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SISTER CLUB NEWS

SCN - ISSUE 1 - JULY 2020

Friendship through Understanding... Understanding through Education and Friendship



KIM RIEDEL
WCI President
2019-2021

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I welcome you to the Summer edition of Sister Club News. This edition comes on the heels of our recent Board of Directors' Meeting held on Zoom where all member clubs were represented. This was a remarkable feat and a reminder that despite the uncertainty and challenges we face globally, our leaders remain steadfast to peace. Perhaps, the global challenges illuminate even more the need to build bridges of friendships based on trust. The challenges further demonstrate that if we remain open to education and learning, we help to transform our clubs and communities into more peaceful, cooperative, and humane societies.

I would like to thank both Sister Club News Editor, Rihab Ouri, and Copy Editor, Lea Hesse, for their work in delivering this edition. Their willingness to help us connect Sister Clubs to communicate our common goal in the many diverse ways we articulate them is an expression of friendship. I also thank our member clubs for their willingness to continue sharing their work with our community. The combined ideas of member clubs are woven together to create a global tapestry of friendship, understanding, and education.

In our unique way, we are positively changing our societies through the bridges we build between one another based on friendship. I hope you enjoy this edition inspired by the many ways we express peace and are changing our world.

In gratitude,

Kim

Kim Riedel
President 2019-2021
Welcome Clubs International

WCI NEWS

Congratulations to member club Women's International Club Jakarta, which is celebrating its 70th birthday this year. We hope the postponed celebration that had been planned in March will go ahead in the near future. We wish our friends wonderful years ahead!

Congratulations as well to WIC Jakarta's new Executive Committee 2020-22!

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Due to the cancellation of WCI's 16th International Conference that was to have been held in Jakarta, Indonesia, the Board of Directors' Meeting was held virtually on Zoom on June 15th. The use of the platform for the meeting was historic, as was the full representation of all member clubs.

The WCI Executive Committee's end-of-program year meeting was held on June 1st.

The COVID-19 outbreak created devastating economic, health, and societal hardships all around the globe. For the first time since its inception, WCI had to cancel its trademark International Conference.

Until it is safe for us to meet in the same space again, please keep yourselves and your loved ones protected from this terrible virus. We at WCI wish you all to be safe, healthy, and happy!

The Summary Reports for both meetings are on the Meetings page on the website's Member site.

(*password for the WCI's Member site; case-sensitive*)

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Be on the lookout in your e-mail Inbox for *the*BULLETIN, a new source for WCI's most current news. Clubs are welcome to disseminate *the*BULLETIN to their members.

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Meet new friends from other sister clubs and get in touch with old friends on WCI's Facebook page. To find us on Facebook, type Welcome Clubs International in the Search function. Come join us!

EDITORS' ZONE

RIHAB OURI
Editor

LEA HESSE
Copy & Design Editor

Dear Honorable Friends,

I've always believed that the people you work with are what make the job worthwhile, and you all proved me right. In short, I couldn't have completed the Sister Club Newsletter had it not been the fact that you have been a good key of help.

Further, I am glad to express my gratitude to all the clubs and their Presidents and Liaisons who sent me their reports which included their beautiful memorable photos in spite of the difficult days the whole world has been going through.

Take care and stay well
Kind regards in friendship
Rihab Ouri

Dear Ladies,

I am delighted that all the Sister Clubs submitted articles for this issue. I hope you will enjoy how your clubs are showcased. I had fun creating color themes and layouts as I designed and put together each page of the SCN.

I wish you and your loved ones continued safety, health, and resilience as we try to deal with the unprecedented and the unpredictable.

All the best,
Lea

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Sister Club News is distributed to WCI Associate and Affiliate members and also appears on WCI's website and is used by WCI to promote membership in WCI.

TOUR OF THE ORGANS OF THE ST. PETRI CHURCH, HAMBURG



Organised by our member Ingeborg Kruse, nearly 40 AGIWA members and guests braved the cold, wet and windy February weather and were rewarded with an outstanding event when Thomas Dahl, Director of Church Music, took us on a guided tour of the organs of the St. Petri church in Hamburg.

We began at the small organ in the choir with its 1,500 wooden and metal pipes.

Mr. Dahl not only showed us how the stops can be pulled to open the valves in the pipes and how the shades above the keys can be tilted to soften the sound, but also played various pieces of music to demonstrate this. It was fascinating to see how he used both his hands and his feet to play, and to hear that organists wear special shoes.

From there we progressed to a chest organ, not much larger than a piano, at the front of the nave. Built in Holland in 2012 but in the traditional manner, this organ is used for baroque oratorios and chamber music. Mr. Dahl showed us how he is able to play it and conduct the choir at the same time. We also learned that pipe organs, though far more expensive, are a better investment than electronic organs in the long run.

The highlight of our visit came when we climbed the stairs to the largest organ with its 4,725 pipes of up to five and a half metres in length. It was built in 1955 by Rudolf von Beckerath who incorporated 20 stops from an organ dating from 1855 to produce a unique sound suited for accompanying hymns of Dutch and North German origin. Mr. Dahl showed us the five divisions of the organ which can be played in dialogue, and various stops that produce the sounds of instruments like flutes, oboes and trumpets. Before a concert, stops can be programmed electronically so nowadays an organist does not need an assistant.



Mr. Dahl literally pulled out all the stops to play Bach for us - a wonderful experience! All present showed their appreciation by making a generous donation to the church music fund at the close of our visit.

This was AGIWA's last major event before the shutdown due to COVID-19. We are all looking forward to when we can restart our activities and events.

By Jane Harding, AGIWA President

BERKSHIRE INTERNATIONAL CLUB

The Berkshire International Club gathered to celebrate Chinese New Year for the Year of the Rat. “Some sixty members and guests filled a banquet room and were regaled with a thirteen-course sumptuous feast. A staff of waiters had a difficult time squeezing through the series of tables. Ah, for the days when none of us knew the meaning of social distancing.”





“One cannot look at these photographs without feeling the poignancy of this moment that now seems suspended in time in a bygone era, when we gathered together in groups at full capacity, sat close together, shared tales and teapot handles….”

On March 8, International Women's Day, a group of “women from BIC celebrated women the world over at Birchwood Inn in Lenox. International Women's Day globally celebrates the historical, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day exists in support of taking action against gender inequality around the world.”





“**…** BIC members are very resourceful. While it is true that we are not able at this time to meet in person to do activities while using the foreign languages that we love, we have found a way to still see each other and talk using the wonderful teleconference called Zoom. Every week our Zoom Master, BIC member Don Jordan, sends out an invitation to the members of each language group to gather in front of their computer screens and spend an hour and half conversing in the foreign language of choice. What a wonderful way to see each other and to talk, sharing happy news about how we cope with the imposed quarantine.”



Ellen Croibier, President
Berkshire International Club

“Ellen Croibier has become communications central for the club during the pandemic. She welcomed and inspired members, who shared updates, comments, interesting websites, recipes, experiences, reading ideas, and suggestions and links for films.

Through Ellen’s frequent emails, many who have rarely if ever sent in news, opened up and shared. As emails came in, on a weekly basis, Ellen collected, copied and pasted them into an email and hit ‘send.’ The effort snowballed, to the point where it was even suggested that perhaps we might not need to have our semi-annual newsletter!”

“In the spirit of this serendipitous emergence of connecting in new ways, we urge everyone to reach out to one another.”

From Ellen Croibier, BIC President

BROWARD INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

In December, we held our annual Holiday Lunch with a wonderful luncheon at a local Country Club. The room was decorated festively and the centerpieces on the tables were gorgeous bears and sea lions purchased in Colombia, but decorated by our talented member, Rora Marvasso and her friend, posed in a winter setting which were sold to raise funds for our scholarship fund. We enjoyed a fashion show with most of the models being our club members and this year, two husbands also participated. This was a big hit!!!



L-R: Lulu Durojaiye, Trina Haque & Aaliyah Rigby, scholarship recipients manning the reception table



Centerpieces for sale



Two of our long time French ladies, Jacqueline & Chantal

In January, we held our winter Membership Meeting at Janet Brady's home with 70 members attending. Once again, our members provided a magnificent dinner buffet bringing dishes from their country of birth! No one went home hungry!!! Our students attended and spoke to our membership telling them what it meant to receive the scholarships. These young women are always so eloquent in expressing their appreciation and it is really good for our members to know this.

Hifziye Zincir, Liaison for WCI/BIWC explained to the members about the cancellation of WCI's International Conference in Jakarta, but that it is postponed until next year.



Janet Brady, VP Membership





L-R: Elena Magac, Hifziye Zincir, Jazmine Loiselle & Rhonda Ritchie

In February, we held a wonderful Valentine's Brunch which was sold out. Our menfolk certainly enjoyed the event along with the ladies. The tables were strewn with hearts and chocolates and, of course, not a chocolate was left behind.



L-R: Chairperson Nina Britton, BIWC President Dr. Winnifred McPherson



New Member Carroll Cooper-Berry with her lovely family



L-R: Ana Bohabot-Cowan, Samina Chohaan, Ute Van Holt

As we all know, COVID-19 came along in March and that was the end of our activities. We are planning way ahead for the Fall and Winter in the hopes things will be back to normal. We are conducting our Board Meetings via Zoom. Wishing everyone a safe return to normalcy!

By Janet Brady, WCI Co-Liaison

IWC BAKU Members' Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic







Coronavirus compelled the world to lockdown itself inside. The world has never seen any such thing ever before even during the world wars. This is a war of microorganisms against the "mighty" human beings, the macro-organisms.

Everywhere, there is an emotional, economic and food crisis. Governments are fighting with these crises in various fields on a bigger scale globally.



Not only governments, doctors, but medical personnel, police and people in all other essential services are also playing a significant role in the fight against COVID-19.

This fight against coronavirus concerns all of us and we should all unite. All human beings should offer to help each other during these difficult times.

The International Women's Club Baku is an organization that comes forward to help others selflessly. In times of crisis, our members have come forward to help low-income families and seniors above 65 years, who are having a food crisis.

The IWC Baku Board allocated 3000 AZN from charities money. Our members raised another 5200 AZN to buy food boxes for 168 families living in different parts of Baku and surroundings. Each food box contained 20 necessary food items worth 50 AZN per box.

We are feeling so good and proud to be part of this wonderful group where we could render at least a little help to those in need. Many thanks to the IWC Baku ladies for all their monetary donations and organizational help in distributing the food boxes to make 168 families happy.

God bless you all and your families with good health & happiness. Stay healthy and safe!

From IWC Baku Board & Members

The IWC Hamburg's WOMEN'S LOUNGE - fulfilling WCI's Mission on Education

A little over a year ago, we were very thrilled and excited to launch our first Women's Lounge event. With the support of our President, Ulrike Westermann, our Club Board and our newly formed WCI Committee, we were able to successfully implement this new activity, resulting in better understanding of WCI and at the same time fulfilling its mission of Friendship through Education.





What is the main idea behind the Women's Lounge? The main concept of Women's Lounge is to have an interactive exchange of ideas and information on topics that are interesting or/of interest to our members. It is to bring WCI's Education Initiative "internally" - that is, within our Club life. Our vision was to have a casual, informal discussion over a cup of coffee or tea where our Members can talk freely and listen to one another. The International Women's Club of Hamburg has over 200 members, with over 50 different nationalities - coming from different cultures, backgrounds with vast talents and unique experiences. Needless to say, there is so much that we can learn from each other!

Examples of topics in our past Women's Lounge? The first one was titled "Identity, Integration and Assimilation" -- how our members experienced their move here in Hamburg. What were the biggest challenges they faced, what they learned from it and what advice they would give to other women who are going through similar process.

Secondly, we explored the topic of "Aging." How is Aging seen in their own cultures? What is the concept of beauty in relation to aging? We had a lively discussion, concluding that we had more in common than we thought.

In addition, we had a great chance to have a three-part series on Conflict and Mediation -- led by Dr. Imke Wulfmeyer, a lawyer and a certified mediator. She gave us better understanding on how to handle Conflicts through effective communication and how to succeed in Mediating. In turn, we shared our personal experiences on how Conflicts and Mediations are handled based on our own cultural backgrounds.







What do we hope to accomplish in the Women's Lounge? Education is teaching and learning! Maria Fernanda once said, "we are all life-long learners." I hope that through our Women's Lounge activities, we can give our members a casual and comfortable place to express and share their rich and unique knowledge and wisdoms and the opportunity to continue to cultivate their curiousities and enthusiasms in learning new things and widening their vistas to new ideas.



I look forward to more Women's Lounge events, hopefully very soon, so that we can continue to enlighten our members with interesting topics relevant to our ever changing world.

By Vena Velarde Iversen, WCI Liaison

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND

The International Women's Club of New England focuses many programs on raising funds to benefit local charities benefiting women and children. Every year we welcome applications from nonprofit organizations. Over our club's history, we have proudly raised over $250,000! Below the board charity selection committee pours over this year's many applications from worthy charities.







IWCNE Founder Anna Kristina Sawtelle

We cherish the international aspect of our club. Over the winter, our founder, Anna Kristina Sawtelle, traveled to Albania and addressed the local Women's Club there. She has founded many women's clubs around the world and she shared her knowledge and experience, encouraging the Albanian club to join WCI.

Every year we celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a party for our members. Food is supplied by our board and donations, and live music gets everyone dancing.

On International Women's Day, we hosted a public event featuring the granddaughter of President Grover Cleveland, Margaret Cleveland, who gave an interesting history of her well-respected family. Close to 100 participants packed the room and enjoyed sweet treats supplied by our board.



Members enjoy fellowship and good conversation



Fun photo with Past Pres. Lucille Gentsch at left & Lynn Pahland, Board Secretary





Above left, President Mariene Benoit introduced Ms. Cleveland, above right

Despite our inability to get together in person over the last months, our club has come up with inventive fundraisers to keep our charity account growing. Lucille Gentsch made masks to sell to members for a nominal fee; we held a walking fundraiser and we sold 51 water bottles with our logo.







As always, our club continues to be filled with commitment, friendship, and good cheer. Our board continues to meet monthly online and hopes our membership will be able to meet again in person during the fall.

By Linda Anderson, WCI Liaison

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA

The International Women's Club of Philadelphia (IWCP) held its annual Holiday Celebration in December at the Merion Cricket Club. Funds for our 4 charities were raised with a silent auction. During the winter months we enjoyed each other's company at our delightful monthly pot-luck lunches and expat dinners with partners in the homes of members.





Both our Book club in the city and one in the suburbs are well attended as are the two monthly Happy Hours in both locations. These have proven to be a great way for new and younger members to mix with older members after work hours.

In January we were offered a very interesting tour at the Woodmere Art Museum, followed by a lovely lunch at a small local Persian restaurant. 'Our Town' presents a retrospective of Edith Neff (1943-1995), a leading realist painter of her day who explored questions of race, gender and identity probing the social and cultural fabric of Philadelphia.











Unfortunately, all outings for the rest of the spring had to be canceled due to the virus. However, the book clubs and Happy Hours are still going on as people are connecting by Zoom.

We are excited to have a new website, created by one of our members, with the ability to register and pay for programs online. https://iwcp.wildapricot.org/

Our club is rapidly growing and currently has about 154 members. We are looking forward to getting together again in person at our opening dinner and membership meeting in September.

By Jacqueline Yates, WCI Liaison

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB - PORTO ALEGRE

Associação Beneficente Internacional
Women's Club Porto Alegre

During this time of pandemic confinement, we have not been able to meet. However, as the consequences of the lockdown became clear, the Porto Alegre club members took action by soliciting and gathering donations for the many suffering families hit by unemployment in our city. We have distributed what we call a "basic basket." In the picture below, IWC Porto Alegre President Maria Helena Pilla do Valle is readying donations for distribution.







Donations being distributed to needy families.

By Isaura Riedl, WCI Liaison

THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE BEIRUT

The Women's League usually starts its year at the beginning of October and ends in June of the following year.

This year our activities were very limited due to the uprising in the country in October 2019.

The Women's League was founded on November 3, 1919. Our big plans to celebrate our Centennial year were not realized because of the uprising.



We were able to hold a few lectures, a day excursion in one of the Lebanese mountains, and a luncheon.

Cancellation of events led to a decrease in money generated by the club for the Disabled Students Fund – a scholarship fund for disabled students at the American University of Beirut, where our activities take place.



Starting February, all club events were suspended due to the COVID-19.

Last year's major event was our end-of-season Annual Garden Party which usually takes place at the Marquand House Gardens at the Residence of the President of American University of Beirut. In attendance were the President of AUB and his spouse, distinguished guests, friends and club members.





The Women's League's newly elected Executive Board was announced and the club presented a check for the Disabled Students Fund.

A very nice musical performance organized by the Embassy of Ukraine was enjoyed by all.

We hope for Lebanon to be free of the deadly virus by October so can resume our activities.





By Lamia Kawar, WL President

VIA LEBANON INTERNATIONAL CLUB

On February 25th we met for coffee to start our Lecture and Coffee series. The Coffee was held at the iconic Phoenicia Hotel Beirut. Our guest speaker was Lama Lawand, actress, image consultant, and positive motivator.

We figured that with all the problems we are experiencing in Lebanon, a light subject would be refreshing. So it was.



Many members came and enjoyed her presentation. It is a big challenge to tell a group of women of varying ages and looks on how to enhance your image through clothes.

Lama was amazing! She took her time and explained carefully all the tidbits on how to dress according to your looks.

After the lecture, she patiently advised each individual guest. Our Morning Coffee extended to the afternoon, but nobody left. They all wanted to learn more. Needless to say, it was a success!

Then with the lockdown, we have had to postpone all our activities. We had planned to have another coffee and lecture and a trip to discover a local scenic destination near Beirut. Hopefully, we will resume in September, if the situation permits.







Image Consultant Lama Lawand in action



By Rihab Ouri, WCI Liaison

WELCOME TO COLORADO INTERNATIONAL CLUB

MAGNIFICENT MUSIC AND MORE!

Crystal chandeliers twinkled in the elegant Denver County Club; a delicious lunch and more; Internationally-known Pianist, Jeremy Reger beautifully introduced us to the Masters as he played their music. We heard about the lives of:
…The Quiet One – Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
…The Romantic One – P. I. Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)
…The Rebel – Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
(Did you know that Debussy did not like to bathe?!)

… And, there was more!

As the lights dimmed, and flaming BAKED ALASKA entered the room, we were introduced to its origin. (Around the turn of the century, American-born physicist and inventor Sir Benjamin Thompson, Count Rumford, discovered egg whites in meringue made a very good insulator; chefs then began creating. Its name originated at New York Delmonico's restaurant to commemorate the US purchase of Alaska in 1867.) When the BAKED ALASKA appeared, in unison, everyone exclaimed "OH!"

The event ended with a beautiful rose from each table's centerpiece given to each member.



WTC 2010 President welcomes guests

FUN DAYS!!!!!

Weekly and monthly we get together for games – Bridge, Mah Jongg, Mexican Train and Rummikub (tile games) as well as lectures, dining out, performing arts, jewelry making, book reviews; a total of twenty-four different Interest Groups.

Our "shut down" occurred the middle of March through May. We look forward to a fantastic party in the fall!



Gourmet Cooking!

By Julia Banks, WCI Liaison
and Diane Lenfest-Gal, WTC President

WELCOME TO FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL CLUB

The Welcome to Florida International Club had a productive, educational, and fun winter and spring season. During the 2019/20 season, WFLIC hosted five seasonal luncheons. Each one of them included a keynote presentation focusing on a variety of local and international topics.

Our December luncheon featured a presentation by a young soprano who performed in three languages, and we were treated to presentations by several representatives of Opera Naples to an overview of their programs and initiatives.

At our January luncheon, the former curator of the largest local art museum enriched everyone with his talk about the history of the museum's acquisition of its extensive international art collection. In addition, at the end of January, members celebrated the Chinese New Year with a festive luncheon.

Chinese New Year's Luncheon



Artist Janina Birtolo impersonated Sarah Bernhardt



At our February luncheon, we had the opportunity to learn about the environmental challenges facing SW Florida. Also, in February we enjoyed a "One Woman Show." The artist impersonated the famous French actress Sarah Bernhardt. Many of us were spellbound by the performance. Following the presentation, guests were treated to delicious Danish chocolate covered almond macaroons. The recipe was originally created as a tribute to Sarah Bernhardt in 1911.



March luncheon with presenter Kristen Coury

Due to COVID-19, our April luncheon was canceled, so it was at the March luncheon that the ladies of WFLIC enjoyed the last in-person gathering of the 2019/20 season. We had the pleasure of listening to Kristen Coury, the Founder, Producing Director, and CEO of Gulfshore Playhouse in Naples.

Our amazing volunteers make it possible that the ladies of WFLIC can enjoy unforgettable luncheons and afternoons of cultural learning and merriment.

The board of WFLIC continues to meet via Zoom. We are already actively preparing for the 2020/21 season.

Photos by Donna Suddeth

By Maria Winkler, WCI Liaison and Reem Iversen, WFLIC President

WELCOME TO KOREA INTERNATIONAL CLUB

WKIC's 3rd Anniversary Celebration

On Wednesday, December 11, 2019, Welcome to Korea International Club had its 3rd Anniversary celebration at President Hotel on the 31st floor. Several guests including Ambassadors from Ireland, Timor Lester, Bolivia and their spouses gave congratulatory speeches and they all expressed their thanks for the invitation and opportunity to get themselves engaged in this active group WKIC and wished for prosperity. Ms. Insoon Nam and Ms. Insook Park, both serving 19th and 20th National Assembly, gave speeches emphasizing strengthening gender equality in the general election to build a sustainable society.

H.E. Julian Clare came with his wife, Siobhan. He mentioned the Luncheon Gathering we had together in April and extended his gratitude for the opportunity to engage with women who have seen first-hand the many obstacles to gender equality whether large or small, intended or unintended, institutional or personal. He stated that it was one of the highlights of their time in Korea.

Quite a happy birthday party we had!



① Co-Chair of WKIC, Jungsook KIM
② H.E. Julian Clare, Ambassador of Ireland

2020 General Assembly

On May 26th, 2020, 40 members got together at the Girl Scout Auditorium to hold the 2020 General Meeting and a special lecture. Due to COVID-19, we couldn't help making the members tight.



① Co-Chair of WKIC, Jungsook KIM
② Co-Chair of WKIC, Minji LEE
③ Chairperson of Seowon Heritage Foundation, Bae-Yong LEE

The 2019 General Meeting minutes got passed unanimously and members approved the 2020 plan of operation and the budget without dissent. Several amendments for the article of WKIC were also posted as agenda and got approved.

After the meeting, there was a special lecture 'There is no future for the people who've forgotten their history' done by Bae-Yong Lee, the Chairperson of Seowon Heritage Foundation. It was another opportunity to be able to learn more about the history and the old educational system.

By Sunny Shin, WCI Liaison



Tonight in Balmy Surrey…

A beautiful photo taken by Dee

From Dee Phillips Medawar, WCI Liaison

WELCOME TO TAIPEI INTERNATIONAL CLUB



2019 Christmas Luncheon with Dress Code: Festive Dress / Costumes



Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we had to stay home to reduce social gatherings.
Now, as the restrictions are widely relaxed, the interest groups have organized the following events.

Art & Culture Group

Trip to Taiwan contemporary artist Paul Chiang Retrospective at Taipei Fine Arts Museum





Exploration Group

Trip to TWI-A Coffee Roasters

By Teresa Zhang, WTIC Executive Secretary and WCI Liaison

WELCOME TO TURKISH CYPRUS CLUB

We had a total shutdown starting in March, therefore no meetings were held since then.

On behalf of the club, Safak Dikengil, Welcome to Turkish Cyprus Club Secretary, handed a check to the Mayor of Kyrenia to help those in need because of the closures caused by the pandemic.

Our borders are scheduled to open on June 22nd so we hope to be able to continue our activities in the near future.

Below - Photo of WTTC Secretary Safak Dikengil with the Mayor of Kyrenia



By Zeynep Akgunay, WTTC President

WELCOME TO WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL CLUB

On May 4th, in a Zoom session attended by outgoing and incoming Board Members, WTW held its first Virtual Annual Meeting. The Swearing-In ceremony for the newly elected officers was live-streamed through Facebook LIVE and viewed by many WTW members.



Outgoing President Susan Long presided over the Annual Meeting



Guest Caroline Adair Dimmers (right), daughter of WTW founder

Guest Kim Riedel, WCI President (above Caroline's photo)

Some of the newly elected officers and guests

On May 28, the outgoing Board hosted a Virtual Tea Party for outgoing President Susan Hayes-Long. Attendees wore beautiful hats and enjoyed their afternoon tea as the ladies thanked Susan for her excellent leadership. WTW's tradition of the symbolic passing of the peony and gavel from Susan to incoming President Jenny Crabbe was smartly done virtually.









To connect with members during lockdown, WTW offered an online event called *Chocolate and Conversation with Marian* on June 9th. 100 members and guests were captivated by stories about our founder, Marian Adair, through the voices and personal memories of Marian's daughter Caroline, granddaughters, and friends.



Marian (right) receiving the Eisenhower Medallion in 1983, the highest award given to an individual for promoting the People to People philosophy



Marian, 3rd from left, and other WTW members who flew to Belgium to visit Sister Club, Welcome to Belgium. This would ultimately lead to Welcome Clubs International Conferences held every 2 years. Marian also founded WCI.



Marian (left) was featured on the cover of News Review magazine which highlighted Welcome to Washington's 1st year anniversary 60 years ago!

Our Board, especially the chairs of the interest groups and program committees, will be meeting often over the summer to plan for the Fall and Winter. We have made a decision to keep engagement over this Fall (through December) primarily online. We are working on some webinars and considering in-person outdoor gatherings for small groups, adhering to health and safety guidelines. Traditionally, we do not hold events in January due to weather and members staying in their winter residences. Ironically, if things are online, we may actually be able to offer some this winter!

By Jenny Crabbe, WTW President



We had a great beginning in 2020 with a couple of meetings, then the Pandemic (COVID-19) happened and everyone had to invest time and energy to respond to it. It has been a life changing experience for all of us.

We are working towards having our meetings through Zoom and thus offering our members the opportunity to learn the process. So far, we have had a very successful experience.

Regarding the WCI Education Initiative, we hope that the Zoom meetings will allow us to develop the *groups of interest* that up to now we have not been able to establish. Since the Zoom meetings function better in groups of small size, we intend to adopt that modality and keep enriching our lives from the comfort of our homes.

By Maria D. Walker, WCI Liaison

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB - JAKARTA

It is with much relief that we welcome the DKI Jakarta Governor's announcement of PSBB "transition period" (easing of the PSBB large-scale social restriction), effective Friday, 05th June 2020. DKI Jakarta Province is the capital city of Indonesia.

In light of the transition period, our WIC Jakarta clubhouse was re-opened on Wednesday, 10th June 2020 from 0900h till 1400h. We then had our Handover Ceremonies for the outgoing and incoming Executive Committees. It was in staggered stages as we still have to abide by and observe social distancing at the clubhouse.

Our various activities have yet to be scheduled but we have been in touch with our different committees through online Zoom meetings. We are obliged to follow the local government's strict COVID-19 health protocol, including half-capacity limitation.

With this, we remain positive and vigilant for the days to come.



WIC Jakarta's Social Welfare Team



Installation of New Members in March 2020





On March 7, 2020, WIC Jakarta congratulated a very promising group of scholarship students it supported who received their Bachelor's Degree, and welcomed a new batch of scholarship recipients. The event was held at the Museum Tekstil where the students learned about the rich history of Indonesia's traditional textiles.

By Ari W. Nugroho, WIC Jakarta President

WCI's EDUCATION FOCUS

This Sister Club News Summer edition demonstrates how we uniquely celebrate friendships and how we are pursuing our shared mission of education. Recently in our Board of Directors' Meeting on Zoom, three member clubs outlined programs that demonstrate how they are putting the Education Initiative into practice. This can serve as inspiration to clubs looking for additional ideas on how to incorporate education into their programs. We are pursuing education both internally with our clubs and members as well as externally through the programs our clubs support and assist locally.

Here are a few additional ways to engage in Education within WCI:

- *Join our Leadership Webinars, which are held quarterly, to explore themes and challenges we share. We learn from one another and pool our solutions and suggestions to solve common issues. We will announce the upcoming quarterly webinar in the coming weeks.*

- *Stay tuned for additional Webinars where we invite women to share on projects and women-focused initiatives occurring internationally.*

- *Join our Welcome Clubs International Facebook where we invite our community of women from diverse cultures to engage in discussions on our shared interests; what women value, their recipes, books they read & films they watch, art & galleries they love, and where they travel.*

We are continuing our mission of linking women together in meaningful friendships based on empathy and education. The more we engage, the more we understand each other, ourselves, and the world around us.

~ Kim Riedel