Worldwide Link

Welcome Clubs International, Inc. Magazine

Fall 2013





welcomeclubs.squarespace.com

Worldwide Link

Fall, 2013
Volume 7

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Reporter Rehab Ouri

Worldwide Link
is a publication of
Welcome Clubs International, Inc.

Cover Photograph

Hamburg, City Hall at Night
(Shutterstockstock)

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Letter from the President



Dear Sister Club Sisters and Friends,

Many times my mother, Marian W Adair, heard the words, "This club has changed my life!" She was thrilled. Now I am thrilled to hear the same words. What a difference some international friendships make in our view of the world.

In this LINK you will see women having wonderful experiences seeing the world through culturally changed hearts. You will read about their parties, programs and presentations. You will be engaged by the description of a Middle Eastern wedding. And, you will certainly enjoy the Christmas Around the World section.

You know that WCI invites you to an International Conference every two years. At the Conference you are able to renew long-standing friendships and expand your horizon with flourishing new friendships. In this issue of the LINK you are introduced to Hamburg our 2014 Conference city. The theme is: Hamburg: Gateway to a Peaceful World. Come. Join us in important meetings, enriching cultural events and trips to historic sites. Everyone will go home stimulated.

In this issue, we review the 2012 Conference held in Denver, Colorado, USA. Let your memories be refreshed by photos and stories. We again say Thank You to Welcome to Colorado for a 'Top of the Mountain' experience!

What does WCI do other than publish the LINK? WCI is the group of volunteer women:

- who communicate with each of the clubs,
- who share the news of each club with you, and
- who look for other like-minded clubs in the world who might like to be part of our organization.

WCI is the network through which all the clubs stay connected. We are a group of diverse women who want to share our diversity. We like being different! We say, "Different is not wrong, it is just different." We also say, "Let us enjoy our differences and appreciate them."

Mother saw difference as strength. She, with the other founders, started the small Welcome Clubs to foster friendship among all cultures. My father, Congressman E. Ross Adair, laughingly said, "Marian's groups of women have helped the men talk and negotiate better, too." He said, "It is easier to find common solutions with a friend."

Come. Join me in reading the LINK. Come. Join us at the Conference in Hamburg. Most importantly, enjoy your club. Put your energies into creating memories among your club women. See how many lives YOU can change.

Caroline Adair Dimmers
WCI, President

Gateway to a Peaceful World 13th

WCI International Conference Hamburg 2014

WCI Annual Board of Directors Meeting

All meetings at the Hamburg Marriott Hotel

Sunday, May 18
9:00 - 16:00 Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, May 19
9:00 - 13:00 Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, May 20
9:00 - 13:00 Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 21
9:00 - 10:30 Board of Directors Meeting

WCI Board of Directors consists of the Presidents and WCI Liaisons of each member club, plus the WCI President and members of the Executive Committee.

WCI Executive Committee Meetings

Tuesday, May 20
14:00 - 16:00 Executive Committee Meeting

WCI Executive Committee members only

For more information and registration forms, go to: www.wci-hamburg2014.com

WCI members of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee should plan on arriving in Hamburg on Saturday, May 17, 2014.



Gateway to a Peaceful World

13th Biennial
WCI International Conference
May 18th – 23rd, 2014 ✶ Hamburg, Germany

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Program is subject to slight changes.

SUNDAY, 18 MAY

9:00 - 16:00: All day Board of Directors meeting for WCI Executive Committee, club presidents, & liaisons.

For early arrival of all others, sightseeing is planned.

19:00: Get-together at Marriott Hotel (cocktails & finger food) *(all participants)*

MONDAY, 19 MAY

Morning: Board of Directors meeting for Executive Committee, club presidents, & liaisons.

For all others: Miniatur Wunderland, the world's largest model railway exhibition (light walking).

Afternoon: Visit City Hall (all participants).

Evening: Opening night banquet on museum ship "Rickmer Rickmers" *(all participants)*.

TUESDAY, 20 MAY

Morning: WCI Conference meeting for Executive Committee, club presidents, liaisons, & travelling IWC members.

For spouses: International Maritime Museum, the world's most extensive private collection of maritime treasures **or** art exhibition (light walking).

Afternoon: Meeting for Executive Committee only.

For all others: Sightseeing tour through Hamburg with Double Deck Bus.

Evening: "Dining with friends" - you are a dinner guest at a private home (all participants).

WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY

Morning: Round table discussion for Executive Committee, club presidents, liaisons, travelling WCI members & IWC Hamburg members. Spouses to join later.

Afternoon: Visit to AIRBUS (all participants).

Evening: Water light show in Planten un Blomen park **or** tour to Reeperbahn (all participants).

THURSDAY, 22 MAY

Day trip (bus tour) to "Altes Land," Central Europe's largest fruit-growing region, with the beautiful timberframe houses, ceremonial gates & famous organs. Guided tour through historical town of Stade and lunch (2 hours walking). Stop at "Herzapfelhof," an apple farm, in Jork on way back (all participants).

Evening: Free evening.

FRIDAY, 23 MAY

Morning: Boat tour through the harbor of Hamburg (all participants).

Afternoon: Guided tour to St. Michael Church and Krameramtsstuben, an ancient section of Hamburg (1620) **or** free afternoon (all participants).

Evening: Farewell dinner with entertainment, cocktails at Marriott Hotel (all participants).

SATURDAY, 24 MAY

Departure for home or post-conference trip.

For more information and registration forms, go to:

www.wci-hamburg2014.com

Registration Fee:
Per Person
All attendees, spouses, guests
€ 115.00

Package Price:
Per Person
All attendees, spouses, guests
€ 650.00

Registration Fee and Conference Package Fee due by:
January 31, 2014

See Registration Forms for Bank Transfer Instrutions

13th Biennial WCI International Conference

May 24 - June 2, 2014 • Hamburg, Germany

POST-CONFERENCE TRIP

➤*You must be a registered participant of the WCI 2014 Conference to be able to partake in this trip.*➤

Our post-conference tour will take us to southeast Germany, formerly part of the GDR (German Democratic Republic) with many historically and culturally interesting places. This area has for many centuries been the heartland of Europe where decisive battles were fought like between Prussia and Austria or Napoleon and a European alliance, where the Protestant Reformation started and where famous people like J.S. Bach, Martin Luther and J.W. von Goethe lived and worked. You will get a glimpse of this rich history in romantic cities and beautiful landscapes. A professional guide will accompany us during the whole tour.

The costs will be finalized and published under: welcomeclubs.squarespace.com.



Saturday, May 24, 2014 **Hamburg - Potsdam - Dresden**

Travelling by bus from Hamburg via Potsdam (Lunch at Cecilienhof) to Dresden. Cecilienhof Castle in Potsdam, state of Brandenburg, was the last palace built by the Hohenzollern family which ruled Prussia and Germany from the 18th Century until 1918. UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1990, Cecilienhof is also famous as the location of the Potsdam Conference between Truman, Stalin and Churchill in July 1945, when they decided on the division of Germany.



Sunday, May 25, 2014 **Dresden**

Dresden is the capital of the state of Saxony in southeast Germany on the banks of the Elbe River, which flows from the Czech Republic through Hamburg into the North Sea. In the 17th - 18th centuries, August the Strong ruled Saxony and at the same time was King of Poland. He gathered many of the best musicians, architects and painters from all over Europe in his capital Dresden. *[Visit to the Frauenkirche (Ladies Church) and Green Vault]*



Monday, May 26, 2014 **Dresden - Pillnitz - Dresden**

1,5 hour boat trip on the Elbe river to Pillnitz Castle, a huge baroque castle directly on the Elbe river southeast of Dresden. Its buildings enclose a baroque garden and are surrounded by a large public park. Pillnitz Castle was the summer residence of many rulers of Saxony. Point of interest is also the unique centuries-old camellia tree with its glass house.



Tuesday, May 27, 2014 **Dresden - Meissen - Dresden**

Short bus tour to Meissen, the home of Meissen porcelain. Guided tour of the porcelain company and the historic city center with the magnificent gothic Meissen Cathedral on cathedral hill.



Wednesday, May 28, 2014 **Dresden - Torgau - Martin Luther City Wittenberg**

Leaving Dresden per bus to Wittenberg where we will stay for 2 nights. En route half-day stop in Torgau with a guided tour. Outside Germany, Torgau is best known as the place which commemorates the first encounter of US and Soviet forces at the end of the Second World War, also known as Elbe Day. The early Renaissance Hartenfels Castle dominates the town. Brown bears are still kept in the moat. The marketplace with the town hall and many Renaissance buildings are also impressive.



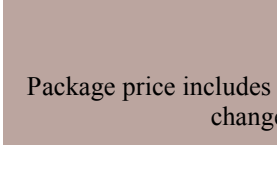
Thursday, May 29, 2014 **Martin Luther City Wittenberg**

In the year 1517 Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on the door of the All Saints' Castle Church in Wittenberg. Here the Protestant Reformation began. Visit the house of Martin Luther and Katharina von Bora (M. Luther's wife). You also can visit the house of Lucas Cranach and stroll through this medieval town. Various Luther and Melanchthon memorial sites were added to the UNESCO world heritage in 1996.



Friday, May 30, 2014 **Wittenberg - Berlin**

Three hour bus ride to Berlin with time in the afternoon for shopping or sightseeing.



Saturday May 31 - Sunday June 1, 2014 **Berlin**

Berlin, the capital of Germany, has a population of 3.8 million people and is home to renowned universities, research institutions, theaters, operas, museums, diverse architecture and is well-known for its festivals and nightlife. As a result of WWII and the Potsdam Treaty, Berlin was a parted city from 1948 untill reunification in 1990, with a wall separating the western part of its Soviet Zone, later becoming part and capital of East Germany, from 1961 until 1990. *[Guided tours in Berlin]*

Post Conference Trip May 24 - June 2, 2014 (Space limited)

Per person/single room: € 2.000, Per person/double room: € 1.565,

Package price includes the services and benefits according to program Prices based on a group of 30 persons, otherwise subject to change. **For more information and registration forms, go to: www.wci-hamburg2014.com**

TRAVEL TIPS

Climate: Spring is very pleasant in Hamburg when the city's thousands of trees come into bloom with a new cloak of green, and days start to warm up. In fact, despite summer being the most popular month for tourism, spring is the best time to visit Hamburg, not least of all because it is the season which shows off the city's numerous parks and gardens to their best advantage. Average Temperatures for the end of May range from 13–15 °C (54-60 °F).

Currency: The unit of currency is the Euro (EUR), divided into 100 cents. ATMs and exchange bureaux are widely available. The major credit cards are becoming more widely accepted in many large shops, hotels and restaurants, although Germans themselves prefer to carry cash. Travellers cheques are best cashed at exchange bureaux, as banks often won't change them. The quickest and most convenient way to change money is to obtain cash from one of the ATM machines that are ubiquitous features on all German streets. Banks are closed on weekends, but exchange bureaux at airports and main railway stations are open daily from 6am to 10pm.

Entry requirements: US, British, and Canadian citizens must have a passport that is valid for the period of intended stay in Germany. A visa is not required. Note: Passport and visa requirements are liable to change at short notice. Travellers are advised to check their entry requirements with their embassy or consulate.

Electricity: 220 volts, 50Hz. European-style two-pin plugs are standard.

Language: German is the official language. English is also widely spoken and understood.

Tipping: German law stipulates that all prices, menus and bills include both tax and a service charge, so tipping is not necessary in restaurants. Cleaning staff, hairdressers, taxi drivers etc. appreciate small tips.

Local Customs: Visitors should carry passports with them at all times. Smoking in public places such as bars and restaurants is illegal.

Communications: The international access code for Germany is +49. The outgoing code is 00 followed by the relevant country code (e.g. 0044 for the United Kingdom). There are surcharges on international calls made from hotels; it is often cheaper to use public telephone boxes in post offices, which use phone cards. The local mobile phone operators use GSM networks and have roaming agreements with most international operators. Internet cafes are available in the main towns.

Hamburg Airport (HAM): Hamburg-Fuhlsbüttel Airport is located 5.3 miles (8.5km) north of central Hamburg.

Getting to the city: The Airport Express runs frequent buses to the Central Station (Hauptbahnhof) and Hamburg Airport is accessible by S-Bahn which is a 25 minute journey from central station at a normal fare. Hamburg Bus Lines service the city centre and other suburban areas. Taxis are readily available outside all terminals, they take around 30 minutes to the city centre.

Official Conference Hotel

Hamburg Marriott Hotel



ABC Strasse 52 Hamburg
Hamburg 20354 Germany

Phone Fax:

Make reservations directly with Marriott
Reference International Women's Club

Single Room €174.00/pernight - includes full breakfast
Double Room €194.00 pet night - includes full breakfast

Rates cannot be guaranteed after March 17, 2014

Refer to website for toll free reservation numbers from each country

www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/hamdt-hamburg-marriott-hotel/

Find countless shops from our hotel near Alsterhaus department store and famous shopping centers. Experience the modern culture and rich history of Hamburg's industrial and logistic center. Enjoy bars, clubs and cabarets from one of the most stylish Hamburg shopping district hotels.





CONFERENCE HOSTS

The International Women's Club of Hamburg was founded in 1991 with the purpose of bringing women of all nationalities together residing either temporarily or permanently in Hamburg. The club promotes and encourages a spirit of friendship, acceptance and understanding among women of all nationalities under the motto: **'Friendship through Understanding'**.

In joining the club and participating in its activities, women meet and form linkages with other members from around the world who have similar experiences in living abroad.

We promote cultural and social exchange between the international and German communities in order to assist new-comers adjusting to life in Germany and to offer friendship through cultural exchange.

The club is non-religious, non-political and a non-profit organization, and membership is open to women of all nationalities.

The board organizes a monthly lunch or meeting and several special activities that may include special speakers, visits and tours in key venues around the city. In addition, activity coordinators organize regular activities that occur weekly or monthly. These are where long-term relationships are formed and are key to the continuity of club interaction. These include:

Neighbourhood coffees
Cultural coffees
Art and gallery Tours
City tours and places of interest in the city
Language groups - German, English, Spanish and Japanese
Walking groups
Tennis, Badminton, Golf
Oi Gong, Mah jong and Bridge
Book club
Choir
Ladies Night out
Movie group





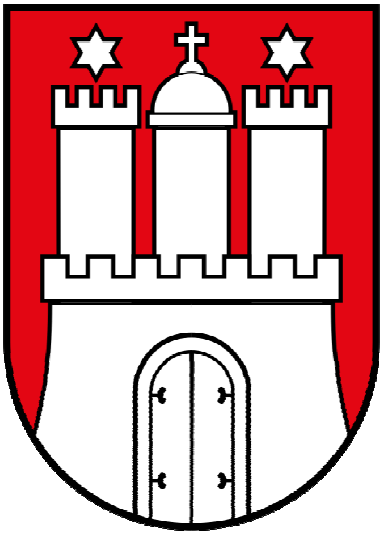








Hamburg



has a well-deserved reputation as Germany's ***Gateway to the World***. Despite being located astride the River Elbe (some 100 kilometres from the North Sea), the port of Hamburg is the second largest port in Europe (after the Port of Rotterdam) and tenth largest worldwide. It is also Germany's second largest city with a population of over 1.8 million and the Greater Hamburg Metropolitan Region has a population of over five million.

The first historical name of the modern city is, according to Claudius Ptolemy's reports, Treva. But the city takes its name from the first permanent building on the site, a fortress ordered to be built by the Emperor Charlemagne in AD 808. The castle was built on rocky ground in a marsh between the River Alster and the River Elbe as a defence against Slavic incursion. The castle was named Hammaburg, where burg means fortress. The origin of the Hamma term remains uncertain, as does the exact location of the fortress.

Hamburg's official name is the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg (German: Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg). It reflects Hamburg's history as a member of the medieval Hanseatic League, as a free imperial city of the Holy Roman Empire, and also to the fact that Hamburg is a city-state (one of the sixteen States of Germany). Over the centuries, Hamburg has always been an international city.

One of the most important harbours in Europe and the world, Hamburg takes great pride in its mercantile background, which built the city's wealth in the past centuries. From 1241 on, it was member of the Hanseatic League, a medieval trade monopoly across Northern Europe. In the 19th and beginning of the 20th century, millions left Europe on their way to the new world through the Hamburg harbour. Today, the harbour ranks second in Europe and eleventh world-wide. Consequently, one of Hamburg's tag lines is "The Gateway to the World" (derived from the city's coat of arms, showing a white city wall with a gate and crowned by three towers on a red background). Hamburg is known to be one of the richest metropolitan area in the European Union, in the company of Brussels and London.

The harbour is the heart of the city, however, Hamburg is also one of the most important media hubs in Germany. Half of the nation's newspapers and magazines have their roots in Hamburg. And, unknown even to some locals, is the fact that, with one of the Airbus aircraft assembly plants, Hamburg is a major location of the world's aerospace industry, right after Seattle (USA) and Toulouse (France).

The mercantile background reflects in the city's architecture. The only palace in Hamburg is the town hall, which houses the citizen's parliament and the senate. Apart from that, the city still has large quarters with expensive houses and villas. These residences were home to merchants and captains, surrounded by lots of greenery. Hamburg has architecturally significant buildings in a wide range of styles and only a few skyscrapers. Churches are important landmarks, such as St. Nicholas's church, which for a short time in the 19th century was the world's tallest building.

Hamburg offers more than 40 theatres, 60 museums and 100 music venues and clubs. In 2005, more than 18 million people visited concerts, exhibitions, theatres, cinemas, museums, and cultural events. Hamburg has entered the European Green Capital Award scheme, and was awarded the title of European Green Capital for 2011. With almost 100 consulates, Hamburg ranks second only to New York as the city with the most consulates in the world. The



city is a major tourist destination for both domestic and overseas visitors; Hamburg ranked 17th in the world for livability in 2012.



Hafengeburtstag
Photo: Dr. Flash/Shutterstock

Hamburg is noted for several festivals and regular events. Some of them are street festivals, such as the Alster fair, held at the *Binnenalster*. The *Hamburger DOM* is northern Germany's biggest fun fair, held three times a year. *Hafengeburtstag* is a funfair to honour the birthday of the port of Hamburg with a party and a ship parade. The biker's service in Saint Michael's Church attracts tens of thousands of bikers. Christmas markets in December are held at the Hamburg Rathaus square, among other places. The *long night of museums* offers one entrance fee for about 40 museums until midnight.

Hamburg is sometimes called Germany's capital of sport since no other city has more first-league teams and international sports events:

The Hamburger

The hamburger has its origin in a medieval culinary practice popular among warring Mongolian and Turkic tribes known as Tartars. They shredded the tough meat from Asian cattle grazing on the Siberian steppes to make it more digestible. The Tartars gave their name to the shredded raw meat dish, tartar steak, known popularly today by its French appellation, steak tartare. By the 14th century, the Russian Tartars made it to the port of Hamburg, where they introduced their tartar specialty. The Germans flavored it with regional spices, and both cooked and raw versions became a standard meal among the poorer classes. It acquired the name "Hamburg steak". The "Hamburg steak" left Germany in the 1880s with a wave of German emigrants to America. The first recorded use of Hamburg steak is not found until 1884. The variant form hamburger steak, using the German adjective Hamburger meaning "from Hamburg," first appears in a Walla Walla, Washington, newspaper in 1889. Exactly when the patty was put into a bun is unknown, but when it was served at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, Missouri, it was already a sandwich . . . some three decades before the golden arches would become the gateway to hamburger heaven.



From 1960 to 1962, [the Beatles] launched their career by playing in various music clubs in the city



Hamburg was one of the locations for the film ***Tomorrow Never Dies*** of the James Bond series. The ***Reeperbahn*** street has been location for many sets, including the 1994 Beatles film ***Backbeat.***

The many streams, rivers and canals in Hamburg are crossed by over 2300 bridges, more than London, Amsterdam and Venice put together. Hamburg has more canals than Amsterdam and Venice combined



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER



The American Women's Association of Hong Kong



The American Women's Association (AWA) of Hong Kong Limited was founded in 1956 as a non-profit, charitable organization. As a volunteer organization of international women we support Hong Kong charities and schools through community service and monetary grants, while also providing educational and social activities for our members.

On average, the AWA provides approximately $1 million annually to Hong Kong charities and educational institutions to support programs and services that benefit children, the elderly, handicapped, women and families, community activities and students. These monetary grants are made possible by our members' dedication and hard work in organizing several fundraising events throughout the year.

AWA members at the cultural presentation of the Netherlands on 26th Sept.
Photos by Tracy Russell



The AWA also encourages its members to participate in a diverse range of hands-on community-focused programs. We offer a wide range of opportunities that take advantage of the wealth of skills offered by our members. English Conversation, Reading for the Blind, Servicemen's Guides and Crossroads are just a few of the rewarding volunteer opportunities that enrich our members' lives in Hong Kong.

To keep everyone up to date and informed, we publish our monthly magazine, AWAre. Each issue provides a wealth of information, including current activities, specialized trips around the region, and a variety of topics on family, children, arts and music, travel, health and food.

Membership in the AWA is open to all women who reside in Hong Kong, regardless of nationality. As a truly international organization, the AWA has over 900 members representing 36 countries around the world, with numerous volunteer committees and social activities to choose from throughout the year.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER

For members who have the desire and the time, the AWA offers a variety of volunteer opportunities to make a difference in Hong Kong. Through the AWA's Community Service group, members can volunteer time, meet the local community, give something to society or simply meet new friends.

New members are invited to join Foon Ying, a welcome orientation group, drop into CHAT (Come and Have a Talk) and enjoy our popular activities including

- WOW – Windows on the Workplace
- Book clubs
- Gourmet dinners and cooking classes
- Bridge and mahjong
- Art lovers' group
- Social golf
- Hiking
- Dragon Boat racing
- Neighbourhood coffees/cocktails
- Asian Tours and local tours
- Annual Charity Bazaar
- Global Insights – A look at Cultures around the World.

The Asian Tours Committee plans eight to ten exciting trips each year around the Asia-Pacific region (and sometimes beyond). These trips usually take place between September and June and vary from cycling in Guilin, China, hiking in Nepal, sightseeing in Kyoto to shopping in Bangkok!

Windows on the Workplace (WOW!) is a networking and support group for AWA members who are searching for or have a job in Hong Kong, those who consider a career change or are interested in building new skills, setting up their own company etc. We organize a series of professional seminars; moreover members can join the regular informal networking meetings dedicated to a certain topic.

If you want to become part of a Hong Kong tradition, join the **Dragon Boat Racers, the AWA Globe Paddlers**. The Dragon Boat Festival (Tuen Ng) celebrates an old Chinese legend by racing long narrow boats with 18 paddlers, one drummer and one helmsman.

If you are interested in being part of this tradition come out and meet our Champion AWA Globe Paddlers Dragon Boat team. The Globe Paddlers consists of 24 dedicated women who practice twice a week. Our pre-season practices run from October to December on Tuesday and Thursday. Our regular season practices start in January and are on Tuesday and Saturday. We welcome women from all walks of life, as long as they demonstrate a strong fitness level, a commitment to attend practices, and an even stronger dedication to our Globe Paddlers family. We are all about working hard and playing hard. We complement our dedicated work with plenty of team social events.

For more information, please visit the AWA website:

www.awa.org.hk



AWA Globe Paddlers

The next annual Stanley International Dragon Boat Festival will take place in June 2014. We also compete in at least three additional races -The Deep Water Bay Regatta, the Stanley Warm-up Race, and the Lamma Dragon Boat Regatta.

Women's League of Lebanon

Many ladies who are members of the Women's League are also members of University for Seniors. It is an educational and cultural program for older people, stressing learning for the pleasure of learning and creating a community of like-minded learners. It aims to create a new and positive face of aging (aged 50 and above) in Beirut, Lebanon; one where older adults remain intellectually and socially engaged, energized to learn new things and active contributors to their communities.



The program of the University for Seniors offers a variety of activities; study groups, lectures, educational trips and inter- generational activities with AUB students. The topics are chosen according to members' interests and the availability of a study group leader to lead the activity. A list of some study groups: Sociology of Religions, Islamic Art, Computer Literacy, Digital Photography, Lecture series on Music, Health, Finance... etc. Also educational travel programs and social gatherings to strengthen the social ties among the community members.

Leila Zacca Alameddine
Vice President
Women's League

We are celebrating this month the Founders' Day of the Women's League. The League is now ninety-three years old since it was founded on November 2nd 1919 by faculty housewives of the American University of Beirut. Its purpose is to promote a broad acquaintance among women of all nationalities. We have regular monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month from October through May. Our programs are varied and we organize a monthly trip to different places in Lebanon. Also on November 22nd we will celebrate our Independence Day. Lebanon took its independence in 1943 and became a republic some sixty-nine years ago.

It is worth mentioning here the press conference which was recently organized by former Minister Mona Afeiche on the political status and rights and quota of Lebanese women. Women representing various associations participated and several members of the League attended the event. Several suggestions were made to obtain our rights and to establish a democratic society and to share in the work of their men. They concluded that the only way to achieve this is by exerting all kinds of pressure on our politicians. Women's political representation and participation in Lebanon is probably one of the lowest in the Middle East.

Communication Confusion

Japanese hotel: Sports jackets may be worn but no trousers.

French hotel: In the event of fire the visitor, avoiding panic, is to walk down the corridor to warn the chambermaid.

Egyptian hotel: If you require room service, please open door and shout, `room service!'.

Safari park: Elephants please stay in your car

At a conference: For anyone who has children and doesn't know it, there is a day care on the first floor

Airline ticket office, Copenhagen: We take your bags and send them in all directions.

Hotel, Vienna: In case of fire, do your utmost to alarm the hotel porter.

A laundry in Rome: Ladies, leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time.

Highway sign in Australia: Take notice: When this sign is under water, this road is impassible.

Hotel, Japan: You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.

South African maternity ward: NO CHILDREN ALLOWED**.**

International Women's Club of Philadelphia

The International Women's Club of Philadelphia

A social non profit organization of women living in the Philadelphia metropolitan area. An important part of the Club's mission is to support a local charity. *The Home of the Sparrow* which provides housing and supportive services to enable homeless women and their children to become self sufficient has been the designated charitable organization for several years. Funds are raised by selling used books at Club events and having a silent auction of art works created by Club members. This money is used to purchase requested items such as linen that can be used by the women during their stay at the house and take to their new home when they graduate from the program. Recently we purchased school packages for the children. Club members are also asked to collect toiletries from their hotel stays from which small gift bags are prepared for the residents.

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IWCP has once again chosen to make the Home of the Sparrow the recipient of an annual donation. However, in lieu of giving them a monetary contribution, the Board has opted to satisfy more tangible requests. This year we helped with the "Back to School" program, buying school supplies for the children, and last month it was the usual shopping trip when we went out buying pillows and baby's and toddler's linens. Thanks to the amazing response by our members, both in giving extra money when signing up for their membership and participating in the raffle at the Christmas party, we have been able to collect more then $2000! And with the toiletries collected during our travels, we have been able to fill two big baskets of little packages. THANK YOU dear IWCP members. Your generosity and participation never fail to amaze me.

Luciana Aspesi



History, Culture and Commerce of the Italian Market in Philadelphia

In November 2013, A local guide who has lived and shopped in the area all her life will give a walking tour of America's oldest continuous outdoor market. The tour will center on 9th Street between Fitzwater and Washington Ave. Stops will include historic markers, neighborhood murals, a Cath-olic church established by the first Italian immigrants and of course various shops selling homemade bread, cheeses, fish, pastries and kitchenware. There may be samples, too! After the tour a lunch at the restaurant Villa Di Roma awaits the participants.

International Women's Club of Porto Alegre

XXVIII National Conference of the Women´s Clubs of Brazil
(September 20 to September 24, 2013)



The INTERNATIONAL WOMEN´S CLUB OF JOÃO PESSOA organized this Conference. There were about two hundred participants from 26 States. The theme was "Value of women". The vice-president of João Pessoa Jô, who is a sociologist, did the talk. She traced the female value all the way back to Mary, mother of Jesus who sacrificed herself to be Jesus´s mother. Jô presented the female vision of looking at the female conditions instead of having always a male talking about the female conditions that is foreign to him.



At the opening ceremony, Stela, our Vice-President entered with our Club flag because Maria Helena was at a wedding in Fortaleza the same evening.

After the opening ceremony, we had a dinner where Viviane Viegas, Stela Carvalho, Sonia Jappur, Maria Ignez Villela and Suzy Lee were the representatives.

The talk on the 21st by Jô on the condition of women throughout the centuries was a very serious topic, so they had a "stand up" comedian do the second part comparing the difference between male and female in all situations and behaviors and was funny and relaxing.

At the General Assembly, Orchidéia Corciolli, President of the Confederation of the Women´s Clubs of Brazil presented her Board and the accounts of 2013.

In celebration of the 25th. Anniversary of the Confederation of Women´s Clubs, the International Women´s Club of Aracaju did a "flash mob" scene in honor of Orchidéia.

Associação Beneficente Internacional
Women's Club Porto Alegre

The Thanksgiving Mass was at the St. Anthony's Church where Stela representing our Club offered a rose during offer-



ing time.

The next day was a scenic tour around the city of João Pessoa where we saw modern buildings designed by Oscar Niemeyer at the "Estação Cabo Branco" and beautiful beaches of falésias.

During the time of the geographic movements, João Pessoa drifted away from the African Continent and formed the American Continent. It fits in the space in front of Dakar in African like a puzzle piece. The earth looks round from this point of João Pessoa and maybe on a good day we can see Dakar on the other side?
We ended our outing at 5:00 p.m. with the sun setting on the horizon and Jurandir; the local famous Saxophone player played Bolero of Ravel in a boat going into the sunset.
The Farewell Dinner was at the conference Hotel with a dance of "Maria, the beautiful" who fought with her husband in the war of the Cangaceiros.

It was a very interesting conference and we learned much of the people of PARAÍBA, where João Pessoa is the Capital
The next meeting will be in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais. It is always a pleasure to meet and learn from our sister clubs and see how these dedicated VOLUNTEERS work to help others, donating their time and their money to the less fortunate.

Suzy Lee, WCI Liaison
International Womens Club of Porto Alegre, Brazil

International Women's Association of Prague

Charity is a major part of IWAP. The Charity Committee meets monthly to review requests for donations as well as plan fund raisers. In addition to cash donations, IWAP members give their time by making sandwiches for the homeless and crocheting and knitting scarves for the homeless and seniors. Donations are made to charities that benefit people in the Czech Republic. The committee looks at the charity's financial budget, current funding and their need for help.

Two charities have been selected by the Charity Group to benefit from the Charity proceeds of the 2013 IWAP Christmas Market: Amelie is a charity which provides social services to cancer patients and their families; and Občanské sdružnení DOM helps young adults who are leaving institutions and foster care prepare for independent living as adults. They provide therapy as well as life skill training and assistance in finding employment.

Last year we raised 150,000 Kč for our chosen charities.

IWAP's Charity Spotlight: Azylový Dům Women and Children's Center. In February and March, IWAP's Charity Group worked with the Prague Thrift Shop to raise funds for the renovation of the playground at Azylový Dům Women and Children's Center in Kladno. In February we raised 20,000 Kč and in March we raised 11,700 Kč.

Olga Hudeckova and Miroslav Hudecek Atelier Visit

On May 31, 2013, we had the pleasure of visiting IWAP member Olga Hudeckova and her husband, Miroslav Hudecek's atelier/home. We were dazzled by the gorgeous sculptures and art that these two world known artists have created.

Olga and Miroslav have had over a hundred exhibitions at home and abroad and have donated pieces of their work to numerous towns in the Czech Republic. They live active lives within the community of Prague, involved in many organizations.







Kensington Chelsea Women's Club

KCWC, previously known to many as the Kensington Chelsea Women's Club, is very proud and happy to be celebrating our 30 years in the greater London community. To celebrate, our club of mulitinational members is hosting a Gala Evening at the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, the Great Hall on 2 March, 2013. Tastings of wine and champagne are being arranged by our own in-house wine expert, Cheryl Lincoln-Nelson, followed by a special menu created by the historical venue's head chef. Entertainment abounds under the careful eye of Brittan Chepak, known for finding the best entertainment in London. The club members hope to see festive dress from 50 or more member nationalities for a truly special event. We also planning a trip in June to Althorp, the family home of Princess Diana and Lord Spencer. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Althorp Literary Festival and another favorite day trip for KCWC.




KCWC at Althorp




June Lunch

Berkshire International Club

The activities at the BIC are varied and provide interesting and cultural events to suit every expectation of their membership.

An Annual Holiday celebration was held on December 6th at the Faculty Club of Williams College. The turnout at this occasion is always high. New Members are introduced and old members get a chance to renew their friendships in a festive and joyous ambience.

Other activities such as a visit to the Library of the Clark Art Institute to view a collection of rare books among which a volume of the Nuremberg Chronicles published in Latin and German in 1493 was the highlight of the visit.



"Festa Della Repubblica" Celebration June 2
Only sprinkles prevailed at our Italian "Festa della Repubblica" celebration on June 2nd at Elena and Ed Powell's lovely mountaintop home in Richmond. A lively group of nearly thirty BIC members and guests--including Kristina's husband Alessandro and his mother Ilaria from Viterbo, Italy. BIC members and friends certainly know how to completely fill a table with exquisite dishes of finger-foods and desserts, not to mention a huge array of beverages.

Luciano Zaffanella led a small caravan of cars up the mountain from the Dan Fox Stop & Shop, greeted at the top by accordionist Chris Smargie and accompanied on the mandolin by his friend Rick. They played a good number of classic Italian songs such as O Sole Mio with the audience joining in and the rousing version of the more recent Volare, ably led by Enrico Lamet. The entertainment never waned as a few attendees danced the tarantella and waltzed the afternoon away. Applause and cheers exploded when they sat down to catch their breath.

The "Other" BIC

Isabelle Kaplanfrom
BIC Newsletter
August 2013

After a long interview at the Berkshire Immigrant Center, I thought an article would help bring forward some information to our club membership about this "other" BIC which operates in our own backyard.

Brazil, India, Russia, Portugal, Germany, The Netherlands, Italy, France, Romania, The Philippines, Haiti, Norway, these countries are so familiar to us, the members of the Berkshire International Club. They also represent the countries of members of the Berkshire Immigrant Center. That is the reason why, last fall, our Board decided to resurrect an old connection that our Berkshire International Club had had with the Immigrant Center in the past.

After some fund raising at the Christmas party, members attended fundraising dinners that the Immigrant Center organizes around the Berkshire towns in restaurants offering a foreign cuisine. In the fall we attended a dinner of Indian food in Williamstown, in February, at Chez Nous in Lee, in March at Xicohtencatl in Great Barrington, in May in Pittsfield at Flavors of Malaysia and in June at the First Baptist Church, an African dinner sponsored by United Africans of the Berkshire. Despite winter weather, it was the occasion to meet with friends around interesting food and be part of the larger community attending these dinners. The Immigrant Center has found a very communal way to raise funds and gather people around their cause: helping immigrants in the numerous problems they encounter in settling in the Berkshires and in the USA.

What is their mission?
The "other" BIC defines itself as a program of Berkshire Community Action Council, aiming to serve--in their own words--" the many faces of Berkshire County." It was founded by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires in 1997 in order to encourage immigrants to apply for citizenship. Since then, it has evolved into an office which attempts to address the many needs of the local immigrant and refugee population.

Who does it serve?
Since its inception it has served 9,800 clients from 86 countries. At the moment, it counts 12,000 immigrants residing in the Berkshires of which: 60% are Latinos, 12% Africans, 7 % Eastern European, 4% Asian Pacific, 4% European, 4% Indian, 9% from other origins. The Berkshires also have the second fastest growing Latino population in Massachusetts as well as the most diverse.

What services does the Immigrant Center offer?
They first welcome new immigrants. Then, their aim is to strengthen family's bonds, and to help immigrants becoming self-sufficient and upwardly mobile. To become independent, immigrants need to become stable and successful financially. The Center guides them to the different agencies that will lead to obtaining a green card; it offers translation, legal support, transportation, and access to learning English, civic lessons, how to drive, access to obtaining employment and working towards family reunification. Assisting families and individuals in making economic, psychological and cultural adjustment to their community so they can become active participants in this society is the ultimate goal. In addition, the Immigrant Center addresses the problems confronted by the greater immigrant and refugee community. It has developed programs of community outreach through educational workshops and seminars on such topics as immigrant workers' rights, access to health care, and the basics towards naturalization. A few lawyers offer their services pro bono, Spanish-speaking students from area schools act as translators, students offer babysitting, are hostesses or receptionists at major events, volunteers assist in driving immigrants, tutoring, résumé-writing, computer skills etc. The Center is also a resource for local employers, advocacy groups, educators, and social service agencies.

How is the Immigrant Center funded?
State support has dwindled with the economic crisis. Clients pay some minimal fees, Foundations and grants provide periodic support: the Massachusetts Bar Foundation, the State Citizenship for New Americans Program, the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Coalition, the City of Pittsfield, the New World Fund (Berkshire Taconic), Welcoming America, the Berkshire Bank Foundation, and Alliance Bernstein all contribute. Then the Center also organizes its own private fundraisers. It is not a secret that their work costs a lot and it is hard to cover all fees. Only so many people can work pro bono, volunteer, and provide all needed services. Attending a recent workshop on the Immigration Reform Bill working its way through Congress gave me a real headache. I could not imagine what one would do with limited English, living from hand to mouth, and fearing deportation or separation from one's children. And I have not mentioned the prejudices and suspicions immigrants often encounter, even in the Berkshires.

Our contact with this organization has opened up new horizons of what happens in this community. We will pursue them in the next edition with more specific information about their programs, their challenges and their services.

Thoughts on Friendship

"When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives mean the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares."

— Henri J.M. Nouwen,

"A Friend may well be reckoned the masterpiece of Nature."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Sir, I look upon every day to be lost, in which I do not make a new acquantaince."

- Samuel Johnston

"Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together"

- Woodrow Wilson

"... no man is useless while he has a friend."

- Robert Louis Stevenson

"Think where man's glory most begins and ends,
And say my glory was I had such friends."

- William Yeats

"The making of friends, who are real friends, is the best token we have of a man's success in life."

- Edward Everett Hale

Do not save your loving speeches
For your friends till they are dead;
Do not write them on their tombstones,
Speak them rather now instead.

- Anna Cummins

"Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born."

-Anais Nin The Diary of Anais Nin

"Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend."

— Albert Camus

"A friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you."

— Elbert Hubbard

"Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?"

— Abraham Lincoln

"To the world you may be just one person, but to one person you may be the world."

- Unknown

"Hold a true friend with both your hands."

-Nigerian Proverb

Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art... It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things that give value to survival.

-C. S. Lewis

When you choose your friends, don't be short-changed by choosing personality over character.

-W. Somerset Maugham

Welcome to Taipei



The 2013 Annual Registration Luncheon of Welcome to Taipei International Club was held on the 4th of December, 2012. This joyous celebration, the highlight of the club was as always a great success. Even though there was no snow on the ground, the decorations together with the working team wearing fun moosehead antlers, and dressed in the holiday spirit helped in the bonding of friendship between members with a rendition of "O Holy Night". During this gathering the Installation Ceremony of the incoming President also took place. Queeny Lin was elected to serve as the President for a one year term 2012-2013. Queeny is highly regarded and brings with her not only her professional and diligent working style but her natural sense of humour and enthusiasm. Her personality and dedication will further strenghten and maintain the strong foundation of the club built by Presidents who preceeded her. The newly elected President appointed Vivienne Shen, a long time Board member of Zonta International, as the new WTIC Executive Secretary.

The celebration concluded with dance performaces by one of the clubs Interest Group members amongst plenty of laughter and cheers.

Hong Gah Museum
2013.05.19



On Tuesday May 19th, Arts and Cultural Group hosted their spring event at The Hong Gah Musuem, a precious hidden gem in Beitou. The museum is currently displaying some of the rarest embroidery collection. Approximately 50 members and guests attended this cultural event, including many friends of diplomatic corps.

Hong Gah Museum's Chairman Andrew Chew warmly greeted all the participants, and gave a very interesting story behind his priceless private collection of the most exquisite embroidery pieces in the world today. Mr. Chew came across these pieces from his visit to China in the 1990 when China's economic rise started. With Mr. Chew's love for the arts and fear of the fate of these masterworks being disperse to different buyers around the world, he felt the sense of responsibility to keep these fine embroideries all in one place, therefore decided to purchase all the top pieces he saw in Suzhou and Hunan. At the same time, he continued to financially support these gifted embroidery artists to sustain their legacy so this beautiful artistry would not be lost.

After Mr. Chew's fascinating presentation, participants were guided by the museum's curator to view the collection of over 80 embroidery pieces. All were amazed in the detailed craftsmanship; it was hard to set the embroideries apart from the original paintings. One of the most notable master pieces "Night Banquet", a work that Mr. Chew personally commissioned the embroidery artists in Suzhou which took 4.5 years and 8 artists to complete.



Authentic Hungarian Atmosphere in Taiwan – The Hungarian Tea Party

The Welcome to Taipei International Club and the Hungarian Trade Office, jointly hosted a Hungarian Tea Party at the Palais de Chine Hotel's ballroom on June 11 2013.

.120 guests from diplomatic corps and international community attended this beautiful summer high tea, among them, Mr. Andrew Chew, chairman of Hong-Gah Museum and well-known pianist Anna Azusa Fujita.

The president of the club Queeny Lin, wife of ROC Foreign Minister David Lin, made welcoming remarks, while the club vice president Bess Shih introduced the Hungarian Representative, Ambassador Levente Székely and his wife, Mrs. Székely Sztanó Hédi to the attendees.

Mr. Székely gave an interesting and informative presentation about Hungary in every aspect. Hungary is one of the oldest European countries, situated in the Central Europe. The capital city Budapest, the 'Pearl of the Danube' is always the center of attention, where the delicious food and colorful culture heritage keep the visitors coming back.

Mr. Levente Székely and Mrs. Székely surprised the attendees with enchanting Hungarian folk music and dance. Mr. Székely is a great and well-renowned violinist, whereas Mrs. Székely was a member of the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble for many years.

One of the highlights was the famous bottle dance presented by Mrs. Székely. It is a vigorous woman's dance from the Somogy region, where the dancer has to balance a bottle of wine on top of her head.

Mrs. Székely and young colleague Ms. Nikolett Égeni impressed the attendees with the colorful and richly embroidered Hungarian folk clothing.

After these amazing performances followed by another surprise, the Hungarian delights. Mrs. Székely personally instructed the chef of Palais de Chine Hotel. The star of the menu was the chicken paprika 'paprikás csirke'. The famous dessert 'palacsinta' was very popular among sweets-lovers too.

Although Hungary lies almost 9000 km away from Taiwan, all the participants found Hungary actually closer to Taiwan in every way. This unique bond of friendship was very well celebrated at the Tea Party.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND



Our major fundraiser in June featured auctions, cigar rolling, music and a cocktail party. Pictured above are the auction table, and various guests.

The IWCNE conducts several types of fundraising activities. Three charities are identified as recipients each year, and the funds are presented at the January meeting.

Some of the activities occur monthly and provide varying amounts of monies, plus at least one major fund-raising activity is conducted each year in the Spring. Raffle tickets are sold at each luncheon meeting, and a drawing is held for door prizes that have been donated by members. Monthly potluck meals provide another contribution to our funds for charities. A Flea Market is conducted in the summer and a Holiday Fair in the fall, both providing profits that are designated for our selected charities.

Additional fundraising activities have included a popular Fashion Show during the late Spring with members modeling the clothing.

2011 Hug Gala Fashion had professional models showing off the beautiful clothing from local vendors in the Southern Maine and Northern New Hampshire area.

This year a silent and live Auction entailed lively bidding for items such as a kayak, dinner certificates, hotel stays, a safari in South Africa, designer pieces, wine, and many other wonderful items.

Until 2011, with late Summer, came the annual IWCNE Garden Party at Strawberry Banke featuring a "colonial days menu"; an interesting and informative talk by John Forte, and ladies "all dolled up in hats"--some of the hats were quite beautiful--some were highly imaginative-- some were intentionally comical.
In 2011, a bit of a change was made and rather than the traditional garden party, there was a jazz brunch at Strawberry Banke in early Autumn. Those attending declared it a definite success.

Annual Holiday Fair-- IWCNE has held a Holiday Fair each year since the club was founded, and it is a major fundraiser for our charities. A variety of craftspeople are invited to rent space from us to offer their creations. Members of the club also make Christmas decorations and baked goods to sell, as well as raffle tickets for valuable gifts and a luncheon that is served throughout most of the day. In addition to raising money for our charities, the Fair is a good opportunity for the club to be well known in the community. Every year we welcome back long time vendors and shoppers, as well as meeting new ones.

Monthly Potlucks The pot-luck meals are a fundraiser not just for our members, but spouses, significant others as well. We try to have one monthly at various gracious homes and many times they are holiday themed The hostess can choose a theme and/or time of day so that we end up with not only suppers, but brunches, lunches, teas, etc. as well. Often we dress up in our Spanish, Mexican, German, Irish, French, etc. costumes. The St. Patrick's Day event even includes delightful Irish music. Each person brings an appetizer, main course or dessert. These are great events and everyone always enjoys the fabulous food and company.

2012
A Banner Year

Our club had a banner year in 2012! We raised the most money in our history of supporting charities that benefit women and children: At our January 2013 luncheon, $18,000 was awarded to three charities. It is always a very emotional moment as the representatives receive their checks and describe how the money will help battered women, pregnant teenagers, homeless children, etc. Shocking to hear how many there are close to us. We all have tears in our eyes when they speak.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND

ESTABLISHED 1992

Elvis made a stop at the June 26 Jeans & Jewels Fundraiser at the Sheraton, Portsmouth. There was a whole lot of eating, dancing, and raffle winning going on. All attendees, including representatives from Kids Free to Grow and Seacoast Family Food Pantry, had smiles on their faces all evening. Even the Sheraton staff were in their jeans and jewels enjoying our fun. Elvis, a.k.a., Dr. Rich Miller, Seacoast Orthodontist, was one of the sponsors who helped make Jeans & Jewels a success to raise over $5,555 at this event for the three charities: Kids Free to Grow, Kennebunk, Seacoast Family Food Pantry, Portsmouth, and End 48 Hours of Hunger, Kittery.

Jeans and Jewels 2013







Costume contest winner! - Regina Godfrey



IWCNE President Mary Lee Pons





Elvis was in the building - Dr. Rich Miller







The ladies take to the dance floor!

Association of Turkish Women in Britain (ATWB)



ATWIB sponsored a primary school of Demirgecit village Erzurum. ATWIB members professor Belma Baskett and Isil Beard presented a plaque to Itr Sokmen, President of ATWIB during the Bayram dinner on 27 October 2012

The Association of Turkish Women in Britain (ATWIB) was established in 2002 as a voluntary based organisation with charitable aims. Our Association is a young and dynamic organization which aims to act as a bridge between the Turkish and British communities in UK.

ATWIB organises social, cultural, educational and recreational activities aimed at encouraging friendship and strengthening solidarity between Turkish women residing in Britain. In a relatively short period of time the association's voluntary efforts and fundraising has helped many organisations and projects. ATWIB have made donations to numerous charities and given valuable support to educational projects for the underprivileged both here and abroad.



A stimulation workshop with author Buket Uzuner on her book "SU" was held Nov 23, 2012 at Yunis Emre Turkish Center London.



ATWIB 11th Anniversay Ball 9 March 2013

American Women's Club of Lebanon

Last summer the American Women's Club of Lebanon formed a quilting group that is very proud of its accomplishments starting with a discussion of quilting terms and necessary supplies. The group made five-nine-patch squares for the FAWCO (umbrella group of AWC) quilt that's raffled off annually. But,the group wanted to make its own group project.

The group chose a simple scarp quilt using pieces 2" x 3 1/2" that were ideal for beginners. We gathered up some small dark and light scraps and didn't have to worry about points meeting exactly. We finished this quilt and raffled it off at our Christmas Party and will donate the proceeds to Syrian refugees.





Finishing the Quilt

The group's final project is a lap or a baby quilt, using mainly shirting fabric, a soft cotton readily available in Lebanon. We will raffle it off at our Founder's Day dinner in February.

With newly acquired skills, the group will now begin working on individual project

FIWAL - London





May 2013 – FIWAL's Spring Luncheon was held at the Churchill Hotel in London.

FIWAL
Federation of International Womens Associations in London

2014 FIWAL Biennial Conference

Wednesday 14 May 2014:
Churchill Hotel, 30 Portman Square, London

FIWAL organizes a conference every other year to enable delegates to hear distinguished speakers addressing current affairs and societal issues, oftentimes pertaining to women. Past conference topics have included:

- 2012: Social Entrepreneurship
- 2010: Women of Vision
- 2008: The Plight of the Young across Cultures

For more information, check FIWAL's website:
fiwal.org.uk/events/

WELCOME TO COLORADO



WELCOME TO COLORADO
International Club

35th Anniversary Celebration



Welcome to Colorado celebrated its 35th Anniversary in September with a luncheon at the Welshire Inn. Members were invited to come dressed in an outfit from one of five different decades. Members dug into their wardrobes and enthusiastically wore poodle skirts from the 50s, pillbox hats and pearls from the 60s, beads and psychedelic pant outfits from the 70s etc. Prizes were awarded for the best costumes from each of the decades.



International Women's Club of Israel



The IWC-ISRAEL was founded in 1969 by a number of local ladies together with some of the ambassadors' wives who were stationed in Israel at that time. The purpose of the Club is to promote friendship and understanding between the women of the foreign community and Israeli women by sharing social, cultural and educational activities. The Club has neither religious nor political affiliations, nor does it raise funds for charitable institutions, but contributes to the local community.

The Club aims at having an equal number of foreign ladies and Israelis and therefore its size depends on the number of foreign ladies stationed in Israel every year (approximately 400 members from 52 countries). The activities take place mostly in the suburbs of Tel Aviv, at homes of members. There are usually 40-50 ladies participating, depending on the venue. Among our activities: Outings throughout the the country, Music, Food and Wine, Health, Walking Tours, Book Club, Bridge Club, Archeology (at the Tel Aviv University), Arts and Crafts, Folk Dancing, conversation in Hebrew, English, French and Spanish. One of the most successful and most attended activities is: Meet My Country, where each country introduces itself, its culture, customs and food. This activity takes place mostly in an Ambassador's Residence. A new activity, introduced by the young foreign ladies is: Kids and café.

There is an activity every day of the month, except Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays (for obvious reasons). We publish a newsletter once a month where all the activities are listed with dates and a short description. Volunteers take bookings.

We pay a yearly fee, half of which covers the printing and posting of the newsletters. At some activities we charge a small amount of money to cover special expenses. The big events (end of Year Luncheon, Beginning of the Year Lunch, AGM and Purim-costume party are partly subsidized by the Club.



A new president is elected every year and alternates between a foreign lady (usually an Ambassador's wife) and an Israeli. A Vice President and Second Vice are also elected at the same time. The Board consists of the Executive (President, Vice, 2nd Vice, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Convener) and the Heads of committees. Board Meetings are held once a month with approx. 25-30 participants. At these meetings future activities are discussed before going into the newsletter and any other issues that need discussion.

We recently created a forum of Past Presidents which meets occasionally to discuss larger issues and to raise ideas and solutions to problems which occur.

Welcome to Washington International Club



Living in proximity of the Nation's Capital Welcome to Washington members are privileged to have wives of foreign ambassadors as honorary members. Honorary members often invite us to visit their embassies to learn more about their countries. We recently visited the embassies of Finland, Portugal, Bahrain, Argentina and Montenegro where we cultural programs and a sampling of cuisine prepared by embassy chefs.



Looking for new ideas to increase international membership (both with embassy staff and general international short term stay visitors) and to activate your internationals in your scheduled programs? The President of Welcome to Washington, Laurie Nakamoto, has come up with two great ideas.

Laurie and her husband, Robert Nakamoto, along with three other Welcome to Washington couples, invited Ambassadors new to the United States to the Nakamoto home for BRUNCH. Because the Ambassadors and their wives had recently arrived in the United States, they are looking for ways to get acquainted. The guests came from Taiwan, Iraq and Portugal. The casual brunch setting provided a nice way for conversation to start.

With the brunches, Welcome to Washington wants to open communication with the Ambassador's wives. The club members hope that the wives, or Ambassadors where the woman is the Ambassador, will find warm and interested women with whom to share their stories. Welcome to Washington also hopes that the Ambassador or wives will want to invite the club women into their embassies to share a view of their culture.

A second idea for international exchange involves a little more work. Laurie and some Welcome to Washington friends invited a few internationals to join in their THANKSGIVING DINNER. George Washington, who was not at the first Thanksgiving, came in costume to explain to the internationals how Thanksgiving was established. Certainly, learning about a celebration unique to a country, is a wonderful way to share the culture of the country. The internationals loved participating in the Thanksgiving dinner with all of its traditions.



The TEA FOR TWO program has provided the Welcome to Washington members an opportunity to host internationals in their homes for informal tea or coffee with conversation. Singly or as pairs the US club members are hosting small coffees or luncheons in their homes for internationals. This gives the international on opportunity to be in an American's home. The guest also gets a chance to speak English in a small group. She can ask questions about Welcome to Washington. Of course, there is the potential for a friendship to blossom.



Near the end of the coffee or luncheon, the Welcome to Washington member and the international guest might look at the Welcome to Washington calendar to see if there is a meeting of mutual interest that they could attend together.

At the end of the program year, Welcome to Washington will host a party for all of the US hosts and all of the internationals who have participated in these friendly gatherings. The gatherings have been very successful and certainly have fostered friendship through understanding and understanding through friendship.



The Bookshelf

Berkshire International Club

A gift from the Enemy: Childhood Memory of Wartime Ital.
Author: Enrico Lamet
Publisher: Enrico Lamet, Oct. 13, 2013 (third edition)
Language: English

Written from the perspective of a child of 7 to 11 years of age, this WWII memoir is unique in many ways. "An account of a young Jewish boy and his mom who flee Vienna Austria and find themselves in a small town in southern Italy. They are sent there by the Italian government, who has moved several unknown foreigners there. The author gives a funny, moving and poignant account of his life". Review by Carmen Kitzberger, Goodreads. (*A Gift from the Enemy*, originally published by Syracuse University Press and subsequently by Adams Media under the title 'A Child al Confino' has been re-published, revised and enlarged.)

The Lady in Gold
Author: Ann-Marie O'Connor
Publisher: Knopf, Feb 7, 2012
Lanquage: English

Centering around one of Gustav Klimt's masterpieces, the portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer. O'Connor provides an intriguing and well researched report of life and arts in Austria before Hitler annexed the country. The book showed many examples of the tremendous influence the Jewish population had on art and culture during that time. It also describes how much was destroyed during the occupation and the war. Through the joint efforts of lawyers and influential business people in the US and not least due to the tenacity of one of Adele's relatives, "*The Lady in Gold*" can now be viewed at "Die Neue Gallerie" in NYC.

The Worst Hard Times
Author:Timothy Egan
Publisher: Mariner Books Sept. 1 20006 (Reprint Edition)
Lanquage: English

Chronicles the era of the "Dust Bowl". Egan's book focuses on causes of the drought and on the destiny and misery of several families who lived through those times.

In the Country of Men
Author: Hisham Matar.
Publisher: Dail Press Trade Paperback, Feb. 26,2008 (Reprint Edition)
Lanquage: English

Matar was born in Libya but spent much of his time in exile. Through the eyes of nine-year old Suleiman we come to experience the repression and daily life in Lybia under Qaddafi. The book has many autobiographical aspects since Matar's father, an influential Libyan politician, was captured and disappeared during the Qaddafi years.

American Women's Club of Lebanon

The God of Small Things
Author: Arundhati Roy.
Publisher: Random House Trade Paperbacks, Dec. 26, 2008 (Reprind edition)
Lanquage: English

It was a difficult book to read for some but loved by others; we had a heated discussion about the suffering the characters had to endure. It was a serious depiction of the Indian culture, dealing with class and the forbidden territory between the touchable and the untouchables. The characters affected us in many ways and the story expressed the severe suffering that occurred, especially to the children in the story.

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity For Women Worldwide
Author: Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn.
Publisher: Vintage, June 1, 2010 (Reprint edition)
Language: English

New York Times columnist Kristof and his wife, WuDunn, a former *Times* reporter, make a brilliantly argued case for investing in the health and autonomy of women worldwide. More girls have been killed in the last fifty years, precisely because they were girls, than men were killed in all the wars of the twentieth century, they write, detailing the rampant gendercide in the developing world, particularly in India and Pakistan.

The Language of Flowers
Author: Vanessa Diffenbaugh
Publishrer: Ballantine Books, April 3, 2012 (reprint edition)
Language: English

The Victorian language of flowers was used to convey romantic expressions: honeysuckle for devotion, asters for patience, and red roses for love to name just a few. But for Victoria Jones, the 18 year old main character, it's been more useful in communicating grief, mistrust, and solitude. After a childhood spent in the foster-care system, she is unable to get close to anybody, and her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings. Book club members found the idea of writing a novel and basing the plot on the meaning of flowers fascinating. And the characters and their actions kept us discussing the book for hours.

International Women's Club of New England

Someone to Run With
Author: David Grossman
Publisher: Picador, Jan. 13, 2005 (reprint edition)
Language: English

A best-seller in Israel and translated from the Hebrew in an informal, relaxed style, the story weaves together the lives of two middle-class teens who find themselves in Jerusalem's violent drug underworld. Tamar, a talented singer, runs away from home with her beloved dog, shaves her head, sets up a hideout. Who is she searching for? Why is she on the run? When she loses her dog, awkward, shy teenager Assaf finds the stray lab, who then leads him on a wild chase across the city until they find Tamar

The End of Your Life Book Club
Author: Will Schwalbe
Publisher: Vintage, June 4, 2013 (reprint edition)
Language: English

Will Schwalbe's memoir of his mother's death from pancreatic cancer. But Mary Anne Schwalbe is such a fierce, unsentimental heroine--and her son such a frank and funny storyteller--that what could have been an emotional roller coaster turns out to be a beautifully paced ride. Mary Anne loves a good book as ardently as she loves her kids and her causes, chief among them a campaign to build a library in Afghanistan. When her health starts to fail, Will joins her for hospital appointments. They wait, they talk, and they read together--everything they've ever wanted to discuss. As much an homage to literature as to the mother who shared it with him.

Prague Winter
Author: Madeline Albright
Publisher: Harper Perennial, Feb 19, 2013 (reprint edition)
Language: English

"I was 59 when I learned from a reporter and from certain letters I had received that my ancestral heritage was Jewish and that more than two dozen of my relatives had died in the Holocaust. The revelation shook my deeply ingrained sense of identity, and prompted me to seek answers to questions that I had never before thought to ask. That search began with visits to the small towns in Czechoslovakia where my parents had grown up and to the ancient synagogue where the names of Holocaust victims are enshrined. *Prague Winter* is a continuation of that personal journey, but also a much wider tale concerning a generation compelled to make painful moral choices amid the tumult of war."



"The power of a book lies in its power to turn a solitary act into a shared vision. As long as we have books we are not alone."

Former First Lady Laura Bush



International Women's Club of New England

Film: ***The Gatekeepers***
DVD Release: July 9, 2013
*Language:*Hebrew
Subtitles: English, French
Directed by Dror Moreh
95 minutes

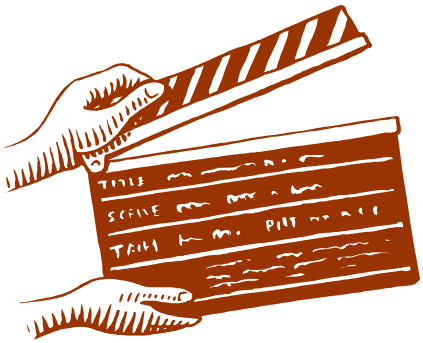
An Oscar nominated documentary featuring interviews with all six surviving former heads of Shin Bet, the Israeli security agency whose activities and membership are closely held secrets.

Film: ***The Company You Keep***
DVD Release: 2013
Language: English
Directed by: Robert Redford
124 minutes

Robert Redford stars in and directs this riveting thriller loosely based on the Weather Underground radicals of the '70s...today. Cast includes Shia LaBeouf, Julie Christie, Nick Nolte, Terrence Howard, Brendan Gleeson and Susan Sarandon. A pulsating drama of a man who goes on an intricate, often interior journey to outrun his past. A former member of the Weather Underground who goes on the run to clear his name after he is outed by a journalist.

Film: ***Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry***
DVD Release: Dec. 4, 2012
Language: English
Subtitles: Mandarin Chinese, Spanish
Directed by: Allison Klayman
91 minutes

This inspiring and compelling documentary explores three years in the life of celebrated Chinese artist and activist Ai Weiwei, who uses social media and his art to inspire protests against the state, and suffers government persecution for his actions



Marian Adair Achievement Award



The Marian Adair award is named for a remarkable woman. Marian Wood Adair grew up in a small town of just 6000 persons, Hillsdale, Michigan, USA. Her passion for the international community was ignited by her high school French teacher. Mademoiselle taught with enthusiasm, creativity and knowledge that other cultures were very interesting. Mademoiselle opened Marian's vision to the world. After college, Marian and some college friends traveled around Europe. The young women saw all the sights, enjoyed the new cultures, and tried out their French language skills on the French. Marian and the other recent college graduates had a wonderful time—Marian, however, was smitten with the people. Mademoiselle's teaching and the trip through Europe were the catalyst she needed to become the global woman. When life took her to Washington, DC, Marian saw the opportunity to once again enjoy the global experience. But, she wanted this experience for other women as well.

In Washington, Marian met women who had struggled in their own countries. Women who had the possibility of being exceptional but who had to work very hard to show or to share their exceptionality. Women who had to be resilient to survive.

Slavica Park
1012 Marian W. Adair Achievement Award

Presented at the Colorado Conference



The winner of 2012 Marian W. Adair award is a remarkable woman. She is unusually resilient. Slavica Park was born in Bosnia. She was a teaching assistant in the Center for Higher Education in Derventa, Bosnia, from 1987-1991. In that year she left Bosnia for Germany. Her father lived in Germany. As a Social Worker in a major international relief organization, Slavica aided clients from the former Yugoslavia. She counseled persons with post trauma stress syndrome. She also conducted cross-cultural orientations and consultations. In 1997, Slavica received a BA in Psychology from University of Darmstadt, Germany.

In the same year, Slavica came to the United States under the refugee status. She moved to Denver where she enrolled at the Emily Griffith Technical College. At night she worked as a janitor to pay tuition. From 1997-2003 she was office manager in the Language Learning Dept and Co-Trainer for the Colorado Refugee English as a Second Language Home Tutoring program. From 2003 until the present, Slavica has been Dean of the Language Center at Emily Griffith Technical College.

With all this experience and background, Slavica Park has been asked to serve on the boards of the Colorado Refugee Network Council and the Colorado Literacy Coalition. She also took part in the US Department of State's World Learning exchange program which looked at marginalized populations and immigrant integration.

Slavica Park is one of the women who persevered through adversity. She is resilient. Slavica has used her education and experiences to advance herself, but not just herself. She has worked to advance women and men who are marginalized. She is a remarkable woman. The Marian Adair award was established to put the spotlight on remarkable women—especially women who have assisted other women to rise above their circumstances to become remarkable women themselves.

Caroline Adair Dimmers presented the Marian Wood Adair with joy and honor to Ms. Slavica Park.

2012 International Conference Denver, Colorado



Passing the baton - President Julia Banks (2010-2012) welcomes Incoming President Caroline Dimmers at the Farewell Dinner, Colorado International Conference.

The WCI Denver conference was well attended and the members of the Welcome to Colorado club kept all of us very busy and engaged. WTC arranged several very interesting speakers:

Dr. Dennis Roop
Chair of the Stem Cell Center
Charles C. Gates Center for Regenerative Stem Cell Research
University Of Denver
Dr. Roop gave us an extraordinary review of the incredible progress being made in adult stem cell research and their ability to reprogram adult somatic cells back into a cell that looks like an embryonic stem cell. Clinical trials are producing exciting results, including cornea and retina regeneration. In other trials, stem cells are being used to eliminate cancer and inherited skin blistering diseases.

Marita Susana Landaveri Porturas
Counsul General of Peru in Denver
Key Note Speaker
She spoke of her diplomatic career and the many posts she has held, including Peruvian Ambassador to the Czech Republic.



Debra Benton
Motivational Speaker
Ms Benton gave a humorous and unique insight to facial expressions and how we interact (or don't interact) with strangers based on what they read in our face..

Corinne Joy Brown
Welcome to Colorado member
Corinne presented several short sketches of various early western women in a unique and highly entertaining format. Showing a slide of the personality, Corinne ducked behind the podium and came back dressed as her subject and proceeded to speak in that person's "voice".

Sasha Hoskie
Member of the Navajo Nation
Sasha talked about the role of women in the Navajo culture and its traditions. She presented insights to some of the problems the young people face in balancing their culture and mainstream living.



Out Colorado hosts pulled out all the stops. We toured the U.S. Olympic Training Center and the Incredible Garden of The Gods and its amazing rock formations. We also enjoyed a tour of the western art collection at the Denver Art Museum. Concurrently, the museum was host to the Ives St. Laurent exhibt (the only museum in the U.S. to have this exhibition). We topped off our Denver stay with a day trip toVail, complete with a gondola ride to lunch on the mountain.

WCI extends heartfelt thanks to Welcome to Colorado for a sensational conference.

Lise McCartney,
Editor, WCI Worldwide Link




Garden of the Gods

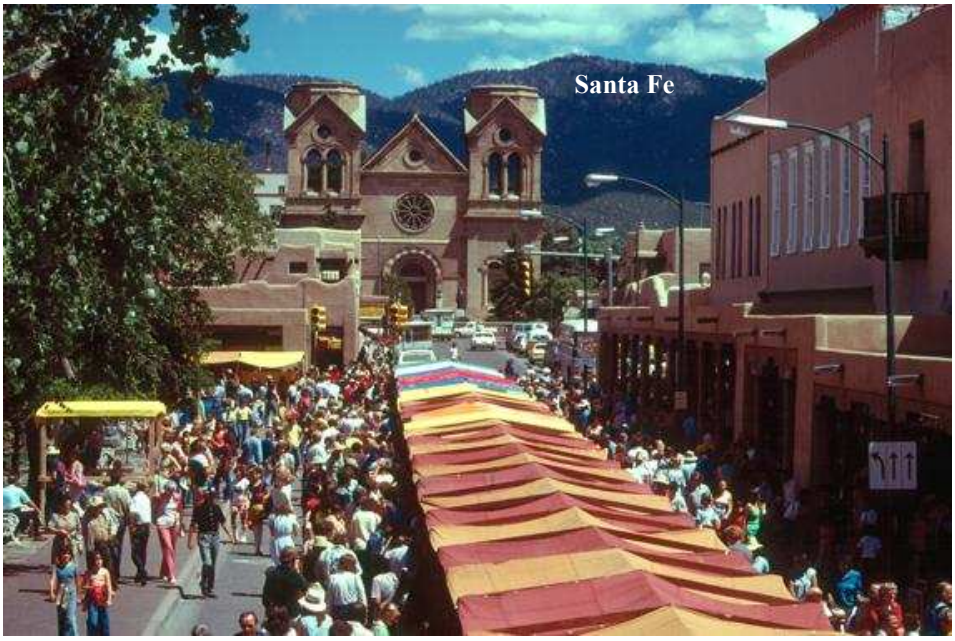
Following the spectacular Conference in Denver, some of the participants took the Post Trip, winding through the breathtaking southwest region of the United States. The group was escorted by two lovely, Denver ladies—Kathy Swanson and Julia Banks.

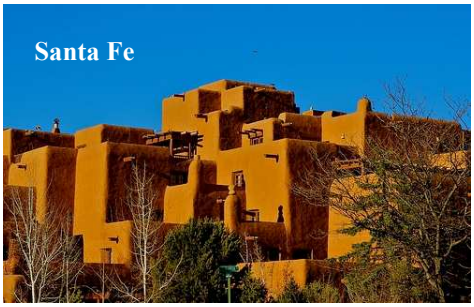
The tour went south from Denver to the Four Corners—the dot of land where Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona touch. The first city to visit was Santa Fe, New Mexico. It is the oldest state capital in the United States. Adobe pueblo architecture charmed our visitors who were new to this area.

The group flew to Las Vegas, an energetic, entertaining city! The fabulous Bellagio Hotel housed the travelers. In the evening, the participants enjoyed the stage show, "Oh." The following day a part of the group visited the Grand Canyon. It is easy to see why the Grand Canyon has been cited as one of the seven wonders of the world. The rest of the group took a back stage tour of Bailey's Hotel. The participants were treated to its extravagant "Jubilee" that evening.

The Post Trip added to the participants wonder and appreciation of the variety of ancient sites, spectacular scenery and vivacity of life in the vibrant Southwest.


Garden of the Gods


Santa Fe


Santa Fe


Navajo Blankets

2013 WCI Annual Board of Directors Meeting
Istanbul, Turkey
May11-14, 2013
Hosted by the Istanbul's Women's Association


Laurie Nakamoto, Hifzyie Zincir, Vera LeCocq

Salome Ott, our new BIC president, and I attended this year's conference in this fascinating city, a conference that combined discussions of club needs and exploring the country and its people. We were joined by Turkish members from Istanbul, Ankara and Cyprus.

The purpose of this meeting was to improve the way we connect more than 20 clubs representing more than 10 countries from around the world. How do we identify and promote leadership, attract younger members as well as encourage attendance at these conferences by making them more affordable.

Our keynote speaker was Rana Celal Zincir who lives in Cyprus and Turkey. Her topic of "Where is Turkey going" is, of course, now in all the news. She works on civil society projects and foundations with a special interest in furthering cooperation between Greek and Turkish Cyprus as demarcated by the UN Buffer Zone. Sima Sunder, a pedagogue, spoke at our last dinner about The Lions Quest program, a life skill program for adolescents.

Vera LeCocq,
Liaison WCI
Berkshire International Club



Touring Turkey with WCI Board of Directors

by: Salome Ott
President
Berkshire International Club

Representing BIC, I attended the bi-yearly executive meeting of the Welcome Club International (WCI) in Istanbul and Ankara, Turkey with Vera LeCocq, BIC Liaison with WCI.


Throne Room, Topkapi, Palace


Iznik tiles

Hifzyie Zincir, a global citizen born in Turkish Cyprus and a member of the clubs in Washington DC and Istanbul, organized our visits in Istanbul as well as social events during the days of the meeting and the post meeting trip in Southern Turkey. With limitless energy and enthusiasm, Hifzyie showcased her beloved Istanbul which, like all of Turkey, offers a staggering wealth of archeological and historic treasures.:

Layer upon layer there are pre-classic, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman artifacts, most not excavated because every culture was built on the ruins of older ones. Knowing that wherever one digs some treasure will come to light, the required construction to host the 2020 Olympics is close to impossible.

We visited Topkapi, the Imperial palace of the Ottomans, mosques covered with Iznik tiles, Byzantine churches with most beautiful mosaics, Roman city walls, the vast underground water cistern from the 6th century, and much more. We also enjoyed amazing views over the Golden Horn from Loti's Cafe, relaxed on an evening cruise on the Bosphorus, and delighted ourselves with the wonderful Turkish dishes that were served abundantly. The sightseeing was quite intense as we were taken to as many sites as time would allow until fatigue overcame us; but who

would not be excited about a diamond of the size of a palm or a mosque covered with exquisite, brightly colored tiles, even in a state of exhaustion?


Hagia Sofia

Our days in Istanbul were filled with most interesting activities that left all the participants enriched and enchanted with this history laden city between East and West, enjoyed together with for some old, for me new friends from the WCI. The post meeting trip to the south along the Aegean and rocky Mediterranean coast, with beautiful vegetation, crystal clear turquoise sea, and remains from pre-classical and Roman cultures was a week-long dream come true. We toured sites between Fethiye and Antalya. Dalyan was the starting point for a boat tour that took us upriver to a lake with wildlife to watch, including feeding loggerhead turtles, passed 3000 years old Lycian rock tombs and Roman ruins.

We visited Tlos and Xantos, superbly preserved ruins of two major Lycian cities; Tlos was inhabited until the 19th Century. We enjoyed several boat tours along the coast where we saw Roman ruins drowned in the sea by an earthquake, and simply relished the marvelous environment. Lovely resort towns in that area are Oelue Deniz, Kalkan, Kas, where you find marinas, good restaurants, beach life next to Lycian and Roman ruins. In Demre stands the small and charming Byzantine church where St. Nicholas served as Bishop of Myra. His focus on service to the poor and children made him a saint, and now the principal saint in the Russian Orthodox Church. The church in Demre is a major site of pilgrimage for people of that faith.


Roman Ruins

The trip concluded in Antalya, a big city from where we made the last excursion to archaeological sites, visited the superb museum, and enjoyed a last day of sun at the beach.

Again, Thank you Hifzye for a splendid experience and enjoyment of the archeological and natural richness and beauty of this wonderful country.

Welcome Clubs International Executive Meeting, October 6-10, 2013

Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Hosted by the International Women's Club of New England



The Executive Committee of Welcome Clubs International, WCI, just completed its fall meeting. The women gathered in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA. The hosting club, International Women's Club of New England, welcomed us warmly. The club women had planned many opportunities for us to socialize. We enjoyed a pot luck lunch at the Seacoast Science Center, an hors d'oeuvre party at an art filled home, a lobster-clam bake with bibs! and a final luncheon with speaker. We came away with lovely new friends and an appreciation for fall in New England.

Our organizer, Zoi Diamond, and club president, Mary Lee Pons, provided a perfect setting for our meetings.

Meet we did! The Executive Committee of WCI meets only every six months so we always have a full agenda. Our main topic centered on our perceived need to update the WCI logo and website. Our logo has been with us for a long time. We wondered if in this digital age we could make improvements on our current logo or did we need a new one? We also knew that our web site needed to be compatible with mobile devices. In other words, we needed a face lift.

The Executive Committee voted to engage three graphic designers to bid on our work to include the logo and website update. After looking at the suggestions from the three designers, we will choose one design company to work on our project. You will be part of the decision process. We need you to:

- Evaluate the cultural appropriateness of our new logo.
- Evaluate the timelessness of our new logo. The new logo will be our brand for many years. We want it to tell the story of WCI.

Our plan is to bring the design ideas to Hamburg for you to look at, talk about and decide on. Your input is essential. Again, this will be our brand for years to come—we want it right.



Other business at the Executive Committee meeting included conversation about the Conference coming up in May. Hamburg is our destination. Their theme, Hamburg: Gateway to a Peaceful World, invites us to a wonderful gathering of international friends.

Our meetings were fruitful. We look forward with excitement to sharing, discussing, planning for the future with you. See you in Hamburg!

Caroline Adair Dimmers
WCI President

Iranian Wedding Ceremony

by: Eshrat demougeot
Welcome to Washington International Club



For Iranians marriage is an event which is celebrated with glory and distinction. It is celebrated with the presence of family and a large assembly of friends depending on the financial status of the family.

In the past parents and older members of the family arranged almost all marriages. Modern couples,however, choose their own partners but with the consent of their parents. Once the groom and his family approve and express their desire for the union, they go to the brides home with flowers, sweets and jewelry to ask for her hand. The engagement ring is sent to the bride's house with female relatives of the groom.

There are two stages to a marriage. Most often both take place on the same day. The first is called “Aghd” during which the legal process takes place. The second stage is the wedding reception to which the numbers of people invited depends on the economic status of the families.

The “Aghd” ceremony takes place in the brides home. The elaborately decorated spread in front of the bride and groom contains several items . This is called “Sofreh Aghd”. Mirror and candelabras represent brightness in their future.”Sangak” Bread with blessings written in calligraphy with Saffron on it symbolising prosperity. Honey and crystallised sugar to sweeten life. Frankincense to keep the evil eye away. A basket of decorated eggs and decorated walnuts and hazelnuts which symbolises fertility. Grooms family is expected to pay for all expenses.

The Mullah (Priest) performs the legal part of the ceremony. This part of the ceremony consists of blessings by reciting verses from the Quran and signing of a legal marriage contract. After the blessing the priest confirms with the bride and groom whether they indeed wish to proceed with the marriage. First the bridegroom is asked if he wishes to enter into the marriage contract, then the bride is asked the same question. The groom confirms he does. The bride pauses and is silent. The question is repeated three times to the bride and it is only after the third time she responds with a yes. Once the bride has said yes verses from the Quran will be read, documents are signed and the two are pronounced man and wife. Immediately after the couple is married they each dip one pinky finger in the cup of honey and feed it to each other.

During the service two different actions take place at the same time. Two pieces of crystallised sugar (shaped like cones) are rubbed over the couple's head (over a silk scarf held above their heads) throughout the ceremony symbolising sweetness and happiness. In the second act two parts of the same fabric are symbolically sewn together with seven strands of coloured thread to sew up the mother-in-law's lips from speaking unpleasant words to the bride.

After the ceremony there are lavish feasts, dancing, music and entertainers. The bride and groom then get ready to cut the wedding cake. As they approach the table to cut the cake a close friend of the bride takes the knife away and dances provocatively challenging them to retrieve the knife. The knife is only retrieved after the groom bribes her with cash.

Traditionally at the end of the wedding festivities the bride and groom depart either to their new home or a couple of nights at a luxurious hotel.

Traditions

The Lebanese Famous Dance DABKE

by Rihab Ouri
Woman's League of Beirut





The famous Dabke called "Dal'ouna" has its name derived from the Aramaic word "ouna" (mutual aid).

Debke is a very energetic dance form. The right hand is held up and left hand down. In Lebanon there are many styles. Main styles are Beiruty, known for the capital city, Mountain and Baalbek. The latter two are called beledi or country-debkes.The popularity of Dabke explains the diversity of this dance's rhythms, steps, and inherited tunes and melodies (dal'ouna, houwara, nadda, etc.).

"Dabke" is a line and formation dance performed by different inhabitants of the mountains lying above the Mediterranean coastline and the Tigris River. The dance is a proud, communal dance done at most occasions and gatherings. It is Lebanon's national dance typical of the villages and towns of Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Jordan, and Iraq.

Generally, Arabs in the said countries have the following common understanding of the Dabke Dance:Dabke is a collective dance performed in an arc and limited by the space.

All kinds of Dabke have one thing in common: thumping the floor hard with their feet.



Since the founding of the Baalbeck Festival, Dancing in Baalbeck Festival 1957, Lebanese musicians, notably the Rahballi brothers, Zaki Nassif, and Afif Radwan, included Dabke in their musicals and operettas. The Debke Music is well composed by the following necessary musical instruments:

- The Oud which is the English word "lute".
- The mijwiz which is a type of reed clarinet.
- The tablah which is a small hand-drum also known as the durbakke.
- The daff which is known as the Riq. It is similar to the tambourine.
- The arghul which is the yarghoul. It is commonly used in solos.

The Rahballi borthers together with their rivals worked hard on the Debke Dance and succeeded in presenting it as a worthy classical art.

Dabke is still the cornerstone of the dancing art in Lebanon despite the numerous



and different styles of dance. It is not limited to weddings and other happy events, but fills an important place at the heart of the artistic movement. It is a must in every musical or operetta presented in Lebanon.



The movements consist of walking, leaping, fast footwork, kicks and stomps of feet and heels. The before mentioned movements are all done in unison. Even in Lebanon (a tiny country no bigger than Delaware) there are variations in steps and styles. This carries over to the USA where there are pockets of immigrants from a particular area. You can tell where they come from by the debke they do even before their accent gives them away.

The leader of the dancers is always on the front of the line. He may change the step or do fancy steps. The second in line keeps the line going with the basic steps to keep the rhythm. He usually has a mizpah (prayer beads) or a knotted handkerchief which he twirls in time to the music. A lady leader might have a soft hankie or scarf. This is during the communal debke style. There can also be the performing debke style which is much fancier with choreography done by all members. The choreography is comprised of a basic syllabus and some raks sharki moves. The men are very strong in their movements with jumping, fast turning and heavy stomping and even vocals. The ladies on the other hand are softer and less aggressive. The performing style today is mixed with more balletic and theatrical moves.



Holiday Traditions

St. Lucia Day in Sweden



St. Lucia Day honors a third-century saint on December 13, when girls dress up as "Lucia brides" and wear long white gowns and red sashes — a tradition that dates back to the 18th century. The attire is accompanied with a wreath of burning candles on their heads. The eldest daughter wakes early, puts on a white gown and serves her parents breakfast, singing songs and offering coffee, and a traditional bun, called St. Lucia's bun and made from saffron, is commonly eaten on this day.In some places, there are also candlelight processions on Christmas Eve.

New Year's Eve in Ecuador

In this South American country, a family dresses up a straw man representing the old year. Family members make a will for the straw man that lists all of their faults. At midnight, they burn the straw man in hopes their own faults disappear too.

Omisoka in Japan

In Japan, Omisoka, or New Year's Eve, is the second most important holiday of the year, following New Year's Day, the start of a new beginning. Japanese families gather for a late dinner around 11 p.m., and at midnight, many make visits to a shrine or temple. In many homes, there is a cast bell that is struck 108 times, symbolizing desires believed to cause human suffering.

Ta Chiu in Hong Kong

Those in Hong Kong pray to the gods and ghosts of their ancestors asking that they will fulfill wishes for the next year. Priests read aloud the names of every person living at the celebration and attach a list of names to a paper horse and set it on fire. The smoke carries the names up to the gods and the living will be remembered.

Hanukkah in Israel

Jewish people all over the world observe Hanukkah, but perhaps there is not a more brilliant celebration than in Israel. The eight-day holiday starts on different dates in December every year. The focal point of celebration is the menorah, a branched candelabrum, and most homes have many. Each night, one candle is lit and gifts are often given to children, games are played and food is enjoyed. Children in Israel even get a week off from school.

Jerusalem

In this city where Jesus lived and died, Christmas is joyously celebrated in the Christian quarter of the Old City. Churches decorated with trees conduct nonstop services in many languages, with Jews and Muslims often sitting in. From Jerusalem, many people make the pilgrimage six miles south to Bethlehem. Marching bands and bagpipers led by Arabian horses weave through the narrow streets to Manger Square, the plaza outside the Basilica of the Nativity, which stands on the grotto where Jesus was born.

St. Stephen's Day in Ireland

Christmas festivities in Ireland tend to be more religious in nature than about simple fun. Christmas celebrations last from Christmas Eve until January 6th (Epiphany). On the 26th, St. Stephen's Day, an Irish tradition that is known as the Wren Boys Procession takes place. Children go from door to door singing, holding a stick that is topped by a holly bush and a wren. They ask for money for the "starving wren," which goes into their pockets.

Sviata Vechera in the Ukraine

The Christmas Eve festivities in the Ukraine are known as Sviata Vechera, which means "Holy Supper." The celebration begins when the first evening star is sighted in the night sky. In farming communities, the household head brings in a sheaf of wheat which symbolizes the wheat crops of Ukraine. It is called "didukh," which translates to "grandfather spirit." In homes within the city, a few stalks of wheat may be used to decorate the table

Poinsettia plants are named after Joel R. Poinsett, an American minister to Mexico, who brought the red-and-green plant from Mexico to America in 1828.

Finland

On Christmas Eve, the Finnish visit relatives in the afternoon, followed by a trip to the cemetery to remember the dead. Candles are left burning on the gravestones of family members and ancestors. Finnish children can expect a personal visit from Santa on Christmas Eve, when a male relative or friend will dress up and bring gifts to the house. After Santa leaves, the Christmas feast is served with salted ham, potatoes, veggies and lots of homemade biscuits and buns. And no Finnish Christmas is complete without an after-dinner visit to the sauna.

Canada

Mummering is a tradition which takes place in the Canadian provinces of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. People dress up in costumes and knock on someone's door and say in a disguised voice, "Are there any Mummers in the night?" or "Any mummers 'loud in? Once invited in they sing and dance and have Christmas cake and a cup of something nice before moving on to the next house.

The Italian version of Father Christmas, La Befana travels the world on her broomstick leaving presents in the stockings of good children and coal for those who were naughty.

Costa Rica

During Christmas in Costa Rica, people like to decorate their houses with beautiful tropical flowers and sometimes fruit. The whole family gets involved in hand making a large nativity scene that is placed in the centre of the house.

Czech Republic

At Christmas in the Czech Republic, a place is left empty at the Christmas Day meal in case the Christ Child should come to eat.

France

In France, Yule Logs made out of cherry wood are often burned in French homes. The log is carried into the home on Christmas Eve and red wine is poured over it that gives off a nice aroma when it is burning. Nearly every home has a Nativity Scene, which serves as the focal point of decoration and celebration, just as the Christmas tree does in U.S. homes.

Spain

In Spain, after the midnight church service, people walk through the streets carrying torches, playing guitars and beating on tambourines and drums. One Spanish saying is 'Esta noche es Noche-Buena, Y no Es noche de dormir' which means 'Tonight is the good night and it is not meant for sleeping!'

Germany

In Germany, they make white dough called Christbaumgeback. They use this dough to make different shapes and bake them for tree decorations.

Greece

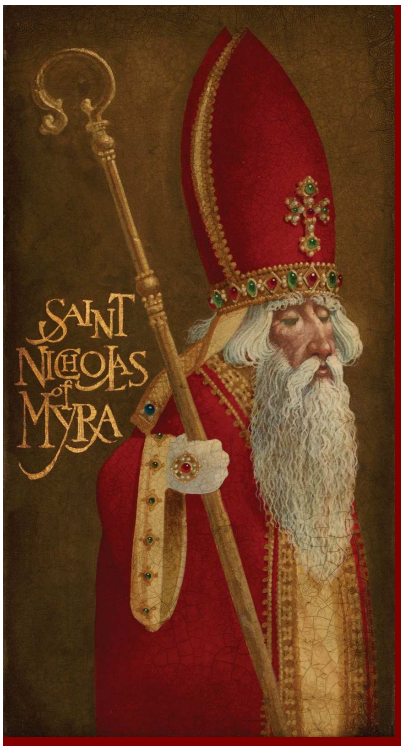
In Greece on Christmas Eve, village children travel from house to house offering good wishes and singing kalanda, the equivalent of carols. The children are frequently rewarded with sweets and dried fruits.

Italy

The tradition of the Nativity scene hails from Italy, where artisans hand-carve these beautiful sets which people display in their homes. Churches also feature beautiful Nativity crèches throughout the holiday season, which people enjoy visiting especially on Christmas Eve. A strict fast is observed on the day before Christmas, and on Christmas Eve a traditional seven fish dinner is served. Children hang up their stockings on January 6 for a visit from La Befana, who according to legend, chose not to visit the Baby Jesus on the night of His birth. Regretting her choice, she has been looking for Him ever since.

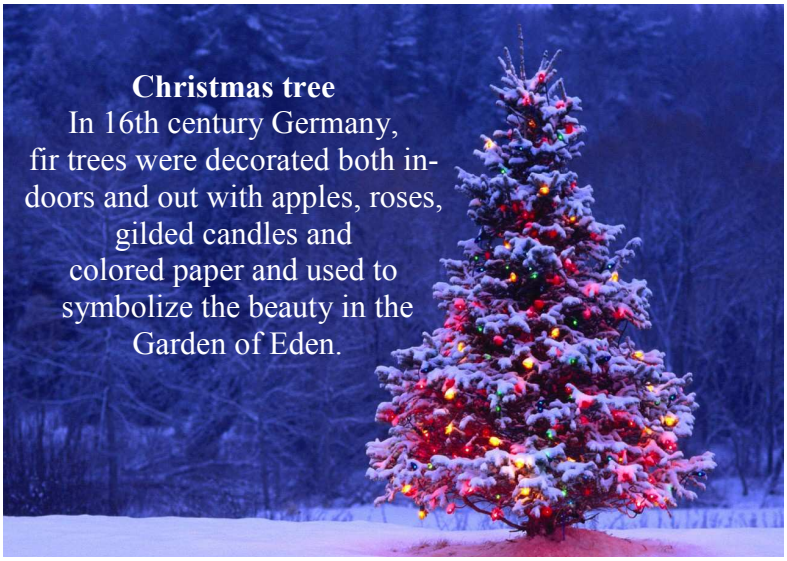


Holiday Traditions



The Legend of St. Nicholas

The legend of Santa Claus can be traced back hundreds of years to a monk named St. Nicholas. It is believed that Nicholas was born sometime around 280 A.D. in Patara, near Myra in modern-day Turkey. Much admired for his piety and kindness, St. Nicholas became the subject of many legends. It is said that he gave away all of his inherited wealth and traveled the countryside helping the poor and sick. One of the best known of the St. Nicholas stories is that he saved three poor sisters from being sold into slavery or prostitution by their father by providing them with a dowry so that they could be married. Over the course of many years, Nicholas's popularity spread and he became known as the protector of children and sailors. His feast day is celebrated on the anniversary of his death, December 6. This was traditionally considered a lucky day to make large purchases or to get married. By the Renaissance, St. Nicholas was the most popular saint in Europe. Even after the Protestant Reformation, when the veneration of saints began to be discouraged, St. Nicholas maintained a positive reputation, especially in Holland.



An Ancient Holiday

The middle of winter has long been a time of celebration around the world. Centuries before the arrival of the man called Jesus, early Europeans celebrated light and birth in the darkest days of winter. Many peoples rejoiced during the winter solstice, when the worst of the winter was behind them and they could look forward to longer days and extended hours of sunlight.

In Scandinavia, the Norse celebrated Yule from December 21, the winter solstice, through January. In recognition of the return of the sun, fathers and sons would bring home large logs, which they would set on fire. The people would feast until the log burned out, which could take as many as 12 days. The Norse believed that each spark from the fire represented a new pig or calf that would be born during the coming year.

The end of December was a perfect time for celebration in most areas of Europe. At that time of year, most cattle were slaughtered so they would not have to be fed during the winter. For many, it was the only time of year when they had a supply of fresh meat. In addition, most wine and beer made during the year was finally fermented and ready for drinking.

In Germany, people honored the pagan god Oden during the mid-winter holiday. Germans were terrified of Oden, as they believed he made nocturnal flights through the sky to observe his people, and then decide who would prosper or perish. Because of his presence, many people chose to stay inside.

In Rome, where winters were not as harsh as those in the far north, Saturnalia—a holiday in honor of Saturn, the god of agriculture—was celebrated. Beginning in the week leading up to the winter solstice and continuing for a full month, Saturnalia was a hedonistic time, when food and drink were plentiful and the normal Roman social order was turned upside down. For a month, slaves would become masters. Peasants were in command of the city. Business and schools were closed so that everyone could join in the fun.

Also around the time of the winter solstice, Romans observed Juvenalia, a feast honoring the children of Rome. In addition, members of the upper classes often celebrated the birthday of Mithra, the god of the unconquerable sun, on December 25. It was believed that Mithra, an infant god, was born of a rock. For some Romans, Mithra's birthday was the most sacred day of the year.

By holding Christmas at the same time as traditional winter solstice festivals, church leaders increased the chances that Christmas would be popularly embraced, but gave up the ability to dictate how it was celebrated.

Holiday Traditions

DID YOU KNOW?

Christmas Stockings
Several legends surround the Christmas stocking, the most widely accepted one is the story of St. Nicholas throwing three bags of gold down a poor man's chimney into his daughters' stockings, which were hanging to dry. Today, the stockings celebrate the uniqueness and individuality of every member of the household, including the pets!

Mistletoe
Druid priests believed that mistletoe fell from heaven and grew onto a tree that sprang from earth, symbolizing the joining of heaven and earth. A kiss under mistletoe symbolizes acceptance of one another and reconciliation.

Holly, ivy and other greenery
One of the most used holiday trimmings, holly has sharp edges that symbolize the crown of thorns worn by Jesus at his crucifixion and berries that represent his blood. Boughs of holly, believed to have magical power, were placed over the doors of homes in Northern Europe to drive evil spirits away.

Poinsettias
One legend of this native Mexican plant is that of a young boy who, on his way to visit the village nativity scene, gathered pretty green branches from along the road as a gift for the Christ child. When the leaves were laid in the manger, a beautiful star-shaped flower appeared on each branch.

Christmas cards
As the first director of London's Victoria and Albert Museum, Sir Henry Cole was too busy to compose individual greetings for his friends so he commissioned artist John Calcott Horsley for the illustration. The card featured three panels with one standard message for all his friends.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
The story was written by Montgomery Ward employee Robert L. May in 1939 as a cost-saving approach to the store's practice of purchasing and distributing children's coloring books over the Christmas season. Nearly two and a half million copies were handed out that year, despite the wartime paper shortage.

Giving gifts
Like many old customs, gift exchange was difficult to get rid of even as Christianity spread. Early church leaders tried to outlaw the custom, but the people cherished it too much to let it go. Justification to continue the practice was found in the Magi's act of bearing gifts to the infant Jesus and in the concept that Christ himself was a gift from God to the world.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Arabic:	Milad Majid
Bulgarian:	Tchestita Koleda; Tchestito Rojdestvo Hristovo
Chinese:	(Cantonese) Gun Tso Sun Tan'Gung Haw Sun
Chinese:	(Mandarin) Sheng Dan Kuai Le
Danish:	Glædelig Jul
Dutch:	Vrolijk Kerstfeest en een Gelukkig Nieuwjaar! or Zalig Kerstfeast
Farsi:	Cristmas-e-shoma mobarak bashad
Finnish:	Hyvaa joulua
French:	Joyeux Noel
Greek:	Kala Christouyenna!
Hebrew:	Mo'adim Lesimkha. Chena tova
Hindi:	Shub Naya Baras (good New Year not Merry Christmas)
Hungarian:	Boldog Karácsonyt
Indonesian:	Selamat Hari Natal
Irish:	Nollaig Shona Dhuit, or Nodlaig mhaith chugnat
Italian:	Buone Feste Natalizie
Japanese:	Shinnen omedeto. Kurisumasu Omedeto
Korean:	Sung Tan Chuk Ha
Norwegian:	God Jul, or Gledelig Jul
Peru:	Feliz Navidad y un Venturoso Año Nuevo
Philippines:	Maligayang Pasko!
Polish:	Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia or Boze Narodzenie
Portuguese:	Feliz Natal
Russian:	Pozdrevlyayu s prazdnikom Rozhdestva is Novim Godom
Spanish:	Feliz Navidad
Swedish:	God Jul and (Och) Ett Gott Nytt År
Turkish:	Noeliniz Ve Yeni Yiliniz Kutlu Olsun

Qualities of Women Leaders



When it comes to leadership, does gender matter? Is there a difference between women leaders and men who lead? If so, what are the unique qualities of female leadership that the most effective women leaders possess, and are they unique to women?

In 2005, a year-long study conducted by Caliper, a Princeton, New Jersey-based management consulting firm, and Aurora, a London-based organization that advances women, identified a number of characteristics that distinguish women leaders from men when it comes to qualities of leadership:

> Women leaders are more assertive and persuasive, have a stronger need to get things done and are more willing to take risks than male leaders....Women leaders were also found to be more empathetic and flexible, as well as stronger in interpersonal skills than their male counterparts....enabl[ing] them to read situations accurately and take information in from all sides....These women leaders are able to bring others around to their point of view....because they genuinely understand and care about where others are coming from....so that the people they are leading feel more understood, supported and valued.

The Unique Leadership Characteristics of Women

The Caliper study findings are summarized into four specific statements about women's leadership qualities:

1. Women leaders are more persuasive than their male counterparts.
2. When feeling the sting of rejection, women leaders learn from adversity and carry on with an "I'll show you" attitude.
3. Women leaders demonstrate an inclusive, team-building leadership style of problem solving and decision making.
4. Women leaders are more likely to ignore rules and take risks.

In her book *Why the Best Man for the Job is a Woman: The Unique Female Qualities of Leadership*, author Esther Wachs Book examines the careers of fourteen top female executives - among them Meg Whitman, President and CEO of eBay - to learn what makes them so successful. What she discovers echoes the Caliper study, including a willingness to reinvent the rules; an ability to sell their visions; the determination to turn challenges into opportunities; and a focus on 'high touch' in a high tech business world.

This evidence - that the leadership style of women is not simply unique but possibly at odds with what men practice - begs the question: Do these qualities have value in the marketplace? Is this type of leadership welcomed by society and by the public and private sector?

Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro, the World YWCA Secretary General, says attitudes toward leadership are changing, and what women offer is essential:

> Domination as a leadership style is becoming less and less popular. There is a new growing appreciation of...those traits that women use to keep families together and to organize volunteers to unite and make change in the shared life of communities. These newly admired leadership qualities of shared leadership; nurturance and doing good for others are today not only sought after but also indeed needed to make a difference in the world....A feminine way of leading includes helping the world to understand and be principled about values that really matter.



*By **Linda Lowen** (A former radio/TV broadcast journalist, Linda has won national awards for her coverage of women's issues. During her career as a broadcast journalist, she created, produced, and hosted women's issues radio and television programs for NPR and PBS station affiliates including the award-winning talk show Women's Voices. Linda is also a member of the Women's Media Center Progressive Women's Voices program and the National Cancer Survivor's Day Speaker's Bureau.)*

International Women's Day

International Women's Day
March 8, 2014

Start your club's planning
for the celebration.

"A Cup of Friendship"



A WCI tradition of raising our cups in friendship celebrating women around the world

"In politics if you want anything said ask a man. If you want anything done, ask a woman."
Margaret Thatcher, British Politician

Marian Wood Adair



1913 - 2004

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FIWAL

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Association of Turkish Women in Britain
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British Pakistan Foundation (BPF)
Canadian Women's Club (CWC)
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Corona Worldwide (Women's Corona Society)
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