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Worldwide Link

Welcome Clubs International, Inc.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



I trust that this summer for all of you was a happy and memorable one what none of us expected was to return home and find our world threatened and changed. September 11th was a dramatic and wrenching attack on not only the American way of life but on all freedom loving people. How can we as women help make sense of all this hatred? We can begin by looking at the positive outcome of this terrible act. People are now concentrating on the more important aspects of their life, e.g. family, friends and neighbours and many end each day with a prayer. Let us savor this and capitalize on it. Let us extend our hand of friendship and understanding not only to one another but also wherever we go.

On the home front the WCI Executive Committee has been hard at work since we last met in May in England. Personal visits to individual clubs were made both by Vice-Chair Donna Suddeth and myself. Clubs visited were Philadelphia, The Berkshires and Tampa Bay. By-Laws were revised and approved by majority vote of the Council. They will now be submitted for incorporation. Taiwan Conference Packages were mailed.

Preparations are now underway for the WCI Exec. Comm meeting to be held in Florida from 9th-13th February 2002.

Our Web Master, Lise McCartney, is in the process of updating our Web Page. All clubs who have their own Web Page are requested to contact Lise for linkage. Her e-mail address is . Communications Director, Susan McCreary, is working on establishing a team of Field Reporters, Stella Schumann, Rolly Kohansky, Elizabeth Lamb and Hifziye Zincir, who will assist her in gathering information from the various clubs and encourage a member of their club to prepare an article of mutual interest for inclusion in The Worldwide Link.

Our new club *Welcome to Tampa Bay* organised a very successful Inauguration Tea at the Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida. We came away feeling very confident of the future success of their club. In conclusion, our club year is off to a good start. We are now eagerly and enthusiastically looking forward to seeing a large number of you in Taiwan in April 2002. The Itinerary you have received promises us an exciting and wonderful week.

On behalf of the WCI Exec. Comm. I wish each and every one of you a Very Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year. God willing the New Year will bring people of all faiths and culture together in peace and harmony and we will do our part to make that happen through friendship and understanding.

In Friendship,

Eshrat Demougeot,
December 2001

LETTERS

I would like to convey on behalf of Welcome to Turkish Cyprus, our sincere shock and grief at the recent horrific events. *Narin Ferdi - North Cyprus*

All countries must join hands in the common cause to bring the attackers to justice and restore world peace. *Amy Tien - Taiwan*

I cannot tell you how shocked I am at what happened on Tuesday 0 such an horrific and cowardly act! Thinking of you in these very bad times. *Tamar Nesher - Israel*

I would like to express my sympathy for the katastrophe which hit your country. These attacks against the USA are also attacks against the civilization and humanity. *Iro Stehli - Hamburg*

Our sincere sympathy and thoughts are with you on this most unbelievable and awful day. *Elsa Thompson - South Africa.*

Everyone here really feels for the American people right now, it is something indescribable. I do hope you and your friends are safe. *Patricia Abou Habib- London*

We were in Jordan and we, with every other Jordanian led by His Majesty and Her Majesty, felt utter shock and horror. With a prayer in my heart for this crisis to pass as peacefully as possible for the whole world and my warm affection to my dear sister members of WCI. *Haifa al Kaylani - Middle East Chair of WCI*

...Today the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace held a two minute silence and played the American National Anthem, which I think must be a first. Keep safe. *Trudy Hawkins Lorenc - London*

Our news channels have non stop coverage of your terrible tragedy. I ask that, in compassion, we pray for all our brothers and sisters in the Muslim world, the majority of whom deplore violence and pray for the leaders of the world. *Jocelyn Jones - Wessex*

All members of our Istanbul Club send our regrets. It was the most important event of the 21st Century and everything will be different from now on. We understand the importance and the damage of this kind of activities. *Umran Kumcuoglu- Istanbul*

...my heartfelt sympathy to you. Our flags were flying at half mast in the Netherlands. *Ismelda Pellet-Open Door*

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WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST CLUB - TAMPA BAY, FLORIDA



As the St. Petersburg Times reported, "Given our concern about the world these days and our suspicions about other...cultures...the *Tampa Bay Welcome Club* is a welcome addition to the local social scene."

Padmini Durr organized 40 women after her experience with Welcome to Colorado. Nancy Furstner of Welcome to Florida writes: "*Welcome to Florida International* warmly welcomes our newest sister club, *Welcome to Tampa Bay, Florida."*

WELCOME TO WASHINGTON PRESIDENT - PEGGY SILVERMAN

If you could pick your mother, wouldn't you choose the Mother of the Year for the Washington D.C. Chapter of American Mothers, Inc? If you needed a creative party and wedding planner, wouldn't you opt for RSVP, the premier occasion planning business in the Washington area? And if you could bundle all the best qualities of all your friends, wouldn't you choose Peggy Silverman? Peggy is the embodiment of all the aforementioned "jobs" and still has time to have fun. Just finishing the second year of her 2-year stint as President of our Charter Club, *Welcome To Washington*, Peggy is still as busy as when she first took the position. She has accolades galore under her belt - she invented the "Passport," permanent nametags as admission to all WTW events. She is connected to her Board members through e-mail, making more effective communications in a timely manner. Her tenure has bridged the gap between snail mail and technology. She oversaw the first cookbook to be published in 25 years aptly titled "Welcome to Gourmet Washington." This very successful dream of hers sold out in two months. Her Leadership workshop was a bonus for WTW members and benefitted their roles in this organization and elsewhere.



Peggy came to this Presidency after serving in many capacities in *Welcome to Washington* and in various other volunteer groups. All this while keeping two children, helpful husband Harvey, and a precious bundle of white dog fur named Schooner, happy and well fed. When she has spare time, she sails, gardens and manages to keep in touch with her many friends.

Peggy's philosophy is "through volunteerism we learn about culture and technology." She feels this learning can be carried back to homes and indeed around the world. Her influence has spread through the large membership of *Welcome To Washington*. Perhaps you have seen some of Peggy's ideas carried back to your country. We are all most fortunate to have her leadership in our Welcome Clubs.

If you could pick your Welcome Club President, wouldn t you choose an innovative and very

THE ADAIRS ARE HONORED IN INDIANA

The Federal Building and United States Court House in Fort Wayne, Indiana was dedicated to E. Ross Adair, husband of our founder, Marian on October 27, 2000. He served as a United States Congressman for 20 years from Indiana and then for 3 years as Ambassador to Ethiopia. We all know that Marian was instrumental in gathering artifacts and this building honors her in addition to her husband. This is a permanent tribute to two influential people. Marian's e-mail address: *m.*

MAGICAL CROATIA

By Stella Schumann Welcome to Hamburg

After a delightful trip along the Dalmatian Coast to Dubrovnik last September, our members decided that they would like to see more of Croatia.

This September, thirteen of us first went to Budapest, Hungary, as a starter. Budapest is indeed a very beautiful medieval city. Though it has only a small population of 2 million, it attracted an astonishing 31 million visitors last year!

Not only is Budapest famous for its beauty, but it is renowned for its music and culture. We made the most of our two-day visit by attending a ballet performance at the magnificent Opera House on the first evening, and on the next evening pampered ourselves to a dinner with a delightful life band of musicians and singing waiters.

We then went to Herend, and had a tour of the famous Herend porcelain factory, which was most interesting. Varazdin is an ancient city with baroque castles and churches. To our delight, our dear member, Christiane Säilä, was able to try her hand at a 17th century church organ.

Finally, we went to Zagreb, the capital of Croatia. We had the opportunity of spending a very happy evening together with some very charming and friendly members of the *International Women's Club of Zagreb*. What better way to develop friendship through understanding than by visiting the home country of our member. We are indeed grateful to Vesna and Renate for the arrangements of this trip.

MEETING YOLANDA CHEN



How can one lady be an important diplomatic wife and a businesswoman of some renown? That answer is easy if you are Yolanda Chen, wife of Chien-Jen Chen, Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative. This lovely lady has more talents than most but we all know busy people can do more. And busy she is, currently planning our international conference to be held in her country next Spring.

Yolanda Chen was named for her birthplace in Yoland, China. She was educated as a teacher at the Taiwan Normal University, majoring in social studies but her interest in fashion design began as a young girl. She would get up in the middle of the night and sew for her dolls when she had unrestricted access to all of her house. She subsequently studied fashion design at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology. While on one of her husband's assignments in Washington, D.C., she opened "Yolanda Boutique" in Bethesda, Maryland. When her husband was posted back to Taiwan, she, disappointedly, had to close her boutique.

Her duties to her family have always been a priority with Yolanda. She says she gives 80% to her family and keeps 20% for herself. "First come my children, second comes my husband, and third comes me." With her daughter working in New York, her son in London and her business dealings in Taiwan, Yolanda stays on the go. But she carefully plots time for her husband. She claims he has a Chinese stomach and always has to have some Chinese morsel to eat when returning from an official diplomatic function or a restaurant. Yolanda is at the ready to whip up a Chinese gustatory delight at any late hour of the night.

When asked her advice for young women trying to juggle families and creative jobs, she replied, "Always keep room for yourself. Grow up with the family and keep your friends." Yolanda Chen has successfully become a creative and contributing member of both American society and international circles. We will be fortunate to be able to meet her at the Spring Conference and sample her delightful humor and worldwide experiences.

CURRENT NEWS FROM WELCOME TO TAIPEI INTERNATIONAL CLUB

By Elizabeth Lamb



Hello, dear fellow members of the Welcome Clubs International. The most important priority task here is to prepare for the Welcome Club International Conference in Taipei April 20-28, 2002,

There is a special committee headed by Mrs. Julie Chien and Mrs. Amy Tien. The committee has been holding many meetings to prepare. Mrs. Yolanda Chen joins the meeting whenever she comes back to Taipei from Washington, D.C.

The hotel, the activities, and all the parties are pretty settled, President Tien and many key figures of the Club have used all their "connections" to upgrade everything to the level of five stars, but lower the cost to one star!

The "mysterious" East is not an easy place to travel without a local guide, but now the members of the international sister clubs will have more than two hundred *Welcome to Taipei International Club* members as guides to make sure you have a memorable trip.

Please allow me to give you a little tip about the place you are going to visit. Taiwan is 36,000 square kilometers in area, with a population of nearly 23 million, a per capita GNP reaching US$13,248, and a life expectancy 74.7 years. Taiwan combines traditional Chinese culture with a modern society. You will certainly be impressed by the magnificent Chinese palace-style buildings, especially the Grand Hotel--Conference site. But there are also stylish skyscrapers.

The world's most valuable collection of Oriental art is found in the National Palace Museum in Taipei, with the antiques dating back five thousand years, brilliant jewelry which once belonged to the emperors and empresses, magnificent ceramics, wonderful calligraphy, and superb Chinese brush paintings.

Welcome to Taipei International Club was established in 1986. The current president is Mrs. Amy Tien, who was a teacher in the field of mass communications. Many of you, especially those who have lived in Washington, D.C., are probably personal friends with the Club's former presidents.

The Taipei Club has organized many interest group activities for its members, including: dancing, golf, Chinese arts and culture, Chinese brush painting, flower arrangement, Tai Chi Chuan (shadow boxing), international cooking demonstrations and traditional Chinese knotting. Come see for yourself.

A JOURNEY HOME

By Eva T. Salmoiraghi



After visiting Bulgaria, we started our journey home on the 10th of September. Unexpectedly we ended up in Halifax, Nova Scotia, together with ten thousand other passengers disgorged by 47 wide-body jet planes. Fifteen hours after boarding the plane in London, we were allowed to disembark. Our group was assigned to a Canadian Air Force base, supplemented by volunteers. There we encountered warmth, friendliness, kindness most sincerely expressed by total strangers in a Country we were visiting involuntarily! We were provided with floor mattresses, boxes of emergency supplies, even paper nightwear - since our luggage was still aboard our plane - as well as hot food, telephone lines and, most blessedly, television sets. And so we saw the devastation, the horror, the endless tragedy that had been visited on our Country and with this the memory of World War Two, blending the two in a flood of tears. For the next four nights I tried to sleep sandwiched between my husband and a relentlessly snoring, mustachioed, gentleman. Not until Friday morning did British Airways inform us they would fly us back to London and eventually to Washington - when possible. Without luggage, my husband and I found a train to Montreal, and from there a train connection to Washington three days later, arriving the morning of the 20th, in the same clothes we had on when leaving Sofia, 10 days earlier. We were now home. Thank God: we were lucky.