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Worldwide Link

Welcome Clubs International, Inc.

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Int'l Women's Club of Philadelphia

Editor
Susan McCreary,

Publisher
Lise Horn McCartney,

From our Chairman



The theme of the 2002 Conference in Taipei was We Care . Indeed, our sisters in Taipei cared, they cared about our creature comforts, they cared about those who needed special attention and they cared that we learn and experience every facet of their culture and the scenic beauty of their country. We have all returned home with wonderful memories and beautiful friendships. Thank you to Jacqueline Chiou and each and every member of her team who helped make this conference a huge success.

At the Council meeting proposals were made by Council members with respect to, the future direction of WCI, methods of dealing with leadership transitions and ensuring that sister clubs comply with WCI requirements, (principally that the membership is equally divided between internationals and locals). We will discuss and review all the above and more at our September WCI Exec. Comm. meeting and our conclusions will be provided to the Council in the Minutes of the Meeting. WCI Proposals for Affiliation with a Worldwide Women s Organisation and to establish Circle of Hope were rejected. A donation of $5000.00 was made by WCI to help Hearing-Impaired Children at the National Women s League, on behalf of all participants. Primarily this money came from a portion of the Conference Registration Fee and a portion was donated by Welcome to Taipei.

I would like to announce that Faye Fang has accepted to serve on the WCI Executive Committee as Vice-Chair-Far East. She will be a great addition to our Committee and we look forward to working with her.

The principle of Friendship and Understanding was further strengthened at the Conference. Our sisters in Taipei gave a new meaning to the word friendship .

Our Charter Club, Welcome to Washington, will hold the next Biennial Conference in May 2004 in Washington D.C.

God willing we will see you in Washington in 2004.



The WCI Executive Board at the February meeting in Bonita Springs, Florida. *From left to right: Stella Schumann, Fran Luessenhop, Nancy Marshall, Eshrat Demougeot, Marian Adair, Susan McCreary, Donna Suddeth, Jocelyn Jones, and Lois Fisher.*

In friendship
Eshrat Demougeot

New WCI Vice Chair for the Far East

Faye Fang is the new Vice Chair of the Far East. She was President of Welcome to Taipei from 1991-1993. Her husband was the Foreign Minister of Taiwan and they have lived in Vancouver as well as Taipei.

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A Memorable Conference

By Jacqueline Chiou - Conference Chair

Great! We were ready to welcome dear friends coming from all over the world for the conference. From the airport to the lobby of the Grand Hotel, all our sisters were able to mingle and had a lot of fun. Although some had to go through the usually unpleasant "lost and found" luggage experience, our sisters got along well whether they knew each other before or not. Right from the beginning, all seemed to have a good time and became good friends.

During the conference sessions, all our participants were very active and the topics of the roundtable meetings were practical as well. The speakers were humorous, especially when they introduced their own customs, and everyone laughed a lot. When we visited the Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation and the National Dong Hwa University, everyone listened to the introduction of the respective organizations and asked questions with a caring heart. The director of the Tzu Chi Foundation told me "you are the best guests that we have ever received."

Everyone appreciated the scenic beauty during the trip and was amazed at the splendor of the Tarako Gorge and the Nine-twist Tunnel. At the farewell dinner, we were treated to the best performance of all groups. You were truly the most lovely, most energetic and best WCI members. Our sisters in Taipei were delighted to know you and to have had the opportunity to spend this most memorable week with you and become your true friends.



MEMBERS GREET THE VICE PRESIDENT OF TAIWAN.
From left to right: -Julie Chien, Eshrat Demougeot, the Vice President and Keynote Speaker and Jacqueline Chiou.

High Life in Oriental Splendor

By Stella Schumann - IWC Hamburg

What a splendid conference we had! It was high life in every sense of the word - from the palatial Grand Hotel, the delightful entertainment, to the exotic oriental buffets. That was the setting provided to develop bonds of friendship with our international delegates. This well organized conference was packed with opportunities to share information about individual clubs and to learn from one another. Many of us met as strangers and departed as friends.

WCI Plenary Session - Round Table Discussions

This session, which was open to all participants, took place in groups of ten. A summing up was presented afterwards by the recorder at each table. Some of the subjects covered were:

Men as Associate Members?

Most members said ``No``. The men have different interests and would prefer a separate club. There are already several International Men`s Clubs in existence.. They have activities such as fishing, hiking, and sailing, dinner meetings instead of luncheons, and guest speakers to talk about business, management or finance. Marian Adair, founder of WCI, also founded an International Men s Club in Florida. In conclusion, the ladies would like to have men as guests at dinner and cocktail parties, but not as members.

What do you as members look for in a WCI Conference?

Members looked for direct inter-club link and meeting people world wide, opportunities to exchange ideas, graciousness and different styles of hospitality. They appreciated having local members on tours with them to add more insight into their country.

How would you like to see WCI become more involved in world affairs?

Members were not interested in getting involved with political or religious issues. They preferred culture and friendship.

How do you think WCI can be promoted more locally and globally?

Members were cautious about promoting WCI in newspapers as it could attract into the club people who have wrong motives for joining. Promotion through international schools, consulates, embassies or through personal contacts would be favored.

Some Food for Thought on International Culture

A Greek member said In Greece, food is important when you have guests. If you don't eat, the hostess would be disappointed. When she says Eat , you are expected to eat all.

In Turkey, when they say Eat , you take a little. If the hostess repeats the request, then you take again. Important Chinese dinners are in the form of a 9-course banquet. A 7-course meal would be considered a feast for the underworld! When invited to dinner by the British, they would expect punctuality, while Indian punctuality could mean half an hour late!

Beware of some English remarks. When they say How very interesting! , they could be yawning. How very unfortunate! could mean that it s terrible. How very brave! - you did something daring?

We Care , the theme of this year s Conference, was clearly demonstrated from the beginning to the end. Welcome to Taipei International Club did a super job in hosting this wonderful Conference. It also provided an interesting insight into Taiwan, and it has certainly won the hearts of all the delegates who were there. The warm atmosphere and the bonds of friendship were obvious.

Hualien - Highlight of the Conference

By Julia Banks, Welcome to Colorado

From bustling Taipei, a short flight took us to Hualien. We toured Tarako National Park with park rangers as our guides. A winding road revealed the magnificent beauty of a gorge, with a flowing river sparkling in the sunlight. We walked a wood suspension bridge which swayed in the breeze and descended many flights of stairs to the seashore. The blue Pacific Ocean and the waves gently rolling on the beach were pleasing to the eye. We were awed by the beauty of the park; mother nature at its finest.

The unique Promise Land resort, under construction, opened early for us. We were greeted by a smiling staff eager to please, and driven to our rooms in golf carts. We rode gondolas through the Venice-like water canals, and toured the stables for riding horses. Our evening was a warm atmosphere of friendship encouraged by our hosts. Music and dancing by Aborigines and sing-a-longs by the group made for a wonderful evening.

We visited the National Tong Hwa University and a Buddhist Foundation. Hosts were on hand to explain the facilities. Our day ended with short stops to a winery and a marble factory.



ACCOLADES OF CONFERENCE GUESTS

T ruthfully speaking
A ll was exciting
I n every way
W onderful experiences
A ll-inspiring
N ever could have hoped for more!

So glad to be part of this wonderful group.

Phyllis Liebman

I was very impressed with the women of Taipei. We met not only the Welcome to Taipei members, but also the National League of Women and others from positions in government that were fabulous women. Besides being professional and having their careers as doctors, attorneys and the like, they play a very important role in their country's politics, community affairs and organizing deserving charities. Their demeanor is impeccable; they remind me of all that my mother tried to teach me about being a lady. They have a very youthful appearance and gorgeous skin. At the Farewell Dinner some of the Welcome to Taipei women performed the traditional Chinese Fan Dance. When they were announced, we were told that the ages of the dancers varied from 15 to 55 years of age. I was really looking for the different ages, thinking that they had some school students dancing with them, but I was unable to do it, they all looked quite young! At the end, the announcer said that the youngest in the group was 55!!! It was a wonderful experience for me and my husband, something we will never forget! Washington will have a tough job, but I am sure their conference will also be unforgettable!!!

Love, Maria Neighbors.

As a very new member of Welcome To Florida, attending the Taiwan Conference was an education - about our wonderful club and, of course, about Taiwan. What stands out the most in my mind was the warmth of all the members from other clubs and particularly our Taipei hosts. It was a blast!

MarjorieRubacky

My first visit to a Welcome Clubs International Conference was a wonderful experience. I was very impressed by the program the Taipei Club had prepared for us. It offered such a large variety. I enjoyed so much to meet all these friendly persons from different corners of the world and to share with them so many colourful moments. And as a vegetarian I have never before been so spoiled,the food was fantastic! I can only say that I am very grateful that I had the possibility to participate in this conference.

With best greetings from Hamburg
Christiane Säilä

It was a wonderful conference we had ! I felt warmful hospitality from Taipei members and shared friendship and different cultures from all sister clubs.
Thank you again.

Masako Nakajima

Thank you all for the great smiles. Enjoy the album. It was great fun.

Mary Clark

I had the misfortune of coming down with pneumonia during the conference. I was in the hospital Sunday through Thursday of the following week. My son had to come for me. I had an enlightening glimpse of the beauty of Taiwan, and of the talents and strengths of the Welcome Club members. I'll never forget the care, concern and generosity of the ladies of Taipei during my illness. FYI, I received flowers from the club, two necklaces made by the President of the Taipei Club. Several ladies visited me. Some spoke English and some not. I was never uneasy.

Regards, Noreen Shaw



Group photo courtesy of **The China Post**

Renewing friendships made at the WCI Conference in Turkey two years ago and the many former Welcome To Washington members, more then made up for the very long flight to Taipei. I arrived home with more weight than I had when I left, from the many gifts given and the interesting and wonderful food. I found the Taiwanese to be very generous.

Regards, Joan Larson

From the moment we walked into the elegant Grand Hotel, we felt the Taiwanese had anticipated our every wish They were their usual gracious selves. The conference meetings were well organized, presented and informative. The tours were great and gave us a good picture of Taiwan. as well as very inventive. Who could have imagined having two men on horseback lead us to our hotel in Hualin? Since I had been there on a previous Welcome to Washington trip, it gave me the opportunity to see some long time friends. The one to one home dinners were extremely popular. I felt very fortunate to have dinner in the home of my long time friend Julie Chien.

Win Howard

A very well organized conference with its achievements on goals as well as the very entertaining, not to forget educational, events. One important message for us all is that the important goal of friendship amongst people can be best achieved through understanding and help to one another.

Shahla Farhang
President , Welcome To Colorado

Our visit was made most memorable - magnificent hospitality-excellent planning.

Walter Ivancevic,
Husband of Welcome to Florida member

Eshrat,
I enjoyed being with you in Taipei. I was always proud of your presence and leadership. You spoke beautifully. The women of Taipei possess beautiful qualities; enduring patience, warmth, kindness and sensitivity to the needs of their guests. We returned with beautiful images of Taiwan and the quiet power of the women we have met.

Sandy Vinnik

The loving care and efforts of the Welcome Club of Taipei and the new friendships made at the conference in Taiwan will long be cherished, This is what our Welcome Clubs are all about.

Joan Chase

On behalf of all the delegates attending, may I express sincere appreciation for the superb WCI 2002 Conference. The responsibilities you and the officers of WCI willingly assumed to ensure the success of the conference are indeed great, and certainly recognized. You are to be commended. On a personal note, I thoroughly enjoyed the conference and appreciated the opportunity to attend the Council Meeting, which better prepared me to serve the Welcome to Colorado Club. My gratitude and personal thank you to you and the WCI Executive Committee.

Best wishes, Julia Banks

What an outstanding and very wonderful conference. It was so wonderful that I am still pinching myself to make sure that it was not a dream. We are all very proud of our own Eshrat. She was truly wonderful, what a lady! Also a special thank you to George for being there to support her. WCI and the rest of us in the USA have a tough act to follow for our conference in Washington in 2004. But we can do it.

Eva Kontos

ADVERTISING

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REVISITING OUR PAST

by Robert E. Nadeau

Ed.note - Robert Nadeau is the husband of Mary Lou Nadeau, Past-President of Welcome to Florida and founder of that club. He is also a member of the International Men's Club of Florida. This article honors the many husbands of WCI members who served so gallantly in that war.



June 6, 1944 found the allied forces of the United States, Great Britain and Canada proceeding with the invasion of the Normandy Coast of France. That first day, 175,000 allied soldiers and sailors under the command of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, landed on the beaches of Normandy. The skies were crowded with 11,000 aircraft and the seas were filled with nearly 5000 ships of all kinds from the smallest troop landing craft to the mighty battleships. As a young Navy Corpsman aboard LST 58, I found myself around 6AM (H hour) headed for Utah Beach with 30 Sherman Tanks and troops ready to be in the first wave of American soldiers on the beaches of France. Fortunately Utah Beach had been heavily shelled by the Naval ships even as we proceeded towards the beach, firing over landing craft. Even though we took considerable enemy fire in the landing that morning, it was far better than Omaha Beach that nearly became a total disaster. On Utah Beach after placing our troops and tanks ashore, LST 58 quickly converted to an evacuation ship, complete with a small operating room. History has recorded that over 35,000 killed and wounded were evacuated back to England that first day..

June 26, 2001 found myself back on Utah Beach along with my wife Mary Lou and the President of Hillsdale College in Michigan. While in France we toured Paris with a World War II guide. College Professors lectured at all five Normandy invasion beaches and we went on an afternoon walk on the famous beach at Dunkirk. To walk among the over 9280 crosses made one realize the great price paid by the Americans to liberate Europe. We also visited the German cemetery at La Cambe, France where some 24,000 young Germans lay buried.

We then went to London where we enjoyed a walking tour with Churchill's official biographer, Sir Martin Gilbert. We were privileged to have a tour of Parliament with lecturing guides in the Houses. We visited Churchill's home, Chartwell and then dined at Grosvenor House with former Prime Minister Lady Margaret Thatcher and Sir Denis. We had ten days of wonderful remembrances among the historic sites which were important to the liberation of Europe.



News From our Organizations

New President of Welcome To Colorado

Shahla Farhang was born in Tehran, Iran on Nov. 20, 1939. She has a BA degree in literature from Tehran University. She is fluent in Farsi, English and French.

She was married in 1959; lived mostly in Iran with the exception of three years in Holland and the United States in early '60s. During the Iranian Revolution in 1978 she left Iran and lived in Nice France until 1982 when she immigrated to the United States where she now lives with her husband and their three sons. She joined Welcome To Colorado in 1983 and she has been active ever since.

From the Berkshire International Club

Gudveig Baarli writes that the Book Club read and discussed Zadie Smith's "White Teeth". It was a highly complex novel about recent immigrant life in London. ...there were divergent opinions about the book, but everybody had something to say and experiences or emotional reactions to relate.

The International Women's Club of New England

The International Women's Club of New England presented checks totaling $6500 to two organizations. Caring Unlimited helped people either cope with or get out of situations where domestic violence was a factor. Sustainable Harvest International helps Central American farmers use their land in an environmentally friendly way with information about conserving their natural resources.

Anna Kristina Sawtelle, the founder and new President of the International Women's Club of New England has just been to Sweden where a road was named after her late father on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Note from the editor:

We encourage our members to send us news about their clubs so it can be shared with all. Please send your news or comments to:

Susan McCreary,

A Note of Thanks
to
Charles B. Mudd, Jr.
and his company
SiloSmashers

for the very generous financial gift to help defray our expenses for the 2004 WCI Conference to be held in Washington DC.