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 has been almost a year since I assumed the office of Welcome Clubs International President on July 1, 2023. Together, we have made significant progress in advancing many WCI initiatives.

In addition to all the Executive Committee, WCI Board, and UN Council meetings held virtually from time to time, the hardcopy WCI Membership Directory 2023-2024 was issued last July, and the 2024-2025 electronic version will be available soon. The Sister Club News is also being prepared for distribution.

The WCI CSW68 Joint Parallel Event was held successfully with around 130 online viewers from all over the world last March. Special thanks to WCI UN Council Director Maria Fernanda Arduino for her outstanding leadership and contributions in organizing and presiding over the WCI CSW 67and 68 parallel events. She drafted and submitted the four-year report of WCI to UN ECOSOC for reviewing WCI's special consultative status last month, just before transitioning the UN Council Director role to Sunny Shin. I appreciate Sunny for her willingness to take on this significant responsibility.

After eight months of preparation amid unforeseen difficulties and challenges, our excellent team from the Welcome to Taipei International Club successfully completed the 16th WCI Biennial Conference in Taipei from April 14-20, including a three-day post-conference trip. The event fostered international friendship through mutual understanding and education. Thanks to all participants from WCI sister clubs, including the newest one from Guam, for your support and enthusiasm.

As roses bloom, butterflies will arrive. Hopefully, more IWCs will join, and more Welcome Clubs will be formed in the near future.

Cheers,
Vivienne Shen
Welcome Clubs International President

WCI NEWS

WCI congratulates WCI Founder's Representative Faye Wickersham who was awarded status Emerita by Welcome to Washington International Club.

Faye has been involved with WCI since 1990 and has previously served as President of WCI, Welcome to London, and Welcome to Washington.

Congratulations to WCI's founding member club - Welcome to Washington International Club, which celebrated its 65th anniversary this year at their Annual General Meeting Luncheon on May 21st.

Congratulations as well to Welcome to Colorado International Club which celebrated its 45th anniversary in 2023 and to the International Women's Club of Philadelphia which will be celebrating its 35th anniversary this year!

WCI extends its deep and heart-felt gratitude and congratulations to WCI President Vivienne Shen, for leading and organizing a hugely successful conference! See the Conference and Post-Conference highlights on pages 3-10.

WCI also expresses its huge thanks and congratulations to the conference host club, Welcome to Taipei Int'l Club (WTIC), the WTIC President Joan Fuh, and to the awesome Conference Committee team and volunteers who helped make the conference such an enjoyable, well-planned, and educational experience for all Sister Club members and guests!

You truly bridged international friendship and empowered women globally.

Congratulations

As of April 19, 2024, WCI is exempt from federal income tax per IRC section **501(c)(3)**. Donors in the United States can now deduct contributions made to WCI.

The 2026 WCI 17th Biennial Conference will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia and hosted by Women's International Club Jakarta.

WIC Jakarta was scheduled to host the 2020 Conference and planning had already begun when the conference had to be canceled due to the global pandemic.

WCI thanks WIC Jakarta for once again offering to host the international conference!

See the Conference Invitation on page 52 and scan the QR code for a glimpse of 'Wonderful Indonesia.'

EDITOR'S ZONE



LEA HESSE
Editor | Designer

Dear Ladies,

Welcome to the 2024 edition of the Sister Club News! WCI had an amazing year culminating with the 16th Biennial Conference in April. Read the Conference and Post-Conference highlights in the subsequent pages. Don't miss the enlightening WCI UN Council Report and the inspiring "In the Spotlight" article about former WCI EC member Haifa Al-Kaylani.

Many thanks to the Sister Clubs for your submissions! I hope you enjoy reading the Club highlights as much as I did putting them together.

We wish you a fun and healthy summer (or winter) wherever you may be!

In WCI friendship,
Lea

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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.

2024 CONFERENCE REPORT

by
VIVIENNE SHEN
WCI President

The 16th Welcome Clubs International (WCI) Conference, held from April 14-18, 2024, concluded successfully. Around 110 members from WCI sister clubs worldwide, including the host club, Welcome to Taipei International Club (WTIC), attended the event.



DAY 1: APRIL 14 - REGISTRATION AND OPENING BANQUET

Attendees were treated to a Chinese Calligraphy Brush Demonstration by Calligraphy Artist & WTIC member Melody Yang and a Tea Tasting Ceremony during the Registration hours.


Melody Yang



Picking up WCI conference materials at registration

L-R: WCI Co-Secretary Jessica Liu Chia, WCI President Vivienne Shen, WCI VP Winnifred McPherson, Founder's Representative Eshrat Demougeot, WTW President Lea Hesse, IWCPOA member Mara Rubia, WCI Conference Chair & Secretary Jye Lee, & WCI Webmaster Teresa Zhang

More than 120 guests from various women's organizations in Taiwan joined the Opening Banquet. It was a great honor to have Vice President Bi-khim Hsiao and Taipei City Mayor Wan-an Chiang present to greet the attendees and witness the presentation of the WCI Marian Adair Award to Madam Julie Chien, the Founder of WTIC.



L-R: WCI President Shen, Taiwan VP Hsiao, Madam Chien, WCI Founder's Representative Demougeot, WTIC President Fuh, and Taipei City Mayor Chiang



Madam Julie Chien,
WTIC Founder and Recipient of
the Marian Adair Award



VIPs, Diplomats, Sister Club Members and Guests were entertained by Pianist Yi-Chih Lu, Mu-Yue with Zonta Taoyuan's Saxophone Group, & the Chainmaker Ensemble with Yu-Sen Chu



WCI President Shen with Mu-Yue & Zonta Taoyuan's Saxophone group



Yu-Sen Chu & the Chainmaker Ensemble with Pianist Yi-Chih Lu



WCI President Vivienne Shen with WTIC volunteers



Dr. Jungsook Kim and Welcome to Korea delegates with President Shen and Melody Yang

DAY 2: APRIL 15 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND PLENARY MEETINGS

In the morning, the Executive Committee meeting was held followed by the Board meeting. Author Nancy Chen Baldwin was invited to be the guest speaker, sharing her unique and inspiring life experiences. In the afternoon, the plenary meeting started with a speech from the Director of Love Binti International about their dedication to improving the lives of women in Uganda. Each Sister Club's report was delivered by the designated member, providing an opportunity for mutual learning. At dinner, everyone greatly enjoyed Peking Duck.



Some members of the WCI Executive Committee and Board of Directors



Nancy Baldwin, Author & Guest Speaker with President Vivienne Shen

DAY 3: APRIL 16 - AROUND TAIPEI

A full-day city tour was arranged, including visits to Ching-kuo Chi-Hai Cultural Park (CCCP), the Grand Hotel, the National Palace Museum, and Taipei 101. The schedule was tight but colorful and interesting. The group sampled various dumplings at Din Tai Fung, the world-famous restaurant.



The group was warmly welcomed by the esteemed Dr. Fredrick Chien, Chairman of the CCCP Foundation. He is a distinguished politician and diplomat (retired) and husband of Madam Julie Chien, WTIC founder.



The group toured the Chiang Ching-kuo Presidential Library - Taiwan's first presidential library



Presentation of gifts to Dr. Chien by Calligrapher Melody Yang and WCI President Shen



We had a delicious lunch at the Grand Hotel!



At Taipei 101



At the National Palace Museum

DAY 4: APRIL 17 - WCI UN COUNCIL REPORT, ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION & FAREWELL PARTY

Welcome to Korea President Dr. Jungsook Kim presented a speech at the beginning of the round table discussion presided over by Sunny Shin. A beautiful PowerPoint presentation by WCI UN Council Director Maria Fernanda Arduino introduced CSW and WCI's special consultative status with UN ECOSOC. Eight questions were discussed at four tables, each table handling two questions. A representative from each table provided a short conclusion for their respective questions. A resolution regarding climate change was presented to reflect WCI's stance.

At the Farewell Party, WCI President Vivienne Shen called upon all the dedicated volunteers of this fabulous event to be recognized. See Mun Leong gave a wonderful presentation welcoming everyone to the next WCI conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 2026. Singing, dancing, and a costume show by the Sister Clubs created a joyful atmosphere. Together, we bridged international friendships, strengthened mutual understanding and enhanced the recognition of WCI.



The Conference Volunteers

L-R:
Eshrat Demougeot and Vivienne Shen

Thank you for a very successful conference President Shen!





L-R:
President Vivienne Shen, and WIC Jakarta Liaison Officer See Mun Leong

Passing of the banner to WIC Jakarta, the host of the 2026 WCI 17th International Conference



Attendees enjoyed a performance "The Eight Immortals Crossing the Sea" by the Contemporary Legend Theater



Farewell Party Group Photo

Performances by Sister Clubs

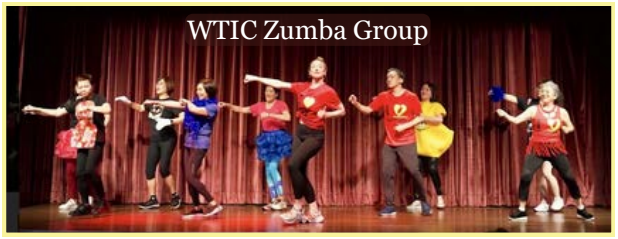



Welcome to Taipei International Club


Welcome to Korea International Club


IWC Porto Alegre, Brazil


Chinese Ladies Association of Guam


WTIC Zumba Group



'Parade of Nations'
by Welcome to Washington International Club
joined by President Shen, Dr. Kim and Ambassador's Wives

The Farewell Party ended with an invigorating performance by WTIC's Zumba Group, enthusiastically joined by the audience!

WCI
Welcome Clubs International
International Conference
2024

By Vivienne Shen
WCI President

POST-CONFERENCE TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

Our original plan for the 3-day, 2-night trip was to take everyone to see Taiwan's magnificent east coast and ride on Lion Travel's luxury FUTURE Express. However, due to safety concerns from the earthquake aftershocks, we decided to switch to the island's west side and lodge at the prestigious Lalu Sun Moon Lake Hotel. We also planned some interesting cultural and agricultural visits and activities.

Day 1

We took the High-Speed Rail to Taichung Wuri Station, and then hopped on Lion Travel's coach buses. Our first stop was the Taichung municipal historic mansion, "Ju-Kui-Ju", which was built during the Japanese occupation period and features a combination of Baroque and Chinese San-he-yuan styles. Later we dined at Yu Yue Lou Restaurant, one of the best Michelin-recommended restaurants in Taichung, offering Cantonese Cuisine.





In the afternoon, we visited the Wufeng Lin Family Mansion and Garden, the vast site is divided into two sections: the Upper and Lower Mansions. We were given a guided tour of the Lower Mansion, including the Hall and Courtyard of Gong-bao-di. From the mid-19th century, the Wufeng Lin Family possessed a large number of fields in central Taiwan. They further developed a militia numbering thousands of people after assisting the government in quelling regional civil rebellions and participating in the Sino-French War.

It was fascinating to observe the details – the wood carvings on the walls, the portraits of the door gods, and the paintings on the screens. Beauty was everywhere. The most breathtaking part was the Fuzhou-style theatrical stage across the Great Flower Hall in the middle of the courtyard. We were treated to delicious snacks and tea, along with a wonderful performance by a singer and pianist. We then headed to the Lalu Sun Moon Lake Hotel and enjoyed yet another sumptuous banquet dinner.





Day 2

Our morning started with a brisk walk around the hiking trail overlooking Sun Moon Lake, accompanied by a briefing on the history of the area. Later we headed to an ethnic restaurant for lunch, featuring aboriginal cuisine. The creative decorative designs of the dishes elicited many “oohs” and “ahhs”, and everyone took out their cellphones for a quick shot before the “art pieces” were taken away. We also had a multi-language birthday song celebration for Linda Walters.







In the afternoon, we had a hands-on lesson on how to knead tea leaves. The tea we made was packed in a tin can for us to take home as a souvenir.

We then visited HOHOCHA, Taiwan Sun Moon Lake Back Tea Factory. The 3-story, multi-purpose recreational tea factory was built in an elegant Japanese style, with a great ambience, excellent products, and good service. I guess no one left the factory empty-handed. They treated us to snacks, tea eggs, and black tea.



Taking a boat ride was a must. Sun Moon Lake is the largest body of water in Taiwan and is home to the Thao tribe. The Lake surrounds a tiny island called Lalu. The east side of the lake resembles a sun while the west side resembles a moon, hence the name. Our last dinner for the trip had a fancy name, “One Flavor, No Other.” The restaurant was constructed with eco-friendly building materials, and their dishes were prepared with less oil and salt.









Day 3

After breakfast, it was time to load our luggage onto the bus and bid farewell to the beautiful luxury hotel, Lalu. For today's program, our first stop was the Tao-mi Paper Dome - originally a temporary Japanese church constructed using 58 heavy-duty cardboard tubes. When the building became too small for use, after years of discussions, it was shipped and reconstructed in Tao-mi community in Puli as a symbol of friendship between Japan and Taiwan. It has since become a tourist attraction. It was nice to take photos with the artistic installations and beautiful lotus pond. We then had lunch at Jin Dou Restaurant, a popular local wedding banquet venue that specializes in using local agricultural produce.





In the afternoon, we first learned tips for making a good cup of pour-over coffee. Then, we traveled across a unique glutinous rice bridge and had a hands-on experience making popped rice cake - a very popular Taiwanese snack. If these packed activities weren't enough, we even had a quick stop at the National Taichung Theater for a farewell photo shoot before hopping on the High-Speed Rail back to Taipei.









Life is indeed full of surprises and miracles. We thank the top-notch Lion Travel for providing us with a brand-new program in just a few days' time.

We felt so thankful to the WCI members and friends who supported us and stayed with us along the way!

By Jessica Liu Chia
WCI Co-Secretary

WCI UN COUNCIL

by
Maria Fernanda Arduino
Director, WCI UN Council

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

WCI contributes with the United Nations Economic and Social Council with Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 5.



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

WCI puts into practice goals 4 and goals 5 through the work the Sister Clubs do in their communities. A few examples of this work are as follows:

- taking care of the elderly, and improving the quality of their life (Cyprus)
- providing scholarships to outstanding young women to access university programs (Florida)
- helping access the technological tools to overcome isolation, especially during the pandemic (Washington DC)
- improving sanitary and health conditions to those in need (Jakarta)
- building bridges between internationals and locals (Jerusalem)
- organizing conferences with speakers who expand the cultural and educational viewpoints (Seoul/ Naples)
- providing a venue for those who are working for others to share their story (Hamburg)
- fostering friendship and understanding among women from all over the world (California/London)
- contributing to social and cultural improvement (Porto Alegre/Colorado/Pennsylvania), among others.

The first year of having special consultative status, the WCI UN Council went through a learning stage, with the objective of informing the WCI Executive Committee and the WCI Board of Directors of what having special consultative status involved. The WCI UN Council Bylaws were created.

In March of 2022, the WCI Executive Committee, the WCI Board of Directors and WCI Membership had the possibility of attending the virtual events of the Commission of Status of Women (CSW) of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

In August 2022, WCI made its first contribution to ECOSOC through the submission of a written Concept Note. WCI replied to four questions with respect to a better relationship between NGOs and ECOSOC. This implied a great team effort.

In 2022 and in 2023, the WCI UN Council continued its learning period through taking sessions with experts on the UN and through research. The WCI UN Council members took turns presenting different UN topics at the WCI UN Council meetings.

In March of 2023, WCI sent its first six delegates to the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York. This involved the preparation of folders with the WCI Mission, the WCI Vision and the WCI History to give out to delegates from other international organizations. Once again, this was the result of a team effort.





In March of 2023, WCI presented its first virtual Parallel Event at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women 67.



The following countries were part of the audience at WCI's First Parallel Event: Indonesia, United States, Argentina, United Kingdom, Brazil, Australia, Botswana, Canada, Cyprus, Germany, Israel, Korea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, and United Arab Emirates. There were 119 attendees present at the virtual Parallel Event. The main objective of the WCI UN Council was fulfilled: Parallel Events should show the work of WCI Sister Clubs. The following regions were represented: Jakarta, Porto Alegre, Fort Lauderdale, Washington DC, Lebanon, and London.

In March of 2024, WCI presented its first Joint Virtual Parallel Event with Zonta International District 31. WCI was represented through the regions of Cyprus and Jakarta. There were 125 attendees, and international organizations, such as International Women's Peace Organization, Days for Girls, and UN women delegates. WCI was honoured to have shared this event with Zonta International District 31.







The WCI UN Council started working on the Quadrennial Report. This report should be handed in every four years to the Economic and Social Council. A few days prior to June 1st, 2024, the Quadrennial Report was submitted.

The WCI UN Council looks into a bright future. WCI will continue to contribute with the United Nations Economic and Social Council in new and innovative ways. However, WCI will always look for WCI Sister Clubs to contribute at events, both virtually and in New York. WCI Sister Clubs are the foundation of the organization and the very reason of its existence.

The WCI UN Council would like to partner with other international organizations. To this end, participation in UN events is important. WCI will continue to strive for WCI Executive Committee, WCI Board of Directors, and WCI membership to be represented in these events in a fair and democratic manner.

According to the WCI UN Council Bylaws, the time has come for new leadership. It is my honour and my pleasure to welcome Sunny Shin as the new Director of the WCI UN Council.

In Friendship,
Maria Fernanda Arduino, EdD

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Haifa Al-Kaylani



In recognition of her services to Women, Young People, and to Cultural Relations between the United Kingdom and the countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, Haifa Al Kaylani, Founder and President for the Arab International Women's Forum (AIWF) was appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in King Charles III's New Year 2024 Honours List.

Her Royal Highness Princess Anne awarded Haifa the honour at the investiture ceremony that took place at Windsor Castle on April 9, 2024.



Photo courtesy of AIWF

Welcome Clubs International heartily congratulates Haifa for receiving this most prestigious award. Haifa was a member of WCI's Executive Committee in 2000-2003 as Vice President during Past President Eshrat Demougeot's term. During WCI's 35th Anniversary virtual celebration in 2021, Haifa congratulated and reiterated her friendship with WCI. Below is an excerpt from her message.

> *"As a former WCI Executive Committee member, Vice President, and lifelong friend, I have always had the utmost respect and admiration for this exemplary organization which promotes friendship through understanding and understanding through education and friendship.*

continued below

WCI is to be commended for its valuable work over 35 years – as a nonprofit, apolitical organization, dedicated to promoting understanding, education, and friendship amongst women in their local communities as well as globally.

Indeed, my work with WCI and my appreciation of its vision to build a peaceful world through a global focus on women to enact real change, was inspirational.

In 2001, I launched the Arab International Women's Forum in London. I am proud to share that over the last two decades, AIWF has become an internationally-renowned advocacy platform for the inclusive growth, empowerment, and sustainability for women and youth in the MENA region and globally.

As we all look ahead to a future after COVID which greatly exasperated deep-rooted challenges for women in every corner of the planet, we hope and we pray that the years of recovery will herald a new era for women, one that is marked by inclusion, equality, fairness, and opportunity and where women can be empowered to play the rightful roles in all sectors. I am certain that both WCI and AIWF will continue their important work in this journey.

I reiterate my warmest congratulations to WCI - 35 years is an extraordinary achievement for any organization! I also look forward to continuing to support WCI in the future and to honoring its tireless work to advance and support women worldwide."

Haifa is greatly respected for her work to build bridges of business and opportunity between the UK, which became her home in the 1970s together with her late husband HE Ambassador Wajih Al Kaylani, and the Arab world, where she is recognized as one of the region's most prolific, accomplished, and inspirational women leaders in business, education and sustainability.

In a recent interview, Haifa said "It's very important that we try to foster peace. Without peace there cannot be growth, there cannot be prosperity, people cannot work, cannot build a better future for their families. And of course, women's empowerment also suffers. The most important thing we need to work on is working for peace."

WCI shares Haifa's passion to promote peace around the world. We wish her continued success in all her endeavors - her passion to help women and young people in the Arab world and globally, and making the world a better place for everyone through AIWF's work on the environment and sustainability.

Sources:
www.aiwfonline.com
www.nationalnews.com


SISTER
CLUB
NEWS
2023 - 2024
PROGRAM YEAR

ANGLO-GERMAN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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

AGIWA - Some Highlights in our Calendar





In February this year AGIWA members made a visit to the Hamburg headquarters of Hapag-Lloyd, a leading global liner shipping company. Who would have thought, seeing the building from the outside, that the interior held such a gem - the dome with its gallery reminds you of a church or cathedral.

And this is the Hapag-Lloyd canteen! What a wonderful setting! After the tour of the building we were given a very informative presentation on the history of the company since its foundation in 1847.

In the same month we also went on a tour of Hamburg Airport. The model show, held within the confines of Hamburg Airport, is a celebration of aviation in miniature form. Stepping into the model show is akin to embarking on a journey through aviation history and innovation. Visitors can witness thrilling aerobatic demonstrations by remote-controlled aircraft, feel the rush of excitement as model jets soar through the air with precision manoeuvres and follow the conversations between the tower and the cockpit. Really fascinating. After the show we all had to go through a security check in order to travel around the airport apron by bus which really made you realise how large the airport actually is.

For the past year or so, AGIWA members have been attending evening concerts offered by the Hamburg School of Music. These are exam concerts where the performers are students from the Music School. The concerts are always of an extremely high standard and very enjoyable. A very recent event was the Concert Exam of Nuron Mukumi, a German-Uzbek pianist born in 1996. Nuron has already been on a successful four country tour with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine in 2022 and this season he will be on tour again, performing Robert Schumann's Piano Concerto.

AGIWA has just held its Annual General Meeting at a Hamburg Rowing Club with stunning views of the Alster lake. It took place in a lively and committed atmosphere and the meeting was both informative and entertaining, thanks to our members' active participation and engagement. The high attendance not only underscored the importance of the matters discussed but also demonstrated our member's unwavering commitment to our organisation's mission and vision. After the official part was over, a superb Italian buffet lunch was provided for the members. There was a lot of laughter and interesting talk and so the time just flew by - a most enjoyable day!



Photos from the Annual General Meeting

by **Simone Krohn-Fröschle**
AGIWA Chairwoman

BROWARD INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

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

BROWARD INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB (FLORIDA) has enjoyed an outstanding year of events in order to support our goals to raise funds for scholarships to enable international students attending Nova Southeastern University (NSU) who are striving to finish their studies and become outstanding leaders in the world. As usual, we enjoyed several wonderful fundraising events.

Our Social Director, Nina Britton, arranged for a wonderful docent-led tour with lunch at the NSU Art Museum. The exhibition was dedicated to celebrating Art, Fashion and Fame, starting with Toulouse Lautrec and the Follies, Hooray for Hollywood, Fashion, Style, Glamour and more.







MEMBERSHIP MEETING - Our newest Scholarship Recipients attended the Club's Membership Meeting on September 2023. Members prepared a wonderful buffet with food from many different countries.





NIGHT OF ALL NATIONS - Caribbean Nights Chairperson Dinora McLellan & President Betty Amundson presented a check in the amount of $32,000 to Nova Southeastern University for scholarships for international students. After a cocktail hour, guests enjoyed a Caribbean-style dinner and danced to the music by Island Groove Entertainment and DJ Dance Beat.





HOLIDAY LUNCH - This was a wonderful and festive event with a Raffle, Vendors and a Fashion Show arranged by member, Monique Pepper.


Chairperson Janet Brady and guests


Fabulous raffle by Laurie Morse & Robin Shultz


Centerpieces by Rossana Spadafora

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - We celebrated the hard work achieved by Jacqueline Niehaus, Winnifred McPherson and Monique Pepper. Congratulations Ladies!







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)** is the newest WCI Member Club. It is a non-profit, non-political and a non-partisan organization. Its purpose and objectives are to:

- Promote Chinese culture & traditions
- Provide Chinese language education
- Strengthen communication among the Chinese community in Guam
- Care for women, children, and elders
- Implement annual contributions to the local non-profit groups
- Promote friendships with local and international women's organizations
- Support the best interest and welfare of the community

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2023-24 PROGRAM YEAR



The 2023 - 2025 Board was installed

Members attended the 24th Federation of Asia-Pacific Women's Association (FAWA) Convention held in Tokyo, Japan in September 2023.





The CLAG Dance Group performed at the International Women's Club's 50th anniversary gala in November 4, 2023.

Also in November 2023, CLAG hosted the Korean Cuisine Class. In addition to hands on cooking of Korean dishes, there were lucky draws and a performance by a Korean drum ensemble. The event was attended by many of the local clubs including the International Women's Club, the Guam Women's Association, the Palau Women's Association, the Philippine Women's Association, and the Guam Women's Club, among others.



At the Chinese New Year meeting in February 2024







Members attended the 16th WCI Biennial Conference held in Taipei, Taiwan in April 2024.


CLAG members with members from Welcome to Washington & WIC Jakarta





CLAG held its Annual Fundraising Event and celebrated its 29th year anniversary in May 4, 2024.







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

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB of HAMBURG

Founded in 1991
Hamburg, Germany
www.iwchh.com

Greetings from the International Women's Club Hamburg (IWC)! We are delighted to share some insights about our club, our dedicated board members, and our vibrant activities.

About Us

The International Women's Club Hamburg (IWC) was established in 1991 in Hamburg, Germany. Our primary aim is to foster social and cultural exchange among women of all nationalities, promoting mutual friendship and understanding. Our diverse community comprises over 200 members representing around 58 different nationalities.

Our club is steered by a group of seven dedicated voluntary members, each serving a two-year term. The new board for the period May 2024 - April 2026 is excited to lead our club with enthusiasm and vision, led by our dear President Vena Velarde Iversen.



Our Activities

At IWC Hamburg, we pride ourselves on offering a diverse array of activities that cater to the varied interests of our members. These include both outdoors and indoors activities such as:

- Excursions to scenic and historic places in and around Hamburg, guided museum visits, art exhibitions, historical walks, and Ladies' Night Out.
- International cooking classes, cultural events, neighborhood coffees, sport and language groups, reading and movie groups, board games groups, choir, and meditation group.
- Monthly Luncheons held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at different restaurants around the city, featuring guest speakers who share their expertise on various topics.

We believe in nurturing both the mental and physical well-being of our members through these engaging activities, ensuring there's something for everyone.

Greek Cultural Coffee





Neighborhood Coffee

Visit to the ARD TV Station

The ARD is the association of public broadcasters in the Federal Republic of Germany.



We warmly invite you to visit our website at https://www.iwchh.com to learn more about our club and activities. For any inquiries, feel free to reach out to us at . We look forward to fostering a strong bond with our sister club and sharing many enriching experiences together.

by **Andreína Parés Acosta**
WCI Liaison

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB ISRAEL

Founded in 1969
Israel
www.iwcisrael.club

The **International Women's Club Israel** was founded in 1969, when the wives of the then US Ambassador and the then Canadian Ambassador were visiting Israeli friends and happened to say that it would be extremely helpful for all arriving diplomats and expats if they could meet local ladies who could help them fit in to life in Israel. Thus the IWC Israel was formed, its stated aims being to promote friendship between local and international ladies, without bringing in politics or religion.

Today the IWC Israel has over 300 members, from 34 different countries, of which 110 are internationals. Events are generally held in members' homes, or in embassy residences. Approximately 17 events are held each month, and these include Health and Lifestyle, Knitting and Stitching, Book Club, Music, Art, Cinema and Theater, Gardening and Environment, Journey through Traditions in Israel, German Stammtisch, Insider Tel Aviv, Discover Israel, Culinary Delights, History and Bible, The Active Club, Hebrew Class, Bridge, Mahjong and Choir.



We also have a group, established after the pogrom of 7th October in Israel. This is when many of the mainly Thai and Chinese workers employed in the orchards of southern Israel were murdered or taken hostage. The remaining workers were repatriated to their homelands. This meant that acres of produce would rot unless volunteers came to harvest. Tsippi Ben Sheffer organized a group of ladies to go and work in the orchards. This they do every Thursday. Other organizations are doing the same, including the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra whose members go to the kibbutzim and farms close to the border with Gaza in order to pick fruit and vegetables.

During the first months of the war, members of the IWC invited members living in the neighbourhood to their homes to meet and create bonds of friendship and support during this most difficult time.



Of the many events we have had so far I would like to mention five, all in March. We visited "Remlik", a dairy revolution with no cows! This is a start-up company which produces real milk with no cows! Using microbial fermentation, milk proteins are produced to craft dairy proteins.

To celebrate International Women's Day, we were invited to sponsor a special concert at the Buchmann Mehta School of Music, Tel Aviv University. Curated by professor of cello, Kristina Reiko Cooper, the program featured music by women composers through the ages, beginning with Hildegard von Bingen, who composed music in the Tenth Century until today, and including foremost Israeli composer Betty Olivero, whose music is performed throughout the world.

Also, focusing on International Women's Day, we were invited to the Israeli Ministry of Affairs in Jerusalem to see an exhibition by Israeli artists to mark the events of 7th October. Following this, there was a discussion on the "elimination of violence against women, and the use of sexual abuse as a weapon of war."

"Journey Through Traditions in Israel" featured the Baha'i Faith. The current President of IWC Israel, Tracy Jones Freeman, who is from the World Headquarters of the Baha'i Faith in Haifa spoke about the tradition, history and culture of the Baha'i religion.



Arash Hashemi, CC BY-SA 2.5, via Wikimedia

The beautiful terraces of the Baha'i World Center in Haifa are among the marvels of modern landscape gardening in the world. The beauty and magnificence of the gardens are symbolic of the nature of the transformation which is destined to occur both within the hearts of the world's peoples and in the physical environment of the planet." The Baha'i Holy Places and Gardens in Akko and Haifa are the spiritual focal points for Baha'i pilgrims who travel to Israel from every part of the globe to visit and pray at these sacred spots.

The Baha'i Holy Places and Gardens in Akko and Haifa are the spiritual focal points for Baha'i pilgrims who travel to Israel from every part of the globe to visit and pray at these sacred spots.

These sites are a gift to humanity and are open to every single member of the human race. In July 2008 the Baha'i Gardens in Haifa and Akko were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in recognition of their "outstanding universal value" as holy places and places of pilgrimage for the followers of the Baha'i Faith.

The "World Culture" group featured "Now Ruz in Azerbaijian." Now Ruz is the New Year celebrated by many countries in the Middle East and including the Baha'i Faith. Now Ruz falls on the 21st of March and heralds new beginnings with the onset of spring. We were hosted by Mme Sevinj Mammadova, wife of the Ambassador of Azerbaijian, who gave us a taste and experience of this wonderful holiday.



by Mary-Clare Adam
WCI Liaison

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB of NEW ENGLAND

Founded in 1992
Maine
www.iwcne.net

FOSTERING FRIENDSHIPS, FUNDRAISING, AND FUN!

IWCNE is looking forward to another wonderful year of fun and camaraderie! This year, we were excited to inaugurate our new board consisting of some of our existing board members, new board members and our new board president, Lynn Pahland.



Lynn has been a member of IWCNE for 11 years and had served on the board in a prior year. She has an impressive and varied career that spans trauma and intensive care nursing. Lynn subsequently lived abroad for a number of years. She has also served as a Senior Healthcare Analyst at the Dept. of Defense which included executive oversight for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

We were proud to end 2023 with a fundraising yield of $15,000 which was donated to our four chosen charities. Our charities' missions include supporting the needs of older adults; promoting careers in the textile industry by teaching young adults and immigrants technical skills, and job preparation; and supporting educational campaigns that highlight domestic abuse.

We've increased our pot luck fundraisers making them more theme based in 2024. This year our president hosted a delicious brunch at her home on International Women's Day, and we had a St. Patrick's Day pot luck dinner with traditional Irish fare, music, songs and lots of laughs.



International Women's Day Brunch



St. Patrick's Day Potluck Dinner

We've just completed one of our biggest fundraisers, our annual Fashion Show, which had the most attendance in years! Clothes and hats were provided by stores owned by women. Attendees enjoyed a delicious luncheon, piano music, and watching their colleagues modeling the lovely fashions!



In April 2024, we had a wonderful birthday celebration for IWCNE's founder, Anna Kristina. Congratulations poured in from all corners of the globe!





IWCNE has planned a series of cultural events, and our luncheons this year will host guest speakers with accomplished backgrounds in international activities. Our monthly book club, French and German clubs continue to provide an opportunity for stimulating cultural and literary discussions.

Our membership this year has increased to 106 wonderful women dedicated to the growth of multicultural friendships and the support of charities that assist women and children.

by **Denise Gaffney**
WCI Liaison

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB of PHILADELPHIA

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

We are excited to share the latest updates and events from the **International Women's Club of Philadelphia** (IWCP). Our club fosters connections and cultural understanding among women from diverse backgrounds. We celebrate our rich heritage each month through cultural tours, festive luncheons, and special outings around historic Philadelphia.

In September, we opened our new program year with a lovely luncheon on Historic Washington Square in Philadelphia at Talula's Garden Restaurant. Many new members attended and were welcomed by president Monika Panger and event organizer Nathalie Verma.



Each month Nathalie, our Director of Programs, organizes cultural tours to Museums and Historic sites in and around Philadelphia. This past year we have visited an impressive number of them like the Frances Maguire Art Museum in the former Barnes Museum Mansion, The Rising Sun exhibit at PAFA-Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, The Wharton Esherick Museum (an ingenious little house totally built by hand near Valley Forge Nation Park), and the exciting Museum for Art in Wood in Old City Philadelphia. All were followed by lunch at a nearby café or bistro. This is a great way to spend time with friends!


Frances Maguire Art Museum


At PAFA's Rising Sun Exhibit


Wharton Esherick Museum

In this year's activities, our club aimed to emphasize our various cultures, first by organizing a lunch celebrating Diwali, cooked by our members from India. In February we celebrated the Year of the Dragon with a beautiful restaurant luncheon organized by the Chinese members, including an explanation of the significance of this yearly celebration.





Our annual Holiday Party at the St. David's Golf Club in Wayne, PA was very well attended and funds were raised through our member donated raffle prizes for our four charities.



We attended the dress rehearsal of the Philadelphia Ballet's splendid performance of Giselle in February and we visited the Strawberry Mansion and the historic Rittenhouse Village in the spring, the birthplace of David Rittenhouse, one of the leading 18th-century scientists. America's first paper mill was built here.







Additionally, our members gather monthly at language coffees and happy hours, both in the suburbs and Center City. These attract many of our younger members who can attend after work.







The year ended with a delightful business luncheon at Wilder in Center City Philadelphia, during which two new board members were elected and departing members were thanked with flowers and gift certificates.







We would like to welcome our Sister Club Members to Philadelphia. Please reach out to us when planning a visit to the city of Brotherly Love.

by Jacqueline Yates
WCI Liaison

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB PORTO ALEGRE

Founded in 1994
Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

In 2023, we had a very good year concerning our regular events. Once a month, we had our social reunions which normally took place at a member's home. The Knitting Group frequently met in the winter months (May to August). There are some very skillful members who knit beautiful shawls that are put up for sale. The money goes to some of the institutions we support. Once a year, we invite husbands to come along. At the last event, they've indicated to participate in at least 2 meetings a year!!! It feels very much a family!!!



A group of members gathered to greet Mayumi (in beige) during her visit to our city in 2023. We had very happy moments together.

Mayumi is a member of our WCI sister club Welcome to Taipei International Club.

Giving back and changing lives

Last year, the club collected items for Christmas for about a month. The gifts were donated to the children of ACASA where 58 children are enrolled in after-school activities such as homework, language classes, storytelling, etc.

We also provide them with meals, school supplies, and financial assistance. Several members have become the kids 'godmothers' filling certain needs their parents are not able to provide. The institution is in a very poor area and we know our support has made a huge difference in the life of those children.



Club President Maria Helena is loaded with bags full of Christmas gifts



Some of the children at ACASA

Environmental and Sustainability Actions

Besides ACASA, the club has two ongoing projects. Our members and friends have collected and donated thousands and thousands of bottle caps to an institution that provides day care for handicapped kids. The caps are sold to help fund the institution. The day care gives parents the opportunity to have jobs and not worry about their loved ones.

Another club project is the collection of blisters of medical drugs used in the preparation of wall panels in housing projects for underprivileged population. All in all, it is ultimately a two lane action: we do good to those people who benefit and also do good to the planet.



Collection of bottle caps



Collection of blister packs

Board meetings are held once a month to plan activities and to start preparing the newsletter members receive regularly, rain or shine.





After several months of hiatus during the summer months, we resumed our activities in March. However, after our first social gathering (photo at left), all activities have been postponed due to the huge climate disaster that happened in our state Rio Grande do Sul.

Torrential rains in April and May led to devastating flooding - the worst in our region's history - affecting 300 cities, killing over 200 people and displacing thousands from their homes who are still living in shelters. Our state is slowly recovering from the devastation, and we hope to be able to get together again in the near future.

by Isaura Riedl
WCI Liaison

WELCOME TO CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Founded in 2002
San Diego, California

Welcome to California's mission has been strictly friendship and sharing our cultural richness among our members through our different activities. Our small group continues to receive new members and the enthusiasm keeps growing. We now have a Dancing Group, a Book Club and a Walking Group.

Our Activities in 2023-2024

Maritime Silk Road Lecture by Lilly Cheng
•
Cooking and Chatting with Cheff Florencia
•
Cheers to the New Year
•
"The Hours" Art Exhibition by Julia San Roman
•
Membership Tea Drive
•
Lunch and Beach Walk

Arresting Beauty Private Tour
•
Salsa Lesson
•
"Aging Well" Lecture by Stania Rensberger
•
Earth Day Guided Garden Tour
•
Mardi Grass Celebration
•
Chinese New Year



"Cooking and Chatting with Cheff Florencia"
This was an amazing event where the dishes were meticulously prepared by none other than Cheff Florencia.





The Belle Epoque Tea Party was a complete success, where everyone dressed for the occasion wearing beautiful dresses and hats. One of our members, Mercedes Lindemann, offered her home. Her patio was beautifully decorated, each table had a unique flower arrangement and food was served in her beautiful China. We had a variety of dishes that members contributed to the occasion.

by **Elizabeth D. Long**
WCI Liaison

WELCOME TO COLORADO INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Founded in 1978
Denver, Colorado

The year 2023-24 has been very positive as we were finally out of the constraints of Covid and our members were eager to get together again in person. We developed a new website, easy to navigate, with gorgeous pictures and we have two members who keep it updated.

Welcome to Colorado celebrated its 45th Anniversary in 2023!



Photo from the 45th Anniversary Gala

We created a new monthly event "Just Coffee" which has gained momentum and is now well-attended. We have also started a twice-yearly "Happy Hour" when husbands and guests are invited. Both have turned out to be very popular with the membership and foster new friendships and private meetings.



Coffee Group



Christmas Happy Hour Group

We have added more events and more presentations touching on medicine, history, trips and facts of various countries; all very well attended.



Opera Group



Movie Group



Jewelry Making Group



Anne Cucchi's beautiful creation



International Cuisine Group enjoying Swedish Lunch



French Lunch Group

A new member has introduced a "Gardening with Friends" group where they also organize visits to interesting gardens around the city. Another member is planning a "Hobby and Crafts" event where new crafts are taught to a responsive audience. Our monthly games and hiking groups are popular and most members participate and have fun days.



Photo from 'Gardening with Friends' group's first event held on May 8. The presentation was done by Anna Jennett in her garden on how to start and keep a perennial garden in Colorado. It was a beautiful afternoon with friends learning together.



We welcomed our new WTC Board on May 1st!

With so many eclectic new members our next year 2024-25 promises to be even more interesting, inviting an expansion of membership!

by **Kathy Meyer**
WTC President

WELCOME TO FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL CLUB

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

Hello WCI Sister Club Friends,

I am delighted to share some information about our club with all of you. Welcome to Florida has about two hundred members from countries all over the world. Some of us live in Naples all year round and many just spend part of the year here.

To fulfill the motto of our organization, ”Friendship though Understanding and Understanding through Friendship” the continuous communication among us is a must, and newsletters, flash or rush news are sent to the members frequently. My way of setting the “tone” of our communications, is by starting each one with an inspiring proverb, like the ones below:

“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.” JANE GOODALL

"It all comes to this: The simplest way to be happy is to do good."
HELEN KELLER

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”
AESOP

"Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more but those giving more."
H. JACKSON BROWN JR.

“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more.”
MELODY BEATTIE

As a way to learn more about each other, I started a section in our newsletters called:
WHO WE ARE, OUR STORIES, OUR HISTORY… and at the start of the season, I asked the members: Since we want to learn more about you and get to know you better!, send me some paragraphs about you, whatever you would like us to know… and the response was most revealing, candid and friendly allowing us to get to know much more about our member friends. Each monthly newsletter brought the photograph and story of members to the delight of all of us.

LET’S GO ON A TRIP TOGETHER… took us on a magic carpet to amazing places in the world. The interest group that started when Covid did not allow us to get together in person, continued exploring the world on Zoom during the season, allowing members from sister clubs to join us and participate also as tour guides. We visited:

- the National Parks of the United States by Joanna A. Owen, a Welcome to Washington member
- Austria and the Sound of Music - directly from Vienna by Frances Pordes, a Welcome to Colorado member
- Bulgaria - by Sophie Classen, Welcome to Florida member
- Northern Lights, the Aurora Borealis - by Jenny Crabbe, Past President of Welcome to Washington
- Australia & New Zealand: A Thousand Miles Apart, A World of Difference by Jim Sernovitz

MONTHLY LUNCHEON PROGRAMS - We continued to invite dynamic speakers at our monthly luncheons such as:

- Henry Dallal, London-based photographer for the royal family for the January 2024 program;
- Judy Belmont, author of The Transformative Power of Creativity in February;
- Dr. Arthur S. Levine, author of Normal and Abnormal Aging Brains: Women and Men are Different! in March
- Director and Chief Curator Courtney McNeil, for a talk about the Baker Museum in April 2024

For our first luncheon get-together in November 2023, we showcased the leaders of our Interest Groups for the members to meet.

At our December 2023 Luncheon and Holiday Celebration, we enjoyed performances by Milana Strezeva, President and Artistic Director of the Grand Piano Series and Welcome to Florida Club member since 2019. She was joined by her mother, soprano Svetlana Strezeva.

NEW MEMBER TEA - The club welcomed 21 new members this program year.

All new members, together with their sponsors and committee members enjoyed a delightful welcoming New Member Tea celebration with the musical performance of Bella Gutshtein and Boris Sandler, members of Camerata of Naples chamber orchestra.



EVENTS ORGANIZED BY OUR INTEREST GROUPS

Afternoon Art
Afternoon at the Movies
Book Club
Cheers to Years
Coffee and Conversation
Countries, Customs and Cultures
Early International Dining
Fashion and Beauty in Naples
French Atelier Conversation
German Kaffeeklatsch Conversation
Grand Piano Series
India
Knit & Stitch
Ladies Night Out
Les Gourmettes
Mah-Jongg
Naples Philharmonic Orchestra, Masterwork Concerts
Phyl at the Baker and Art Appreciation
Spanish Tertulia conversation
Summer Luncheons
The Salon
Visits to the Revs Car Museum, the Florida Gulf Coast University and the Harmon Meek Gallery

"A beloved community is formed not by eradicating differences but by its affirmation, by each of us claiming the identities and cultural legacies that shape who we are and how we live in the world."
BELL HOOKS

I am looking forward to learn about our sister clubs and sharing it with our membership, the best wishes to all of you for a peaceful and healthy summer!

by **Luba Laufer Rotsztain**
WFLIC President

WELCOME TO KOREA INTERNATIONAL CLUB

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

Walking a Trail 'Hanyang - The Old Capital of Joseon Dynasty'



On July 5th, 2023 members got together and went on a tour to the Jangchungdan altar and Soopyokyo bridge. Prof. Kyungja Oh gave an introductory speech about the history of the Jangchungdan altar and the Soopyokyo Bridge.

On March 8th, 2024, Prof. Kyungja Oh led the tour to Hanyang Dosung on the 6th of March from 2-3:30 pm. The focus was on following the traces of Declaration for the Independence of Korea held on March 1st, 1919. (Korea was a Japanese colony from 1910 to 1945). Five members walked through the areas like Cheondogyo Central Building and BosungSa. Major printing of the declaration was said to be done in these two places.

On April 5th 2024, nine people got together near Jonggak station and started the tour to Hanynag Dosung. This time the focus was on the Education of Josun Dynasty. Prof. Oh gave us the intro on Josun Dynasty's focus on integrity. We walked on and passed by the places like old prison, Hyejung Gyo which was used to punish criminals, and the discussion plaza which was exceptionally shocking considering the convention of that period.

Special Lecture on 'Digital Revolution and Women's Economic Empowerment'



WKIC invited a specialist and held a special lecture during a luncheon at the Seoul Club on June 21st, 2023. The subject was 'Digital revolution and women's economic empowerment', which has lately been a matter of considerable public attention. UNCSW67's theme was also 'Digital technology and education for women and girls' empowerment.'

President Jungsook Kim summarized the global trend regarding the digital revolution and gender disparity, which was the major issue at CSW in New York. Dr. Jongsook Kim, the senior researcher of KWDI, introduced certain technological changes, women's participation, and differences between male and female access in society. While the demand for business personnel, professionals, and within the service industry increases along with digital advancement, the counterpart for sales and simple mechanical jobs seems to decrease. She mentioned that high official women only held 17% of positions in STEM fields, and emphasized the need to change this ratio.

Attending FAWA Convention in Tokyo, Japan



WKIC members attended the 24th Federation of Asian-Pacific Women's Association Convention, which was held from Sept. 15th to 18th in the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center in Tokyo, Japan. Delegates from other countries, including Singapore, Taiwan, The Philippines, Malaysia, and Guam also attended the convention. The focus was on changes in the Asia Pacific Region under the overall theme "Women as the Key Force".

President of WKIC, Dr. Jungsook Kim made a congratulatory speech during the Opening Ceremony, followed by a keynote speech from Ms. Mariko Bando, the President of Showa Women's University.

Princess Nobuko from the Japanese Royal family also came and made a speech. Sunny Shin, the Secretary General of WKIC was re-elected as one of 5 Members at Large. During the Closing Ceremony, Korean delegates sang Arirang and some foreign Folk song medleys.

7th Anniversary Celebration with Special Lecture on Women's Empowerment



WKIC had its 7th anniversary Celebration with some guests and members on the 29th of November 2023 at the Press Center. All the Board members and a lot of guests including several well-known politicians and ambassadors residing in Korea joined the party and enjoyed the festivity. President Kim made a welcoming speech with appreciation for the constant support and gave a list of things WKIC had done this year.

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Kyungwha Kang gave a special lecture on the current circumstances and women's roles under that. She put an emphasis on the importance of opportunities that need to be provided to women and the organizations working for the empowerment of women. Followed by the Musical performance by Prof. Kyungjun Park (Baritone) and the violinist Yohan Jung.

General Assembly, 2024

WKIC had its 2024 General Assembly on the 6th of March at the Girl Scout Center. Twenty seven members attended the assembly and unanimously approved the report on Annual Activities and Budget for 2023 and 2024. Making activities like tours to Hanyang, the capital city of Josun Dynasty once a month event was proposed and approved. WKIC also decided to put more efforts on small activities.

Attending WCI 16th Biennial Conference in Taipei, Taiwan

Nine members of WKIC attended WCI Biennial Conference held in Taiwan from April 14th to 18th, 2024. Vice President-elect Bikhim Hsiao and Taipei City Mayor Way Wan-An Chiang made a congratulatory speech and the keynote speech on the first day of the conference.

The next day, ECM and Board meetings were held in the morning and a keynote speech followed. After that 18 club representatives gave a club report and Sunny Shin did it on behalf of WKIC. On April 16th, a fun city tour started from Ching-Kuo Chi-Hai Culture Park to the National Palace Museum to get people exposed to Taiwanese history. On the 17th, Dr. Jungsook Kim made a speech on gender equality and women's empowerment issues. After that, there was a UN Council presentation on ECOSOC and CSW68 by Sunny Shin in place of Director Maria Fernanda Arduino since she couldn't come to the conference due to a health issue. A round table discussion followed and four groups came up with their resolutions.



There was a farewell dinner with sister clubs' performance, and Korean team members dressed in Hanbok (Korean traditional costume) and got a lot of applause.

by Sunny Shin
WCI Liaison

WELCOME TO TAIPEI INTERNATIONAL CLUB

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

The year 2023 marked a significant return to normal for our club. Annual and Interest Group events unfolded seamlessly, a testament to the exemplary leadership provided by our Interest Group Chairpersons.


2024 General Assembly & Chinese New Year Luncheon


Indonesian Cooking Demonstration



2023 Christmas Luncheon


Vietnamese Cooking Demonstration


WTIC Excursion


Exploration Group Trip to the Tea Farm

Furthermore, it was also a year of individual triumphs, with notable recognitions bestowed upon our members. Immediate Past President Jeannie Tien was honored at the Belize Culture Month and International Women's Day event with an Outstanding Women Award for her exemplary contributions to society.


Jeannie Tien receiving award

Meanwhile, WTIC Past President Vivienne Shen's election by the WCI Board of Directors to serve as WCI President for the term 2023-2025 marked a proud moment for our club. Additionally, members Harsha Dass and Celina Hoyos showcased their artistic talents nurtured through Chinese Brush Painting classes, culminating in public exhibitions of their exquisite works.

Learning and implementing new digital tools have kept our club up-to-date, bringing joy and satisfaction. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our club members, including our board of directors and supervisors, for their strong support and encouragement. We are shaping a brighter future for our club, and we look forward to continuing this journey together, making our club even stronger and more vibrant in the days ahead.

The 2023-24 program year ended spectacularly for Welcome to Taipei International Club (WTIC) as we hosted the 2024 WCI 16th International Conference in Taipei, Taiwan in April 14-18. It was WTIC's second time to host the WCI Conference and once again brought together members of all affiliate clubs to share ideas as well as to discuss relevant issues and foster friendship with women from around the world. The 4-day conference in Taipei concluded with resounding success, highlighted by the opening ceremony featuring welcoming remarks from Taiwan Vice President Hsiao and Taipei City Mayor Chiang.

During the opening banquet, Madam Julie Chien, founder of WTIC, received the Marian Adair Award for her inspirational leadership. The reception dinner was filled with joy and captivating performances. The 16th Biennial Conference, including its board meeting, marked a significant return to in-person gatherings – a first since the COVID-19 pandemic.



VIPs, Diplomats, WCI Sister Club Members, and Guests at the Opening Banquet

L-R:
WTIC Founder Madam Julie Chien
Taiwan Vice President Bi-khim Hsiao
Taipei City Mayor Wan An Chiang
WCI President Vivienne Shen
WCI Founder's Rep. Eshrat Demougeot
WTIC President Joan Fuh
WKIC President Dr. Jungsook Kim

The conference program also included a keynote speech and a round table discussion addressed climate change impact. Conference attendees enjoyed day trips in Taipei combining culture and culinary tourism, deepening understanding of this free and friendly city.

The conference culminated in a memorable closing ceremony featuring traditional Chinese Opera and Sister Clubs' performances. The three day post-conference trip concluded the international conference on a celebratory note, leaving participants with happy memories and long-lasting friendships.



Madam Julie Chien receiving the Marian Adair Award with Taiwan VP Hsiao, WCI President Shen and WCI Founder's Representative Demougeot



L-R:
Jye Lee, Conference Chair & WCI Secretary
and Jessica Liu Chia, WCI Co-Secretary

As the local host club of the 16th Biennial WCI Conference, the Welcome to Taipei International Club extends our sincere gratitude to our dedicated members for their diligent efforts in planning and executing every detail of the program events. We thank all the attendees from sister clubs worldwide for their unwavering support and genuine friendship.

A special appreciation goes to WCI President Vivienne Shen for her exceptional leadership to organize and support this forum for international networking and exchange. Though the time to gather and exchange in Taipei has ended, we eagerly anticipate our reunion in Jakarta in 2026.



WTIC Volunteers



Vivienne Shen
WCI President and WTIC Past President



L-R:
Dr. Jungsook Kim,
President of Welcome to Korea, & Past President of the International Council of Women, with
Athenia Kuo,
Past President of WTIC



L-R:
Madam Julie Chien, WTIC Founder & Marian Adair Award Recipient, Melody Yang, Calligrapher & WTIC member, and Susan Wang, WTIC Past President



by **Olivia Jen**
WCI Liaison

WELCOME TO TURKISH CYPRUS CLUB

Founded in 2000
Mersin, Cyprus

Welcome to Turkish Cyprus Club continues to fulfill WCI founder Marian Adair's vision of friendship through understanding to create a better world and to empower women globally. In addition, the club continues to engage in activities that benefit not only our local communities but globally.

Here are some highlights from our 2023 - 2024 program year:



The club provided sponsorship to athlete Buse Savaskan.

Pictured is our former President Isin R. Cemil (at center) with athlete high jumper Buse Savaskan who became the champion at the Balkans Athletic Championship games.

We continue to hold fundraising events to provide funds for the various causes that our club supports. Our Executive Committee with founding President Isin R. Cemil are seen here fundraising for the children of the earthquake victims in Türkiye.



We contributed to the Orthopedic Disabled Society to purchase wheel chairs.



After last year's devastating earthquake in Turkey and surrounding areas, the club donated food, tents, garments, and school supplies. It also provided financial contribution towards the construction of a new school built in honor of Turkish Cypriot young sport champions who lost their lives at the earthquake.

In March 2024, club member and former Ombudsperson Emine Dizdarli participated in WCI's Parallel Event for the UN Commission on the Status of Women's 68th session.





by **Behiye Muftuzade**
WCI Liaison

WELCOME TO WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL CLUB

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

This year was marked by a period of growth and club activity. WTW finished the season with 510 members representing 80 countries! Nearly every day of the week had a program engaging various interest groups, informal activities or one-off pop-ups.



WTW's signature "Parade of Nations" reemerged in our Fall Tea, proudly sharing the beautiful garments native to the countries of our members.

The diversity of our activities reflect the breadth of our members' varying interests. Some events are fun and playful, such as Designing Women's "Queen of Hearts" program for Valentine's Day.





Others tackle complex ideas, such as "Understanding Artificial Intelligence", led by experts in the field.

Several Embassies in Washington DC hosted us this past year. We were most honored to be invited by Taiwan's Representative at Twin Oaks. That set the stage for the WCI Biennial in Taipei!



Those of us who made it to Taipei enjoyed meeting sister club members in person! Friendships were deepened.



We were also very proud to see our very own Eshrat Demougeot, Past President of WCI and Founder's Representative, be a grounding force at the WCI meetings.



We continue to share our virtual programs with sister clubs. On occasion, we have also been featured on WFLIC's "Let's Go on a Trip Together" programs!

We embraced a newly-formed interest group in WTW, which directly speaks to our mission of "friendship and understanding between women of all cultures." Cultural Expressions explores and celebrates members' cultures, as they personally share it.



WTW 65th Anniversary and Annual General Meeting



WTW celebrated 65 years of "friendship and understanding" between women of all cultures! It was a joyous event celebrating our club's history, with mementos such as our ceremonial flag quilt, sewn by club members in 1976 to commemorate the U.S. Bicentennial from 1776, and Past Presidents wearing the ceremonial peony. The peony is the symbol of our office, a tradition since Marian Adair first pinned a peony on the next President after oath-taking. We welcomed our incoming President Gail Landau (pictured in the middle) and the elected team serving from 2024-26.

Our combined 65th Anniversary Luncheon and Annual General Meeting showcased the talent and diversity within our international club. Tables of art, crafts, and poetry created by our talented members were shown around the room. Our Archivist, Past President Nancy Marshall, also showed many photo boards with Club events and history.









President Lea Hesse conferring Emeritus Award to Past President Nancy Marshall

Perhaps the most significant commemoration of our long history was awarding two incredible ladies who have continued to serve our mission so selflessly for many decades. Past President Nancy Marshall and Past President Faye Wickersham were both honored with Emerita status. It is through women like them that new leaders and members are inspired to continue our efforts to cultivate friendship and understanding across women of every culture.



WTW and WCI Past President Faye Wickersham with her Emeritus Award

JENNY SICAT CRABBE
WCI LIAISON
PAST PRESIDENT, WTW

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL BORDER CLUB

Founded in 2005
Chula Vista, California

WIBC is growing by leaps and bounds. We have many nationalities represented. Members come from Iran, Mexico, Germany, Austria, Russia, Peru, Brazil, South Africa, Bolivia, Spain, and USA. We hold an event every month, something all our members enjoy.



Board Members
L-R:
Brigitte Menges, Event Coordinator
Mona Bezai Mahnaz, Treasurer
Marie-Luise Sczyrbowski, President



President Marie-Luise with Secretary Beverly Sturr



WIBC Founder Vilma Boettcher, at right

Every year in January we have a membership drive and renewal for our existing members. It is always at Mona's big beautiful home, along with a potluck lunch and lots of delicious desserts and wine.

Also in January we had a very special event to honor our founder Vilma Boettcher who came from Florida. It was a big event with a huge turnout. We had barbecue and a big spread of food and desserts. There was live entertainment and lots of acknowledgement from Vilma and many guests for the years we have flourished and grown.

In February, we were invited to a member's citrus orchard. Along with a sumptuous breakfast, we were able to pick as many fruits as we can handle and carry. There were tangerines, oranges, and grapefruit, all tree-ripened and much more delicious than anything you can buy.

One of our members has access to a clubhouse that we use for events. It is a big clubhouse with an ocean view and lots of space for activities. In March we had a flower arranging event where everybody was able to create a centerpiece of beautiful flowers. Mona is an expert in flower arrangements and brought everything we needed. It was amazing to see the talents we have in our club, and the floral pieces they created.

In April, we had another event at the clubhouse where we learned rock painting. Our president picked rocks at the beach, and brought paints and brushes. And you can hardly imagine how involved everybody got to paint lady bugs and mushrooms to take home to their garden.



L-R: Mona and Club President Marie-Luise



In May, one our members hosted a high tea party at her home. We all dressed up like ladies of the British High Society with fancy dresses and hats. What a festive event this was! We had cucumber sandwiches and all the goodies that go along with such an event.

In June, it is beach time in San Diego. We all gathered at the Mission Bay Beach for lunch and music. In July, we hosted a lunch at a very fancy restaurant with a view of the harbor and skyline of San Diego.



In August, we had a potluck lunch, this is a time when everybody brings their favorite dish - something special from their native countries. With so many different nationalities there is always a big spread of many different foods to enjoy.



In September it is Mona's birthday. She always invites everybody to her home. Mona is famous for baking cakes that are out of this world. Her mother-in-law from Germany taught her to bake.

In October it is Oktoberfest time. One of our members always has an Oom-Pa-Pa party. We had music and dancing and lots of beer and bratwurst. Many of our members wore dirndl dresses and the guys wore lederhosen. A real fun event.

Then comes November, the month of Halloween. We had a party where we dressed up in costumes and masks and tried to scare each other. Crazy but fun.

Our last party of the year is our Christmas party which is always held at our clubhouse. It was decorated in the most festive manner with a Christmas tree, a fireplace, many candles and of course lots of good food and drinks. People loved dancing to the live music entertainment.



by **Marie-Luise Sczyrbowski**
WIBC President

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB JAKARTA

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

Our joyous highlight! After 3 years of the pandemic, in 2023 we relaunched our WIC Annual Charity Bazaar at the Jakarta Convention Center (JCC). 15,000 enthusiasts visited the two days of our WIC Bazaar 2023. We were honored to have our First Lady, Mrs. Iriana Joko Widodo to grace our opening ceremony with the theme from the province of West Nusa Tenggara.



The province sponsored the bazaar with the regions' traditional textile, costume, and cultural heritage. We had forty embassy stores, two hundred business stores and twenty food stalls supporting our club's cause.

During this event, we raised USD 350,000 which supports our club and giving to vulnerable our children, youths, and elderly.

I would like to express a big thank you to our WIC members who contributed to our White Elephant stall raising USD 8,000.



Ways & Means Team

The **WIC Ways and Means** team worked their upmost to raise funds especially during the annual bazaar. All proceeds go to support our club in giving and impacting our communities and institutions we support in WIC Social Welfare, WIC Scholarship and Bazaar Proceeds Committee (BPC).

WIC Social Welfare section gives monthly support of basic staples and school supplies to 8 to 10 institutions: orphanages, elderly care homes and school for special needs. The Social Welfare committee organizes special annual events for Children Day, Seniors Day and Caretakers Training. The social welfare committee volunteer to be foster aunts to each of the institutions.



Seniors' Day

The **Bazaar Proceed Committee** (BPC) uses the 40% contribution from embassy proceeds for one-off project support for the needy in Jakarta. This year, BPC supported ten projects, totaling to USD 24,600.

WIC Scholarship programs support twenty-seven deserving university students recommended by their universities with monthly stipends. We have one time research grant, two field trips per year and two workshops/ trainings per year. The student families' income are below minimum wages of USD 320 per month.



For members, we have **WIC Circle and WIC Entertainment** activities. In our circle activities, we provide language studies, handicrafts, cultural heritage visits, batik studies and field trips, and Happy Hour for our members. New this year, we have cooking classes, dance classes and morning coffee hosted by spouse of head of missions (SHOM) at their embassy residence.


Batik Studies


Traditional Bamboo Music


Yoga Day


Uzbekistan Trip

Last year in October, through our entertainment section, we traveled to Uzbekistan with 33 WIC ladies and friends. Madam Gulya, spouse of the Uzbekistan Minister of Transportation graciously hosted us. We had a fabulous cultural learning time.

In April 2024, we have a change of WIC Executive Committee members. Thank you to WIC Executive Committee 2022-2024 led by Nina Handoko and Fay Kadaroesman Adhiwiyogo. We welcome Nazneen Khubchandani as the new WIC President and Mary Anne Widjaja as the Vice President and the new Executive Committee members for April 2024 - March 2026.


2022 - 2024
Executive Committee


2024 - 2026
Executive Committee

This year in April, Nina Handoko and See Mun Leong-Suparno participated in the **WCI 16th Biennial International Conference in Taipei, Taiwan**. It is a delight to meet up all the sisters' clubs face to face. We take a true "Friendship through Understanding" ethos back with us.



L-R:
See Mun Leong-Suparno and Nina Handoko at the Conference Board Meeting



WCI President Shen and See Mun Leong-Suparno

It is an honor for WIC Jakarta to have the privilege of hosting the next WCI conference. During the WCI flag handover to WIC Jakarta as the next host for the WCI 17th Biennial International Conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, there is a sense of pride, joy and duty that fills our hearts.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Indonesia in 2026! See the Conference Invitation on the next page.

by **Nina Handoko, WICJ Past President**
See Mun Leong-Suparno, Past WCI Liaison



WCI's 17th BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2026

Women's International Club Jakarta is excited to host the conference and looking forward to welcoming sister club members and guests to

Wonderful Indonesia







Pre & Post Conference Trip Options

Bandung, West Java	Central Java	Bali

SCAN THE QR CODE AND GET A GLIMPSE OF OUR WONDERFUL INDONESIA. YOU WILL SEE OUR COSMOPOLITAN JAKARTA AND OUR CLUB, WIC JAKARTA, IN ACTION.

CONFERENCE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

LOOKING FORWARD TO WELCOME YOU ALL

WCI
WELCOME CLUBS INTERNATIONAL
www.wciclubs.org

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

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Winnifred McPherson

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Nancy Carpenter

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AFFILIATE MEMBER CLUBS

Anglo-German International Women's Association
-
Broward International Women's Club
-
Chinese Ladies Association of Guam
-
International Women's Club of Hamburg
-
International Women's Club Israel
-
International Women's Club of New England
-
International Women's Club of Philadelphia
-
International Women's Club Porto Alegre
-
Welcome to California International Club
-
Welcome to Colorado International Club
-
Welcome to Florida International Club
-
Welcome to Korea International Club
-
Welcome to Taipei International Club
-
Welcome to Turkish Cyprus Club
-
Welcome to Washington International Club
-
Women's International Border Club
-
Women's International Club Jakarta

ASSOCIATE MEMBER ORGANIZATION

Federation of International Women's Club of London

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 UN ECOSOC. Contributions will also go toward publications and website maintenance.

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.