WCI
WELCOME CLUBS INTERNATIONAL
www.wciclubs.org

NGO CSW New York

Welcome Clubs International

cordially invites you to

CSW67 Forum Parallel Event

Empowering Women and Girls through Friendship, Understanding, and Education Beyond Borders in the Digital Age

Tuesday, 7 March 2023

9:00-10:30 a.m. EST

Welcoming Address by:



Caroline Adair Dimmers
Co-Director
Welcome Clubs International

Caroline taught in elementary schools for nine years, where she tried to instill in her students curiosity about the world around them and an eagerness to be informed citizens. She then owned and ran a General Store for ten years. The store showcased 1890s decorative advertising and sold antiques and gifts. The store's motto was "If we weren't a store, we'd be a museum." Now retired from those occupations, she devotes her time to supporting her family, which includes her husband, two daughters, and five grandchildren, and the businesses and foundations on whose boards she serves. She was President of Welcome Clubs International (WCI) from 2012 to 2014. Currently, she serves as Co-Director of WCI, along with Eshrat Demougeot.

Moderated by:



Maria Fernanda Arduino
Director
WCI UN Council

Maria holds Bachelor's degrees in English Language and Literature and in Family Science, as well as a Teaching degree. She completed a Master's degree in Human Development and a Doctorate in Education, in Organizational Leadership and Human Services Administration. Maria has been a Lecturer in Linguistics at several teacher training colleges in Argentina; she has served as a Board member at International Schools and as the chair of Education Committees. In 2003, Maria was President of the International Women's Club of Porto Alegre, Brazil. Since 2010, she has served on the Welcome Club International Executive Committee. She was Regional Director for the Region of the Caribbean and South America until 2016. She served as President of WCI from 2016 to 2019. She is the current WCI UN Council Director. She is honored to be working with an outstanding group of women to promote WCI's values of friendship, understanding, and education.

Speakers

Scholarship is a Catalyst to Empowering Women and Girls



Dinar Ari Wijayanti
Women's International Club
Jakarta

Ari is an Architect with specialities in Sustainable Heritage Management and Architecture for Liturgy. She is a Principal Architect in her own firm and is also active as a lecturer. Her passions for education and architecture have led to her participation in non-profit organizations focused on the arts, education, and design. She is an active member of The Indonesian Institute of Architects Jakarta Chapter and a member of its Board since 2015. In 2005, she became a member of Women's International Club (WIC) Jakarta. She was President of WIC Jakarta from 2020 to 2022 and is currently the chair of the Supervisory Committee. She is also on the Executive Committee of Welcome Clubs International as the Regional Director for Asia. Ari is honored to be working with the outstanding women of WCI who promote education and friendship through understanding, and to be included in this Parallel Event.

Youthful Service Leads to Life-long Action



Mara Rúbia André-Alves de Lima
International Women's Club
Porto Alegre

Mara is a Brazilian pulmonologist, with a primary interest in the care of patients with chronic coughs, including COPD, asthma, upper airways diseases, and tuberculosis. She teaches Pulmonology at the Medical School in Brazil's Federal University of Health Sciences–Porto Alegre (UFCSPA), where she is also a member of the Internationalization Committee and the Inclusion and Diversity Committee, focusing on the health of people of color. In 2021, she was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the Rutgers-RWJ Medical School Office of Global Health in New Jersey. Since 2014, she has participated in the Rondon Project, which is coordinated by the Brazilian Ministry of Defense and focuses on community service in the Amazon region. Its goals match the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN Agenda 2030. She is a member of the International Women's Club of Porto Alegre, Brazil, and the WCI UN Committee.

Digital Inclusion = Empowerment



Jenny Sicat Crabbe
Welcome to Washington
International Club

Jenny had a global career as a portfolio manager on Wall Street pioneering various investment strategies. Her passions redirected her towards non-profits focused on the arts, education, and the international community. She has launched non-profits for the University of Warwick in the UK (her alma mater) and a contemporary ballet company in Washington DC, where she is based. She has served on executive committees and Boards of arts and education organizations in California, developing innovative programs. She is deeply involved in the international community. She was President of Welcome to Washington International Club until this past summer, and continues to serve on its Board. She is also on the executive committee and Board of Welcome Clubs International. Jenny is honored to be sharing her passion of empowering women around the world in this CSW67 Parallel Event.

Using Virtual Programming to Promote Girls' Education



Najwa Chelala Tarazi
Vision of International Awareness
Lebanon

Najwa is an American-Lebanese lawyer with a primary interest in the social promotion of Lebanese women at all levels. For more than 20 years, Najwa taught law at Sagesse University in Beirut and was involved in creating community service programs that encouraged student volunteers to practice law in the poor areas of Beirut and in prisons, helping undocumented women with their paperwork and representing victims at judicial proceedings. Najwa is currently President of the Abdallah Chelala Foundation, which promotes girls' education in rural Lebanon by providing scholarships and implementing school programs in entrepreneurship and civic ethics. A lifelong learner, Najwa is working on a thesis about Phoenician women, demonstrating how their status had an impact on all women in the Mediterranean region more than 2,000 years ago. As the legal advisor for VIA, she is honored to be working with WCI to promote its values of friendship, understanding, and education for a more peaceful world.

Empowering Women Through Higher Education



Gloria Lafont
Broward International Women's Club
Florida

Born in Venezuela to European parents, **Gloria** is a mother, grandmother, and business owner. She is the founder of Action Marketing, a digital marketing agency based in South Florida, serving clients in the business-to-business space in the US. Gloria is an enthusiastic supporter of education, arts, and cultural organizations, volunteering her time and donating marketing support over the years to help various organizations grow in membership and revenue. Throughout her business career, Gloria has been drawn to opportunities that support women's empowerment and education. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Broward International Women's Club, holding the positions of Public Relations Chair, President, and Advisor. She has also spearheaded several successful initiatives for the organization; most recently, she led its transition to digital platforms, including a professional website and the adoption of email marketing and social media.

The Digital Reach of FIWAL Beyond London



Zehan Albakri
The Federation of International
Women's Association in London

Zehan was born and raised in Malaysia. She studied architecture at University College London and the Architectural Association. She has worked in architecture, design, and property in London and Kuala Lumpur. Through her conservation efforts in Kuala Lumpur, she was invited to launch The Friends of the Heritage of Malaysia Trust. In London, she has been involved in various arts and cultural projects, including The Shamiana Tent at the V&A (2001), The Spirit of Wood exhibition at the Brunei Gallery (2004), and Connecting Cultures at Asia House (2007). She served on the Executive Committee of the British Malaysia Society, where she curated The Royal Weaves exhibition (2011) with The Prince's School of Traditional Arts. Zehan is a founding member and currently Projects Trustee of the Pan Asian Women's Association (PAWA), a UK charity supporting teenage girls' education in Asia. Recently, Zehan became President of the Federation of International Women's Associations in London (FIWAL).