCI President and invited her to the podium for remarks. The WCI flag was ceremoniously handed over from Vivienne to Lea, symbolizing the leadership transition, even though the current biennium will conclude in June. The luncheon atmosphere was filled with joy and celebration, truly reflecting the WCI mission—bridging international friendships and empowering women globally.



During the luncheon, See Mun Leong from Women's International Club - Jakarta gave a thorough & entertaining update about the 17th WCI Biennial Conference in April 2026. WICJ is graciously hosting this conference.

See you in Jakarta, Yogyakarta, and Bali next year!



Lea Hesse

Vivienne Shen



WCI Board of Directors
& Executive Committee
at the luncheon

A trolley took the members of the WCI board on a scenic tour of the beautiful city after the luncheon. It was a very relaxing and enjoyable afternoon , concluding with a visit to a contemporary art museum. Upon returning to the hotel, we shared warm hugs and heartfelt farewells. We look forward to reuniting in Jakarta, in April 2026.



Waiting for the trolley











Photos by: See Mun Leong, Judy Ho, Lea Hesse Huge thanks to See Mun Leong and Judy Ho for sharing!

WCI UN COUNCIL

by
Maria Fernanda Arduino
WCI UN Council Advisor

In 2025, the WCI UN Council worked tirelessly under the leadership of Director Sunny Shin to have two excellent events.

The first one was a Parallel event on March 13th, a live Collaborated event in New York Church Centre together with ICW (International Council of Women) and KIWP (Korean Institute of Women and Politics). The topic was, Empowerment of Women in Politics and Economy Beyond the Beijing Declaration.









WCI was represented by Justina Mutale, Founder and President of Justina Mutale Foundation in the United Kingdom; Chairperson of National Women's Organisations in the United Kingdom and Founder and Convenor of World Summit of Women and Girls.

Linda Liu, former Vice- President of ICW, moderated the Parallel event. Eshrat Demougeot, WCI Founder's Representative, briefly presented WCI.

We give special thanks to Dr. Jung Sook Kim for her leadership and commitment in organizing this event. Dr. Kim is the Immediate Past President of the ICW; President of The Korean Institute for Women and Politics, and Former Member of The National Assembly, R.O.K.

The second event was an online Parallel event that took place on March 17th. The topic was, “The Impact of Transformative Leadership and Meaningful Practices on Women and Girls.”

There were three outstanding speakers: Li-Rong Lilly Cheng, from San Diego University; Shukria Barakzai, Women’s Rights Advocate from Afghanistan; and Suzan Abello Okae, from Love Binti International in Uganda. Raya Armaly, WCI UN Council Secretary, moderated the Parallel Event.

There were 102 attendees. We all coincided it was a professional and cohesive virtual Parallel event. This is the third virtual Parallel event that the WCI UN Council has worked on to present.





The speakers and the hard-working behind the scenes team

We are looking into a future in which we hope to partner with international organizations with similar goals and values. At the same time, we would like our Sister Clubs to continue sharing their own unique stories to the world-how they transform their communities through education, friendship and understanding.

NOTE TO SISTER CLUBS

It is important to remember that WCI cannot use the United Nations logo. If WCI or any of the Sister Clubs wishes to display consultative status on its letterhead, only the following statement can be included:

Welcome Clubs International, Incorporated, in special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 2020

In Friendship,

Maria Fernanda Arduino, EdD
WCI Consulting Director
WCI UN Council Advisor


SISTER
CLUB
NEWS
2024 - 2025
PROGRAM YEAR

ANGLO-GERMAN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1966
Hamburg, Germany
www.agiwa-hamburg.de

The Anglo-German International Women's Association e. V. was founded in 1966 and currently has 125 members - 74 international ladies from 33 different countries, and 51 German members. The club was founded on the initiative of a British woman in Hamburg who recognised the need for bringing women of different nationalities together through joint activities such as social and charitable work, cultural visits, lectures, etc. Originally an Anglo-German venture, membership was extended to women of every nationality in 1972.

Today, our club aims to provide a social network for women of many nations living in Hamburg, while its core of German members lends stability to an otherwise changing membership. We are primarily a social club and aim to promote friendship and understanding between women of many nationalities. Our regular activities include discussion groups, language conversation groups, visits to exhibitions, outdoor activities, choir, outings, lunches and afternoon teas and evening concerts which support young musicians in Hamburg. Most of our activities take place during the day and our core membership is ladies over the age of 60.

We regularly support a variety of local Hamburg charities which aid the sick, poor and handicapped, with special emphasis on women and children. Wherever possible we arrange visits from time to time to these charities to enable our members to gain a better understanding of the work the charities do.

We have a bi-monthly Circular, sent out by email, informing members of upcoming events and activities. We also have a section for reports, articles, poems, etc, sent in by members, to share with the wider membership.

We are now back to offering a full range of events again after the pandemic and we are happy to report that participation is generally good. Members are free to attend any event/activity advertised in our Circular which interests them.

We have several special social events during the year - our Italian buffet lunch at a Hamburg Rowing Club on the Alster lake, which takes place after our AGM in May, an end of summer barbecue, which last year could be held outside under blue skies, and our festive Christmas Luncheon at the Anglo-German Club in Hamburg.





*Photos from a recent visit by a group of AGIWA ladies to the **Museum of Illusions** in Hamburg!*

Attracting new international members remains a challenge but we are happy to report that we have in the last year welcomed new members from the UK, Poland, South Africa and Italy.

by **Simone Krohn-Fröschle**
AGIWA Chairwoman

BROWARD INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

Founded in 1975
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
www.browardinternationalwomensclub.org

As usual, we have enjoyed a very busy year, commencing last September with our Membership Meeting, chaired by Janet Brady, VP Membership, where we introduced our new scholarship recipients, representing countries including Brazil, Bahamas, Nigeria, Canada, and Russia. It's always exciting to meet our newest students. The event was a Potluck dinner where every member attending brought a dish from their own country, which made for an interesting and delicious buffet!

Nina Britton, our Social Secretary, chaired an outstanding Oktoberfest in a German restaurant, and we enjoyed our Wiener Schnitzel, potato pancakes, and red cabbage, finishing up with a delicious Apple Strudel!!!

Our biggest fundraiser, chaired by our VP of Ways & Means, Dinora McLellan and Co-Chair, Lillian Campbell, was held in November with the incoming President of Nova Southeastern University in attendance and accepting our check for $30,000.00 to award scholarships to six deserving students. We wined and dined and danced the night away. The event was held at the well-known Riverside Hotel in Fort Lauderdale, attracting a large crowd of attendees.



Dr. Harry K. & Mrs. Moon, Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Weiner



Guests Enjoying the Cocktail Hour

Janet Brady chaired the Holiday event in December, which was very well attended. We had vendors, a beautiful raffle table, and a fashion show. Guests attending brought a toy to be donated to the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital.

We combined our Membership Meeting and Valentine's Lunch in early February. Nina Britton, as usual, outdid herself with more chocolate goodies on the table than anyone could eat. The event was in an excellent Italian Restaurant, and no one went home hungry.





In March, we celebrated International Women's Day, where we honored three of our members who have given outstanding service for years to our Club. Our speaker was Nancy Chen Baldwin, who many of you know from Taiwan, who came especially for our Club and gave an amazing speech about her childhood.

L-R: Laurie Morse, Rita Latty, Julia Sotomarino, and Betty Amundson, Club President

Betty Amundson, Winnifred McPherson, Pamela Julien, and Janet Brady represented our Club at the WCI Directors Meeting in Naples, Florida. We had a marvelous time and were graciously hosted by the Welcome to Florida International Women's Club. It was wonderful to meet up again with many ladies from other countries, and we hope to visit Jakarta next year.

In April, Nina Britton arranged a lovely lunch in an Italian restaurant in Weston, which was well-attended and even included two men!!!! They ate well and enjoyed themselves!!! We welcomed three new members, one of whom has joined our Board of Directors as our new Recording Secretary.

Our Installation Lunch was held at Jacaranda Golf Club, with our new Board being sworn in by Judge Jacqueline Powell. Our new Board is as follows: Betty Amundson, President U.S; Dinora Mclellan 1st V.P. Ways & Means, Colombia; Janet Brady, Membership, UK; Diana Restrepo, Recording Secretary, Colombia; Corresponding Secretary, Samina Chohaan, Pakistan; Gloria Anthony, Treasurer; Jamaica; Karla Ziegelbaum, Publicity Committee, Mexico; Social Committee, Nina Britton, U.S; Monique Pepper, Telephone Committee, Canada; Dr. Winnifred McPherson, Advisor, Trinidad & Tobago and Rora Marvasso, Wellness, Colombia.



Our Social Secretary, Nina Britton, has scheduled a visit to the NSU Art Museum in June, where we will have lunch and then a docent-led tour of 3 different exhibits.

Looking forward to the future, we are very excited to announce our 50th Anniversary celebration at Night of All Nations on Friday, November 7, 2025, at the Riverside Hotel in Fort Lauderdale. We cordially invite everyone to join us in celebration. It will be a beautiful evening with NSU representation, a Champagne reception, a delicious dinner, and dancing. Please do come, it will be wonderful to celebrate with you in attendance! You will love Fort Lauderdale and the surrounding areas, with plenty to see, many excellent restaurants, and diverse shopping options.

Best of all, we are nice and warm still!!!
With all best wishes,

by **Betty Amundson, BIWC President**
Janet Brady, WCI Liaison

CHINESE LADIES' ASSOCIATION of GUAM

Founded in 1995
Guam
Facebook page

The **Chinese Ladies Association of Guam (CLAG)** holds many fundraising events during the program year and donates to many deserving organizations.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
2024 MAY – 2025 APRIL

Our 29th Anniversary Fundraiser event was held on May 4, 2024. Proceeds from this event were donated to the Chinese School of Guam, the Taiwan Earthquake, and the Guam Memorial Hospital Volunteer Association.

A Certificate was presented by Guam Legislators to CLAG in appreciation of its contributions to the local community.





To celebrate Mother's Day, CLAG provided lunch and meals at the Tumon Home for the Elderly on May 12, 2024.





Preparation and donation of meals to celebrate Mother's Day

Helping Chuuk Island

On September 23, 2024, clothing and household items were transported to families in need.

A donation of **$1,000** for children's school bags and stationery was also provided.







CLAG also collects donations from other women's organizations and Chinese church for distribution.





CLAG President Judy Ho

In observance of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month, CLAG donated to Save the Susu Guam - an association dedicated to raising awareness and support for breast cancer prevention, detection and treatment on October 13, 2024.



The Guam Domestic Violence Fundraising "Purple" Gala was held on October 12, 2024. Special thanks to Director Liu of Taipei Economy and Cultural Office for fundraising support.



OTHER ACTIVITIES



Lunar New Year General Meeting February 8, 2025



Thanksgiving General Member Meeting



2025 May - 2027 April Board of Directors



Chinese Noodle Teaching Class at the Chinese School of Guam

by **Judy Ho, CLAG President**
Jenny Yue, WCI Liaison

FEDERATION of INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS in LONDON

Founded in 1986
London, UK
www.fiwal.org.uk

Established in 1986, FIWAL is an umbrella organisation for international women's associations based in and around London. With 29 member clubs, many nationalities and an aggregate membership of over 2,500 women, FIWAL's aim is to broaden friendship, understanding and communication amongst international women's associations in London.

FIWAL promotes the activities of its member associations so that individuals of these associations can attend events that will enable them to experience cultures other than their own. Besides the social value of these events, funds are often raised to assist with charitable causes relating to their homeland or their local communities here in the UK.

FIWAL organises its own events, joint events with other associations and embassies, lunches/socials, and a conference every other year. Through these events and opportunities, the mission of FIWAL has thrived!

Here is a snapshot of the amazing events FIWAL has held over the last year.

We held two very well attended Board meetings – in October we invited the President of the Federation of Image Professionals International who gave us tips on 'How to Look Good in Photographs', a very befitting talk in the current world of social media and in February we invited a Toastmaster to help us perfect our 'Elevator Pitch.'

We concluded the year with a very successful Fund raiser Turkish Extravaganza co-hosted by the Turkish Ambassador to the Court of St James and his first lady. The event raised £5000 for a charity to benefit women and girls in Türkiye.



Turkish Extravaganza December 2024

To celebrate International Women's Day, FIWAL hosted a Spring lunch on 8 April 2025 titled 'An Empowered Woman Talking about an Empowering Woman', the story of Wanda Ferragamo, the wife of Salvatore, the shoemaker of Hollywood, told by her granddaughter.



Spring Lunch

In keeping with the high standards, FIWAL strives to plan many more such high-powered events.

by **Ameeta Shabharwal**
FIWAL President

Photos from the FIWAL website

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB of HAMBURG

Founded in 1991
Hamburg, Germany
www.iwchamburg.com

Greetings from the International Women's Club Hamburg (IWCH)! We are delighted to share some insights into our club and the activities of the last year with you.

Friendship In Diversity: Inspired by our Club President's motto, *Friendship in Diversity*, this year we continue to focus on events and activities that promote cross-cultural understanding and mutual respect, reflecting the richness of the 53 nationalities represented in our club. From the dazzling lights of Diwali to the timeless traditions of the Moon Festival, our calendar this year was a vibrant celebration of global cultures. We savoured Nordic flavours during a Finnish cookery class and immersed ourselves in Caribbean rhythms with an afternoon dedicated to the rich heritage of Curaçao. Our journey continued through East Asia with a heartfelt presentation on Taiwan, shared through the personal family history of one of our members. In southern Italy, we uncovered the hidden treasures of Calabria, while a guided exploration of ancient Greece brought to life the festivals and customs of this storied civilization. We embraced the spirit of cultural dress, donning colourful sarongs from Java, traditional Dirndls for Oktoberfest, some truly terrifying outfits for Halloween and our finest attire for a festive and joyful Christmas Lunch. Each event reflected the diversity and unity that define our club - a true celebration of *Friendship in Diversity*.





A Heartfelt Appreciation Event: We hosted a special appreciation event to honour the dedicated members who have volunteered or been nominated to lead and coordinate the many groups that enrich our club community. From fostering lively discussions in the Book Club and Cinema Group, to creating meaningful connections through our Cultural Coffee Events and Language Conversation Groups, these volunteers play a vital role in bringing our diverse membership together. Their enthusiasm fuels our Sports Activities, Ladies' Afternoon and Evening Events, our Choir group and the International Cooking Club - each one a space where members can learn, share, and celebrate different cultures.

Empowering Women: A cause that resonates deeply with us all, this year we embraced the theme of women's empowerment with dedication and purpose. We proudly became members of the *Women's Council of the State of Hamburg* - the largest regional organization advocating for gender equality and championing women's rights across all spheres of life.


IWCH President Vena Velarde Iversen

We had the honour of being invited by the Consul General of India to a compelling talk and Q&A session focused on the experiences and evolving role of women in India; we explored the *Garden of Women* in Hamburg's Ohlsdorf Cemetery - the largest rural cemetery in the world and the fourth-largest overall - where we paid tribute to the legacy of trailblazing women; our journey continued with a thought-provoking tour of the *Women Sculptors of Surrealism* exhibition, highlighting the often-overlooked contributions of female artists to the Surrealist movement. And we deepened our understanding of local initiatives by engaging with *Amnesty for Women*, the organization we proudly selected as our charity partner for the year.





Our Own Digital Revolution: Launching a new website has been an exciting and a fulfilling step forward for the board. It has inspired us to continue growing our digital skills and has opened up fresh opportunities to connect with prospective members. We hope to use the site as a vibrant hub for sharing news, celebrating our activities, and keeping our members engaged and informed. We welcome you to have a look at https://www.iwchamburg.com

With the same enduring spirit of friendship guiding us, we look ahead with excitement to the highlight of our year - **our 35th Anniversary Gala in December 2025**.

by **Sonu Christiansen**
IWCH Newsletter Editor

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB of NEW ENGLAND

Founded in 1992
Maine
www.iwcne.net

The IWCNE was founded by Anna Kristina Sawtelle in 1982. It was chartered in 1997 (1998). Anna Kristina remains active in IWCNE to this day. Today the IWCNE has 101 members representing 33 countries. IWCNE's mission supports charities which assist women and children through fundraising activities.


Anna Kristina Sawtelle

Goals and Achievements: Since its founding 44 years ago, the IWCNE has raised and given over $342,600 for its chosen charities that support women and children. Our 2024 year funds were donated to three charities whose missions included: addressing domestic abuse through services, education and advocacy; providing free transportation for elderly residents; and empowering young writers to build confidence, strengthen literacy skills and promote creative expression. IWCNE wrapped up 2024 with a generous donation of $4,200 for each of the year's three charities.

The **Annual Fashion Show** is our largest fundraiser of the year. Attendees dine on a delicious luncheon while models from our membership stroll around the room in current fashions. The donated raffle prizes at this event are very popular and raise considerable funds for our charities.









Our **Annual Holiday Fair** is a huge success every year. Many vendors participate and offer a wide variety of handmade crafts, and clothing. Fair goers enjoy the raffle items, soups and baked goods.







Additional club activities include: Book club; Language clubs; Outings to cultural events; Luncheons with international speakers - providing many opportunities for expanded fellowship.

The new 2025 Board is a wonderful combination of former members and new very talented members.

Our new president is Anne Supenia, a long time member who has held numerous leadership roles within IWCNE.



The International Women's Club of New England is a vibrant, active community of women who enjoy learning from each other. IWCNE pursues numerous ways of making international connections and furthering cultural exchange.



"We need joy as we need air. We need love as we need water. We need each other as much as we need the earth we share."

Maya Angelou

by **Denise Gaffney**
WCI Liaison

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB of PHILADELPHIA

Founded in 1989
Philadelphia, PA
www.iwcp.wildapricot.org

Celebrating 35 Years of IWCP

Founded in 1989, IWCP marks its 35th anniversary this year. The club began when Patricia Macfadyen and Peg Robb met by chance in Society Hill in 1987. Inspired by international women's clubs in Copenhagen, Patricia envisioned a similar space in Philadelphia for women living abroad to connect. Before the Macfadyens left in 1989, IWCP was officially established, with the late Linda Gonella among its founding members. Over the years, IWCP has grown into a vibrant community, welcoming women from around the world and offering diverse events that foster cultural exchange and friendship.

Recurring Monthly Activities

French, Spanish, Italian, and German Coffee Get-Togethers:

Monthly gatherings where members connect, practice languages, and share cultural experiences

Member-Hosted Lunches:

Potluck-style lunches at members' homes or organized gatherings at local restaurants, fostering deeper connections

Happy Hour:

Our members gather twice monthly in the City and in the Suburbs offering great conversation and connection in both settings.

Special Events in 2024/25

- *September: Chinese Craft Activity at Rittenhouse Square*
  Members engaged in a hands-on crafting session celebrating Chinese artistic traditions.
- *October: Private Tour of "Philadelphia Revealed: Unpacking the Attic"*
  Dr. Rosalind Remer, Senior Vice Provost of University Collections and Exhibitions at Drexel University, presented the Philadelphia Revealed: Unpacking the Attic exhibit, a large, interactive display featuring over 600 authentic objects that tell the story of Philadelphia's history. This major exhibition, which inspires pride in our great city, reflects 350 years of Philadelphia's history.
- *November: Botanical Drawing Class at Stoneleigh, A Natural Garden*
  Members explored Stoneleigh's native plant collections and created botanical artwork. Botanical Drawing Class at Stoneleigh, A Natural Garden was Stoneleigh's extensive native plant collections, sweeping landscapes and serene beauty provide the perfect inspiration for botanical art creations.
- *December: Holiday Party & Charity Raffle at The Inn at Swarthmore*
  This festive gathering also featured a raffle to support Musicopia, Mother's Home, Chester Eastside, and the New Kensington Community Development—Nourish Program, the charitable efforts of IWCP.



Members with their own Chinese craft creations



Private Tour of Philadelphia Revealed

- *January: Private Tour at the Rosenbach Library*
  Members visited the Rosenbach Library for a private session with Director Kelsey Bates, exploring women's literature. The collection includes Poor Richard's Almanack and the manuscript of Ulysses.
- *February: Chinese New Year Luncheon*
  Happy Lunar New Year!
- *March: Caspar David Friedrich Exhibit Tour, The Met, NYC*
  Members traveled to New York for a guided tour of Caspar David Friedrich: The Soul of Nature at the Metropolitan Museum of Art—the first major U.S. exhibition dedicated to the renowned German Romantic painter. The show featured 75 works, including oils, drawings, and sketches, offering a powerful look at how Friedrich used landscapes to express spiritual and existential themes.
- *April: Beth Sholom Synagogue Private Tour*
  A well-attended and memorable visit to Beth Sholom Synagogue, a National Historic Landmark and the only synagogue ever designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. With its 110-foot-high ceilings and stunning natural light, the sanctuary provided a breathtaking backdrop for our private tour and discussion of Wright's architectural legacy.
- *May: Ecology of Fashion Exhibit, Academy of Natural Sciences*
  At the Academy of Natural Sciences, we explored the Ecology of Fashion exhibit, which delves into how nature, materials, and labor intersect in the fashion industry. From Jackie Kennedy's iconic styles to innovations in sustainable design, the exhibit offered a thoughtful look at fashion's past, present, and more ethical future.
- *June 9 – Warwick Furnace Lavender Farm Tour*
  We took a tour of this historic, family-run organic lavender farm in Chester County, home to the 18th-century Warwick Furnace. The farm sits on 500 acres of preserved land and grows lavender using only natural methods.
- *Lunch & Board Introduction at the Acorn Club*
  On June 17th, the International Women's Club of Philadelphia gathered at the historic Acorn Club—founded in 1889 as one of the oldest women's clubs in the United States—for a wonderful luncheon celebrating our members and welcoming the new Board of Directors. We were thrilled with the strong turnout and the warm, spirited atmosphere that marked the occasion.


At the Rosenbach Library


At The Met NYC


Beth Sholom Synagogue


Warwick Furnace Lavender Farm








At the Acorn Club

Engagement with the United Nations

UN ECOSOC Participation: In March 2025, Jacqueline Yates, the liaison to WCI, and Dilek Karabucak attended UN ECOSOC presentations, reinforcing IWCP's commitment to global initiatives. Welcome Clubs International, our umbrella organization, holds a Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC.

Through these events, IWCP continues to foster cultural understanding, lifelong learning, and international collaboration. As we welcome new members and prepare for our next board of directors, we look forward to another year of meaningful engagement and enriching experiences.

by Jacqueline Yates
WCI Liaison

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB PORTO ALEGRE

Founded in 1994
Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

This is a brief report of our activities June 2024/May 2025. The IWC Porto Alegre has been very active in two fronts: charity work and social/cultural interactions with our members.

Charity Work

Charity is done at a center called ACASA located in a poor neighborhood where children participate in after school activities. We have helped with food, school material and organizing parties on festive dates. Several of our members have taken in children as "godmothers" specially the ones in greater need. It´s a rewarding action because we can see an upgrade in school marks of every child we assist.





Another institution we have supported is EDUCANDARIO, which hosts handicapped children, giving parents who work a place to leave their loved ones. We have provided it with the purchase of the meat they use in the children´s meals. Furthermore, we collect bottle caps (thousands actually). By selling them EDUCANDARIO has quite a good financial return. Lately we have begun to collect blisters of medical drugs with the same purpose. While we are able to help people with such collections, we are also contributing to the sustainability of the planet. Double joy!





Social and Cultural Activities

In relation to our social activities we have had gatherings at our members', luncheons at restaurants, visits to art expositions, knitting afternoons and culinary lessons. For our closing party, before summer, husbands are always invited. In 2024 (with plans to repeat it) we organized a garage sale in which we sold clothes, objects and custom jewelry donated by our members. The sum we got was used to sponsor a young pianist who had been accepted at an American university, but didn't have the financial means to go.











Arm in arm, our Club brings a lot of joy into our lives.

by Isaura Riedl
WCI Liaison

WELCOME TO CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Founded in 2002
San Diego, California

We proudly report that we had a wonderful year, with a variety of events, always combining the cultural aspect for all our members to enjoy and learn.

Recently we had a private tour arranged by one of our members, Lynn Payette, (the one with the green blouse) to the San Diego de Alcala Mission, founded on July 16th, 1769, it is considered the first San Franciscan mission in the current US continent.







In March we enjoyed the cherry blossoms at the Japanese Gardens in Balboa Park. Unfortunately it was a cold rainy day so attendance was low.

On February our meeting theme was getting to know new members and what WCI is about. Our invitation featured the following picture from the WCI website.





Our biggest interest group is the Dancing group, many of them are from Latin America.

We celebrated New Years Day dancing where everyone had a fun time, including the few husbands that dared to hit the floor.







Artist Lucy Jackson





Our highlight Event was in November. Lucy Jackson, our most generous member, who for health reasons had to be secluded at home, dedicated her time to painting whose works that later on donated for a fund raising event where more than $4,400.00 were collected and donated to the Rancho de Los Ninos Casa Hogar in Rosarito Baja California. The money was used to buy food and pay for the children's Christmas dinner.



Our membership drive was in October, where we had a feast indulging ourselves with a typical Mexican dish called "Chiles en Nogada," they have a historical relevance and usually served in the month of September when the pomegranates are available. Chef member Florencia Label, (with the green blouse), and our president, Maria Walker (with the apron), worked for three days preparing them.

by **Maria Walker**
WCIC President

WELCOME TO COLORADO INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Founded in 1978
Denver, Colorado

The past year has been a very productive and encouraging year for WTC. We have gained a lot of new members after the loss we experienced through the COVID crisis and have added new programs for the benefit of our members, such as the new Gardening program which has sparked a great interest from our members. Our book clubs (Women Who Read and the regular lectures by book authors) have been very successful.


Gardening


Life Stories

Our regular Game events are always full to capacity as is our “Life Stories.”

We do more special events, such as our Annual “Happy Hours” at Christmas and St. Patrick’s Day, increased Jewelry Making classes, and our monthly “Just Coffee” has shown great interest as the women get to know more members through this relaxing and socializing event.


Jewelry Making


Kaffeklatch


St. Patrick’s Day

Our special Luncheon programs are very popular, such as the most recent one on Venice which is a return after such success and popular demand. Our “Exploring the Arts” and lunches out at “She-Chef Restaurants” is always full.





Venetian Lunch



Opera Lunch



French Lunch



International Cuisine Dutch



Our History and Culture programs and Science lectures are very popular and we are very lucky to have great speakers, some who are actual members of our club and we are grateful for them. All in all, our members are enjoying great programs and meeting new friends all the time.





History & Culture - Russia



At the Spring Luncheon

by Kathy Meyer
WTC President

WELCOME TO FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Founded in 1986
Naples, FL, USA
www.wflic.org

GREETINGS FROM SUNNY FLORIDA! WFLIC was proud to host the WCI Board of Directors' (BOD) Meeting in March in beautiful Naples, Florida!



For about a year WFLIC members worked hard in preparations for the WCI BOD meeting in Naples. We all helped in big and in small ways, as we researched, planned, organized, and opened our homes to WCI guests. Welcoming our sister club members from around the world offered us unforgettable learning experiences and resulted in building lifelong friendships. In addition to WCI board meetings, we planned exciting three-day activities exploring Naples, culminating with combined luncheon.

The first morning of their visit, our guests and club members visited Tomaso Albertini, Artist in Residence, studio at The Naples Art Institute followed by a delicious lunch at Alberto's restaurant. Later in the evening, our club held a Welcome Reception at the Hilton Hotel.



The next day the all day board meeting was followed by a delightful sunset dinner cruise on Naples Princess. It was a perfect way for our guests to enjoy Naples' famous sunsets and the views from the water.



To give all WFLIC members an opportunity to meet WCI Board members, we scheduled our monthly luncheon for March 26, and we held it at the Hilton Hotel in order to accommodate over 130 attendees.

At the luncheon there were plenty of presentations and exchanges of gifts and information. The announcement of the April 2026 International Meeting in Jakarta drew a lot of attention and interest.



WCI President Vivienne Shen presented certificates of appreciation to Lucy Williams & Sookhim Eriksen.

Founder's Representative Eshrat Demougeot presented a certificate of appreciation to outgoing WCI President Vivienne Shen.

Lea Hesse, a past president of the Welcome to Washington Club, was installed as the new president of Welcome Clubs International.



L-R: WCI's Outgoing President Vivienne Shen & Incoming President Lea Hesse



Members of WCI's Executive Committee and Board of Directors





After the luncheon our guests and club members enjoyed the city Trolley Tour discovering the highlights of Naples culminating with a stop at the Artist-Naples and the Baker Museum.

Following WCI's visit, later in April, we had our last of the season and most important luncheon when we had bid the farewell to outgoing WFLIC board, and we installed the new 2025-2027 board. We also enjoyed a superb presentation by Dr. Faffer, President/CEO of the Baker Senior Center in Naples.



Baker Museum







Luba Rotsztain

Every two years, WFLIC president has the opportunity to bestow the prestigious Marian Adair Award on one of the club members. This is a big responsibility for the president but also the most important recognition for those who have made a difference above and beyond for the benefit of Welcome to Florida Club. At our April's luncheon, Luba Rotsztain, WFLIC's outgoing president, named Emilia Libers the Marian Adair Award recipient this year.

by **Luba Laufer Rotsztain**
WCI Liaison

WELCOME TO KOREA INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Founded in 2016
Seoul, South Korea
www.wkic.or.kr/en/

Special Lecture and Luncheon



Who is going to be the US President? What kind of impact should we expect? What's going to happen to the Korean Peninsula and neighboring countries?These have been ongoing questions, and Dr. Choonkun Lee joined us on the 19th floor of the Korea Press Center and shared his thoughts regarding the US election. It started at 11am on June 24th, 2024 at the Chrysanthemum-room, where Dr. Lee went over the history of the US Election and covered the terminology used for the US Presidency. More than 30 members, including heads of various civic groups, scholars, and business women, participated in this most informative event.

Special Lecture by the Ambassador of New Zealand H.E. Dawn Bennet



To promote international education and cultural exchange, WKIC has been inviting ambassadors residing in Korea to make presentations and thereby allowing us to gain insight into the women's status and political policies of those countries. On Thursday, September 26th, H.E. Dawn Bennet from New Zealand, gave us details regarding the history of policies impacting women and the current situation. She focused on the women's efforts towards social and economic equality in New Zealand. Women in New Zealand began advocating for suffrage in the 1870s and became the first self-governing country in the world to grant women the right to vote, which was a major step towards gender equality. About 100 Welcome Club members joined the event and thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and the subsequent luncheon.

Series Tour to Historic Places



On October 14th, 2024, WKIC sisters went to Jeonju, the capital of Jeollabuk-do province, to visit some historical sites - the Gyeonggijeon Shrine, Jeondong Cathedral, and Hanok village. Gyeonggijeon Shrine is impressive in that it contains the main hall (National Treasure No.317 which houses a portrait of King Taejo, the founding ruler of the Joseon Dynasty), Jeonjusago (archiving the Annals of the Joseon Dynasty), Jogyeongmyo Shrine (Tangible Heritage No.16 on the provincial list and dedicated to the progenitor of the Jeonju Yi clan), and Hamabi (a dismounting post which indicates that one should dismount from their horse before entering). Jeondong Cathedral is known as one of the most beautiful cathedrals in all of Korea. After lunch, we headed to Geumsansa temple, which is famous for its Mireukjeon Hall and the impressive statue of Buddha.



Byeokgolje Reservoir was our final destination where we took pleasure in viewing a lovely flower bed of cosmos under a light rain.

On May 16, 2025, WKIC had its spring with the theme of King Jeongjo during the Joseon Dynasty. Yongjusa temple and Yungneung, and Geolleung Rotal tombs with Hwasung Haenggung were the main destinations. Honorary Emperor Jangjo (Crown Prince Sado) was the second son of King Yeongjo and father of King Jeongjo. He was smart and excelled in calligraphy and martial arts, so his father had him handle state affairs when still the crown prince. During his regency, he came into conflict with the Old Doctrin faction, which led to his miserable death at 28.

On our way there, we stopped by the Ho-am Art Museum. The art gallery is available on the second floor of a traditional hanok building, showcasing artwork from the pre-historic age to the contemporary era. This time they had a special exhibition of Jeong Seon, the master painter of the late Joseon period. Driven by his boundless affection for Korea's landscapes, he infused traditional painting styles of the past with innovative techniques of the present to create the unique genre of true-view landscapes.



8th Anniversary Celebration





On December 3rd, 2024, WKIC had its 8th Anniversary celebration at the Press Center. Over 100 people, including the current and former National Assembly members, foreign Ambassadors residing in Korea, old friends who shared the same purpose of gender equality, and members of Welcome club gathered and enjoyed the anniversary.

President Jungsook Kim made a welcoming speech introducing what WKIC has been doing and thanking them for the support. Mr. Chung Dae-Chul, one of the guests, made a congratulatory speech. After several congratulatory messages, there was a concert with three well-known singers.

2025 Annual General Meeting

WKIC had its 9th Annual General Meeting in the Girl Scout Center on the 20th of February. There were reports on the programs, budgets of 2024 and proposed ones of 2025, and they got unanimously approved by the members. Two new vice presidents were elected and two new board members were also selected. Jungsook Kim and Minji Lee remain elected, as the presidents. After the assembly, Dr. Kim made a brief presentation on CSW69 in New York.

Walking the Old Capital City - Inwangsan Jarakgil

Inwangsan is a beautiful granite mountain spanning the Jongno-gu and Seodaemun-gu districts of Seoul, offering a panoramic view of the Seoul city center, making it a beloved spot for many. Starting from Sajik Park, members of the WKIC spent a pleasant day walking along the various trails, particularly the Jarakgil (foothill trail) and forest path, enjoying the beautiful scenery of Seoul and taking in the views of Gyeongbokgung Palace, Seochon village, and Bukhansan Mountain from various points, including the summit. As we strolled along the Seoul City Wall trail, we also encountered historical traces, with Yoon Dong-ju Poet's Hill and Chosochekbang (Guard Post Bookstore) being prime examples.





by Sunny Shin
WCI Liaison

WELCOME TO LONDON INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Founded in 1983
London, UK
www.welcometolondonclub.com

We were delighted to host our annual Epsom Derby Ladies' Day Lunch at the iconic Royal Automobile Club, Woodcote Park, on 6th June 2025. WTL President, Nesrin Comert, warmly welcomed members and friends to this cherished event.

We extend our heartfelt thanks for your continued support and look forward to welcoming you all back next year!



WTL President Nesrin Comert





Along with other WCI members, Nesrin Comert represented WCI at the 69th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69), held at the UN Headquarters in New York from 10th to 21st March 2025.





WCI supports goals #4 and #5 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

On June 10, Welcome to London members attended a Royal Afternoon Tea event hosted by the Federation of International Women's Associations in London (FIWAL). FIWAL, a fellow umbrella organization based in London, is an associate member of WCI.


WTL members at the Royal Afternoon Tea



by **Nesrin Comert**
WTL President

WELCOME TO TAIPEI INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Founded in 1986
Taipei, Taiwan
www.wtic.org.tw

We are honored to share highlights from a vibrant year filled with meaningful programs that reflect our mission: fostering international friendship and cultural exchange.

Key Annual Events



General Assembly & New Year Luncheon – A festive event where members gathered to celebrate the Lunar New Year and reflect on our accomplishments. We also held board elections and Patricia Liao was elected as President for 2025–2027.


WTIC President Patricia Liao

Japanese Tea Ceremony – A meditative cultural event featuring a traditional tea ritual, wagashi demonstration, mochi pounding, and a joyful lucky draw.

Annual Lecture – "Chocolate Dream: Story of Taiwanese Sisters Growing up in Africa", by Dania Yang, spotlighted the inspiring journey of creating a chocolate brand connecting Taiwan and Africa.




The Yang Sisters L-R: Angela & Dania



Christmas Luncheon – Nearly 200 members and guests attended this festive gathering. Interest groups proudly displayed achievements through performances and exhibitions.

Interest Group Activities

Art & Culture events continue to enrich us both intellectually and visually. Whether visiting museums or special exhibitions, we were deeply inspired by ancient paintings, calligraphy, from the east and sculptures, vessels, and jewelry from the west. These experiences awakened our senses to the beauty of art. We are truly grateful to our dedicated chairpersons for curating such meaningful and uplifting cultural journeys.



Chimei Museum – Masterpieces from London


Dream of the Red Chamber at National Palace Museum



Rodin at Fubon Museum

The **Exploration Group** continues to offer engaging indoor and outdoor activities. This year's highlights included: picking and tasting juicy seasonal organic strawberries; DIY pineapple cake making to celebrate traditional Taiwanese flavors; a VR animation experience at the Taipei Performing Arts Center; and a cultural walking tour through Taipei's historic Dadaocheng district, where members explored heritage buildings and local customs.


Pineapple Cake Workshop


Strawberry Picking


Taipei Performing Arts Center



National & Global Engagements


WTIC President Patricial Liao at the WCI BOD Meeting in Naples, Florida

- Participated in the National Council of Women of Taiwan events, including a tree planting at Taipei Zoo and the annual general assembly.
- Engaged with the UN CSW69 Forum online.
- Represented at the WCI Board Meeting in Naples, Florida, where President Patricia Liao delivered WTIC's Sister Club Report.
- Special event: "Dancing with Memory and Life" – An Intergenerational Dialogue & Wellness Workshop with Ms. Orly Sela; a granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor, who shares a deeply moving account of her grandmother's story of resilience and hope during World War II.

by **Olivia Jen**
WCI Liaison

WELCOME TO TURKISH CYPRUS CLUB

Founded in 2000
Mersin, Cyprus



19 September 2024 - a nice day for making plans for the rest of the program year



7 October 2024 - a get together lunch at Eziç Premier starting the new season



25 October 2024 - a tea party at IOS Coffeehouse, Nicosia



8 November 2024 - long walk in the streets of Nicosia with seven other associations protesting violence against women



15 November 2024 - Visiting the Origami exhibition of one of our founding members, Mrs. İsmet Tatar



26 December 2024 - New Year party together with our friends (Members of the Inner Wheel Club of Girne, District 222)



5 January 2025 - Donation of books to the Kyrenia Municipal Library



17 January 2025 - Lunch at the Kitchen Restaurant in North Cyprus, welcoming our Immediate Past President Zeynep Akgünay and Ambassador Rafet Akgünay who came from Ankara to visit their friends in North Cyprus



17 March 2025 - Conference delivered at the University of Kyrenia, by our Founding President Işın Ramadan Cemil with the covarage of Cyprus, past and present



09 May 2025 - As the Welcome to Turkish Cyprus Club, we organized a farewell lunch in honor of our former president, İnci Musannıf, who is leaving the island. The event was attended by our Founding President, Işın Ramadan Cemil, and Vice President Behiye Müftüzade, among others. It was a warm and heartfelt gathering, creating a lovely and sincere atmosphere.



We, as the Welcome to Turkish Cyprus Club, held our 2025 Annual General Assembly Meeting with the participation of our members on May 16, 2025. Following the presentation and approval of the activity and financial reports, the election for the 2025–2027 President and Board Members took place. Işın Ramadan Cemil was elected as the President for the 2025–2027 term.

by **Hatice Topukcu**
WCI Liaison

WELCOME TO WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Founded in 1959
Washington DC, USA
www.welcometowashingtonclub.org


Parade of Nations at the Fall Tea

WTW opened up our season with international fanfare at the Annual Fall Tea! Our Parade of Nations included members and several Ambassadors' wives. In addition, for the first time, we had a fashion show of international fashion designers in the DC Metro area. Miss District of Columbia closed out our show in a dreamy gown befitting her crown!

Our clubwide holiday event showcased cultural holidays celebrated around the world. That included Christmas celebrations, Asian holidays and Jewish traditions. The festive mood was topped off by live music from various cultures and opera star, Angela Knight.

We brought our year to a floral close in Meadowlark Gardens. Just as gardens bloom most colorfully with a variety of flowers, WTW thrives when we celebrate the unique qualities of our members and the cultures they come from!


Christmas booth at the Holiday Party

Our members' unique backgrounds are celebrated in our Cultural Expressions events. This year, the Committee and member presenters shared the cultures of Slavic people, Greece, Thailand & the Silk Road, and Costa Rica!


International Designer Fashion Show at the Fall Tea


Holiday Party Committee


WTW President Gail Landau and VP Events Kary Ryan


Cultural Expressions Committee


Greece event


Costa Rica event



Slavic Peoples Event


WCI Incoming President Lea Hesse


Past Presidents at the Garden Party

Since WTW's founding in 1959, our members have fostered friendships between American women and women from other cultures around the world. Our numerous Interest Groups and Informal Activities create the environment for these friendships to blossom. We have at least two events a week during our season! These can take the form of field trips, events in member homes, hands-on activities, and virtual events -- which have the added benefit of being able to include members from sister clubs worldwide!


Designing Women


Gourmet


Telling Our Life Stories


Washington Behind the Scenes


Literature, Travel, & More


Pop-Ups


Healthy Living


Art World


Garden


Living Vietnamese Embassy's Night at the Smithsonian Museum


with H.E. Ambassador Nazri Aziz of Malaysia and his family at the Embassy's Songket UNESCO Cultural Heritage Exhibit

WTW continues to build bridges and develop strong relationships with Embassies, Ambassadors and their spouses, and the diplomatic community, as well as like-minded international organizations in the DC Metro area.


ASEAN Culture Day with the Philippine representatives


Mexican Cultural Institute's Dia de los Muertos


Madame Shaikha Aisha Al Khalifa of Bahrain

JENNY SICAT CRABBE
WCI LIAISON
PAST PRESIDENT, WTW

www.welcometowashingtonclub.org

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL BORDER CLUB

Founded in 2005
Chula Vista, California

Our WIBC Club is doing extremely well, we are getting more new members all the time. Our membership count stands at 58. We have members from the following countries - US, Iran, Germany, Spain, Mexico, Peru, Brazil, Russia, Cambodia, Austria, and Bolivia.

As our membership grows, we are concerned about possible difficulty in the future to find venues to accommodate everybody, especially when we use private homes.





However, we are blessed to have the use of a big beautiful Club House with a great ocean view, that one of our members arranges for us. Because we have a lot of space in that clubhouse, most of our monthly activities are held there.

We do crafting like making beautiful flower centerpieces that participants take home. We also did fun projects like rock painting, and making lady bugs and mushrooms. Our very talented Past President Mona taught us how to make jewelry.

Some events are held at members' homes. We are lucky to have members who graciously volunteer to host events at their beautiful and large homes.

We started some smaller Interest Groups, for instance a Birthday Club. We have a lot of fun and hold it once a month. We also formed a Cooking Class, and Walking Tours by the ocean. If there is enough interest we might form a Knitting and Crocheting Class.

We also had a bazaar, with the proceeds to go to our club, and we are planning a big Garage sale. We have potlucks, and the club main dish is always provided by the Club.







On all our events we aways have music, and our members love to dance. You can imagine how much fun it is to watch everybody dancing like crazy sometimes.

Next month we will have our yearly beach party with hamburgers. Members bring appetizers and desserts.

Our Christmas Party is always a big event - husbands and guests are also welcome.



by **Marie-Luise Sczyrbowski**
WIBC President

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB JAKARTA

Founded in 1950
Jakarta, Indonesia
www.wic-jakarta.or.id


2024 - 2026 Executive Committee

Membership and Executive Committee
The Women's International Club (WIC) Jakarta is composed of around 300 members from 20 different nationalities. It is run by multinational Executive Committee of 21 members elected every two (2) years serving on a voluntary basis.

Social Welfare Projects
Currently, WIC Jakarta through our Social Welfare Committee is providing support to a total of 11 institutions consist of orphanages, underprivileged seniors, mental health facilities and a shelter for cancer patients. Support includes providing basic needs such food and toiletries, trainers and physiotherapists for children with special needs among others. Last year (2024), SW Committee successfully held its annual Children's Day (5 July 2024), Seniors' Day (26 June 2024) and Teachers and Caretakers' Training (25 January 2025).


Childrens' Day


Seniors' Day


Caretakers' Training

Scholarship
As of May 2025, our Scholarship Committee has 50 scholarship students from 3 different universities in Jakarta: 1) Universitas Indonesia 2) Universitas Negeri Jakarta 3) Institut Pertanian Bogor. Last 8 October 2024, our scholarship students had their annual outing. On 22 February 2025, our scholarship students attended WIC Scholarship Seminar entitled "Success in life with all limitation" with Dr. Ludovicus Sensi Wondabio, CPA, CA as speaker.


Scholarship Outing


Scholarship Seminar

Fundraising and Annual Charity Bazaar
In order to fulfill the aims of the Club to contribute to social welfare initiatives and educational advancement of the communities in greater Jakarta area, WIC organizes efforts such Annual Charity Bazaar and fundraising drives to support its social welfare institutions and educational programs. Our 56th Annual Charity Bazaar which will be held on 18-20 November 2025 is one of the largest gatherings of international communities and institutions in Jakarta. Last year (2024), 42 embassies and 218 local businesses participated in our charity bazaar. From April 2024 to March 2025, WIC Jakarta was able to organize

six (6) events to raise funds for our social welfare institutions and educational causes.The Bazaar Proceeds Committee (BPC) 2024-2025, a special committee formed every year to allocate excess funds from the bazaar proceeds, was able to provide a one-time support to 11 institutions such as construction and renovation of classrooms, purchase of books and laptops and kitchen appliances.



Annual Charity Bazaar


BPC Handing Over Ceremony

Celebrations/Events/Circle Activities

As part of our aims to foster friendship and mutual understanding among women of different nationalities and contribute to the cultural enrichment of women globally, all throughout the year, WIC Jakarta celebrates events and festivities such as Chinese New Year, Halal Bihalal, Kartini Day, Indonesia Independence Day, Deepavali and Christmas. Last 24 April 2025, WIC Jakarta celebrated its 75th anniversary. Since April 2024, monthly cultural coffee morning is held at the residence of the host embassy. It was a pleasure to have a glimpse of other countries' culture and traditions through these cultural coffee mornings. Our gratitude to the Ambassador and Spouse of the Ambassador of Spain, Armenia, Switzerland, Egypt, Jordan and Bulgaria for welcoming the WIC ladies to their residences.

We also have different circle activities that members enjoy depending on their interests. We have handicraft circle, Bahasa classes, batik circle, yoga circle, international cooking, dance circle and Sevillanas.


Chinese New Year


Cultural Coffee Morning

2026
WCI CONFERENCE

We are excited to welcome everyone in 2026 to the WCI 17thBiennial International Conference. The conference will be held both in Jakarta and Yogyakarta and a post-conference will be organized to be held in Bali. Our conference theme is "Bridging Traditions and Transformations: Empowering Women Through Education and Cultural Heritage in a Changing World."

We have attached our conference flyer for your reference. See the next 3 pages below.


Independence Day

by **Nazneen Khubchandani , WICJ President**
Mary Anne Widjaja, WICJ Vice President



WCI
Welcome Clubs International

WCI 17TH BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2026

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB JAKARTA

Jakarta and Yogyakarta, Indonesia --- 26 April - 1 May, 2026

BRIDGING TRADITIONS AND TRANSFORMATIONS:

Empowering Women through Education and Cultural Heritage in a Changing World







In the heart of Indonesia, a nation rich with diverse cultures and traditions, we invite Welcome Clubs International (WCI) members and sister clubs to gather and explore the powerful synergy between education, cultural heritage, and women's empowerment. This conference aims to bridge international friendship and highlight the transformative potential of education and cultural heritage in empowering women, fostering innovation, and promoting sustainable development in Indonesia and beyond.

WCI 17TH BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2026
Jakarta and Yogyakarta, Indonesia --- 26 April - 1 May, 2026

SUNDAY, 26 APRIL 2026 – JAKARTA

Welcome to Jakarta!
Check in & registration, followed by Meet and Greet cocktail and dinner.

MONDAY, 27 APRIL 2026 – JAKARTA

Full Day Conference Program and Welcome Dinner.
"Cultural Heritage as a Foundation for Quality Education" - Keynote Speech by Minister of Women Empowerment of the Republic of Indonesia

"Empowering Women to Create Sustainable Livelihoods and Drive Community Development" - Keynote Speech by Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy of the Republic of Indonesia

TUESDAY, 28 APRIL 2026 – JAKARTA

Half Day Conference and WIC Jakarta site visit.
"Gender Equality in Education: Challenges and Opportunities"
Address the challenges and opportunities to overcome barriers to education for women and girls, explore the impact of educational access and outcomes of the WIC Jakarta Scholarship Programs and meet some of our students to hear their stories.





WEDNESDAY, 29 APRIL 2026 JAKARTA TO YOGYAKARTA

Early morning departure to Yogyakarta by train.
"Women's Role in the Modern World: Perspective from Inside the Palace Wall" by GKBRAA Gusti Putri, spouse of Paku Alam X, the Duke of Pakualaman, a Javanese Principality within the Special Region of Yogyakarta. Special dinner will be served at Palace complex while being entertained by traditional Javanese dance performances.



*All programs are tentative and still being finalized

THURSDAY, 30 APRIL 2026 - YOGYAKARTA

Batik, recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity is an intricate textile art with a wax-resist dyeing technique to create patterns and motifs that carry deep symbolic meanings. More than just fabric, batik is a living tradition that captures the spirit and creativity of Indonesia. Visit a batik village, where most traditional batiks, including those for the Royal Palace, are crafted. You'll have the opportunity to engage in a hands-on workshop to create your own batik and explore community programs that empower local women.
Visit *Borobudur*, the largest Buddhist temple in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, breathtaking sunset and a memorable farewell dinner will conclude our time together in Indonesia.

FRIDAY, 1 MAY 2026

Farewell, 'till we see you again!
You'll need to book a local flight from Yogyakarta to Jakarta to connect with your international flight home. Flight time is about 70 mins with prices ranging from $50-110 USD one way.

POST CONFERENCE TRIP

Enhance your Indonesia experience with a 3-night, 4-day post-conference trip to Bali from Friday, May 1 to Monday, May 4, departing directly from Yogyakarta. You'll need to book a local flight from Bali to Jakarta to connect with your international flight home. Flight time is approximately 2 hours with prices ranging from $60-160 USD one way. You also have the option to book a direct flight from Bali International Airport back to your home country.



WCI
WELCOME CLUBS INTERNATIONAL
www.wciclubs.org

In Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council since 2020

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MARIAN WOOD ADAIR FOUNDER'S FUND

In Honor of WCI's Founder Marian Adair



Marian Wood Adair
1908 - 2004

The **Marian Wood Adair Founder's Fund (MWAFF)** helps support WCI in its continuing efforts to spread Marian's legacy of cross-cultural understanding, education, and global friendship.

Contributions will be used for projects promoting quality education and gender equality, in accordance with WCI's Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Affiliated Clubs and individual members are encouraged to make donations, whether to honor a fellow member, congratulate someone, memorialize family and friends, or to simply support WCI.

Your contribution will make a difference!

Important Note to Donors in the United States

Effective April 19, 2024, Welcome Clubs International, Inc. is exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) 501(c)(3). **Donors can deduct contributions they make to WCI** under IRC Section 170.

DONATING:

Clubs can add a contribution amount to the annual dues using their usual mode of payment.

Individuals may donate directly at any time via PayPal, with a U.S. check, or wire transfer.

To donate via PayPal, go to https://www.members.wciclubs.org/donations - our website's MWAFF donations page. Click on the "Donate" button. You do not need to have a PayPal account to use PayPal.

Information on donating by check or via wire transfer is also found on the MWAFF donations page link above.