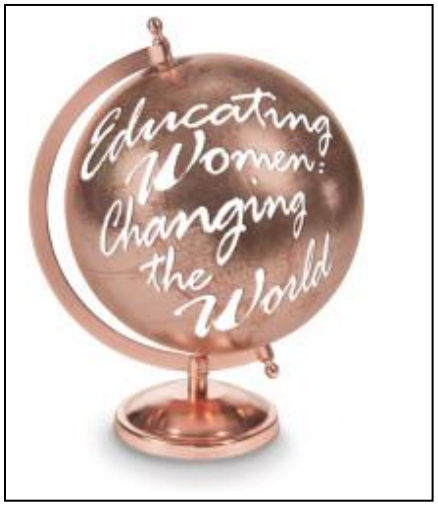
Welcome Clubs International
The 15th Biennial International Conference
May 25 – 30, 2018 | Washington, DC | United States

A Great Experience:
Highlights from the International Conference

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The Program was interesting and inspiring, and WCI did a very good job of planning. Meeting the attendees from all over the world was one of the highlights of the conference.

I gained a better understanding of the organization and how Welcome Clubs International is a consortium of women's organizations. I learned about the magazine *the*LINK, which I never have seen before because I don't attend a lot of the regular meetings in our club. It was suggested that we get a link from our website directly to *the*LINK Magazine. If so, maybe more people would read it.

There was also a discussion about if maybe we should add information about the various clubs in this magazine to make it more interesting. We were also discussing whether or how this magazine could inspire us in our work to **educate women**. It was believed that the way we publish and promote the Link Magazine was not enough for members read it.

At the Board of Directors meeting (not the full meeting) Linda and I were invited to join. We introduced our club and talked about our programs and activities, number of members, and how much money we raised since the start of 1992. At this meeting every club had an opportunity to do a 3-minute Presentation.

At the round table discussion, we probably had 10 tables with 8 people at each table. We were given information and a lesson about Skype. Maria Fernanda Arduino brought up our club as an example of how Skype was used when the Baku club was visiting us.

The first question in the round table discussions was regarding if we personally had an experience happen to us reflecting a different behavior than the traditions we were brought up with. We all could relate to this and had stories to tell. The conclusion was that we need to respect other ways of traditions and behaviors in order to live in harmony and understanding.

The emphasis for the round table discussions was really on **education**, which was what the Magazine *the*LINK also was reflecting. The slogan was:

"Friendship Through Understanding and Understanding Through Friendship"

There are some good questions in *the*LINK Magazine that might be good for our club to think about and answer:

1. What do you understand by WCI initiative: Educating Women?
2. How do you suggest this initiative should be put into practice?
3. What does your Club do with respect to the education of women?

It was a great experience to be part of this conference to gain understanding and inspiration. It was announced the very last night that the next conference was going to take place in Jakarta in 2 years!

