SISTER CLUB NEWS

Friendship through Understanding... Understanding through Education and Friendship



LEA HESSE
WCI President

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

As we reflect on the 2025-2026 program year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for all that we have accomplished together. Across continents, cultures, and time zones, our organization continues to demonstrate the extraordinary impact that can be achieved when women unite with a shared purpose.

One of the defining highlights of this year was our highly successful **2026 International Conference in Indonesia**. Set against the rich cultural heritage of Indonesia and the hospitality of our sisters in Women's International Club Jakarta, the conference brought together members from around the world for meaningful dialogue, learning, friendship, and renewed commitment to our mission. Under the theme of *Bridging Traditions & Transformations: Empowering Women through Education & Cultural Heritage in a Changing World,* we celebrated both our diversity and our common vision for the future.

Our commitment to advancing global conversations was also reflected in our **Parallel Event at the UNCSW70 Forum**, where we joined the international community in addressing issues that matter to women worldwide. Through thoughtful discussion and collaboration, we reinforced our role as a respected voice and active participant within the global civil society landscape.

This year, we also expanded opportunities for education and engagement through our **webinar on Aging Workers**, an increasingly important topic as societies adapt to demographic and workforce changes. Internally, we strengthened our foundation through a comprehensive **Board Orientation**, ensuring that our leadership remains informed, aligned, and prepared to guide our organization with accountability, continuity, and vision.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the introduction of our **new Giving Arm Program**. This initiative marks an important step in leveraging our 501(c)(3) status to strengthen our capacity for impact, expand partnership opportunities, and support programs that empower women and communities worldwide. Our intention is to build a sustainable framework that enables meaningful action while respecting the autonomy and diversity of our member clubs.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the dedication of our Executive Committee, Board members, club leaders, volunteers, speakers, partners, and every member who contributed time, talent, and passion to our shared mission.

As we move into the next program year, I invite all of us to continue embracing opportunities to connect, inspire, and create lasting impact together. The strength of our organization has always been its people—and together, our future remains bright.

With gratitude and warm regards,
Lea Hesse
President, Welcome Clubs International

WCI NEWS

WCI joyously celebrated another successful year, marked by transformative experiences and opportunities for growth. The crowning moment was a spectacular conference set amidst the captivating beauty of Indonesia, graciously hosted by the Women's International Club Jakarta. Every aspect—from engaging meetings and enlightening presentations to delightful excursions and comfortable accommodations—reflected the meticulous planning and heartfelt dedication of our hosts. Their commitment to excellence was evident at every turn, and their warm hospitality left an unforgettable impression on all participants. Congratulations on this truly exceptional achievement.

Congratulations are also in order for the Women's International Club Jakarta on its 76th anniversary! The club's steadfast dedication to charitable causes and volunteerism has positively impacted countless lives, serving as a powerful model of compassion in action. It truly stands as an inspiration to all.

Board of Directors Meeting

The 2027 Board of Directors meeting, hosted by the Welcome to California International Club, will be held in Querétaro, Mexico, and will feature an excursion to San Miguel de Allende. Both destinations are celebrated for their beauty and safety as colonial gems of Mexico. After the meeting, enjoy a post-conference trip to Mexico City.

18th Biennial Conference

WCI's 18th Biennial Conference is coming to beautiful Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and will be hosted by the Broward International Women's Club from April 23 to 27, 2028. Cap off the experience with an optional post-conference cruise to the Bahamas from April 27 to 30. Enjoy a week filled with inspiration, friendship, and discovery as you experience the magic of the "Venice of America"!

Congratulations to the Chinese Ladies' Association of Guam (CLAG) on celebrating three decades since its founding. Through its generosity and outreach, CLAG continues to be a prime illustration of a club committed to creating lasting, positive change in its community.

Congratulations to the Welcome to Florida International Club on its 40th anniversary! The club's steady growth and vibrant activities are a testament to its inspiring spirit. Marian Adair would surely be proud to see how her vision has flourished. Wishing WFLIC continued success as it cultivates friendship, encourages community engagement, and bridges cultures through greater understanding.

Lastly, congratulations to the Welcome to Taipei International Club on reaching its 40th anniversary. The club's varied and creative programs are a testament to its commitment to continually opening new paths for members to connect, learn, and celebrate diversity together.

EDITOR'S ZONE



REEM IVERSEN
Editor | Designer

Dear Ladies,

Welcome to the 2026 edition of Sister Club News.

Thank you to all the Sister Clubs for your reports. Your contributions enrich the vibrant tapestry of cultures, ideas, and achievements that make our sisterhood truly exceptional. The diversity, creativity, and unwavering dedication you demonstrate continue to set a remarkable example, motivating us all to strengthen our unity, pursue lifelong learning, and work together to create a positive impact around the world.

This year has been extraordinary, highlighted by significant milestones, celebrations, and a memorable conference. I hope the year ahead brings even greater fulfillment and joy to all.

With friendship and deep gratitude,
Reem Iversen

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

In Loving Memory



Elizabeth Faye Wickersham
(1940-2025)

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Elizabeth Faye Wickersham. Faye passed away peacefully on October 28, 2025, at the age of 85. Her passionate leadership and dedication profoundly shaped Welcome Clubs International (WCI). From her earliest days as a founding member and president of the Welcome to London International Club, through her presidency of the Welcome to Washington International Club (1992–1994), to her impactful tenure as President of WCI (1996–2000), Faye left an indelible legacy on every organization she served.

As President, Faye ushered in an era of modernization and growth for WCI. She established a formal Council and revised the organization's bylaws, ensuring a solid foundation for future leadership. By launching the WCI Link Magazine, she strengthened communication across member clubs and encouraged a sense of global community. Under her guidance, WCI expanded its reach to include new clubs throughout Europe and the Middle East and hosted successful international conferences that further united members worldwide. Faye's forward-thinking leadership positioned WCI for enduring growth and meaningful international connections.

Faye is cherished for her grace, elegance, and warmth—qualities that made her a beloved figure among members and colleagues alike. Her leadership was rooted in empathy and a belief in the power of collaboration, uniting individuals from diverse backgrounds and fostering a culture of inclusivity. Through her guidance in implementing club dues and launching the Patron's Fund, she provided WCI with the financial stability and independence necessary for innovation and sustained growth. Today, the thriving, supportive international community of WCI stands as a testament to her vision, her integrity, and the enduring spirit she brought to every endeavor.

To discover more about Faye's remarkable life—including her numerous contributions to WCI, her extensive international experiences, and her devoted family—please read her full obituary, published in The Washington Post. This heartfelt tribute provides greater insight into Faye's lifelong commitment to building bridges across cultures, and the personal warmth and vision that made her such an inspiring presence to all who had the privilege of knowing her.

2026
CONFERENCE REPORT

by
Lea Hesse
WCI President



WCI 17TH BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2026

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB JAKARTA

BRIDGING TRADITIONS AND TRANSFORMATIONS:
Empowering Women Through Education and Cultural Heritage in a Changing World

WCI's 17th Biennial International Conference, held from April 26 to May 5, 2026, was expertly hosted by member club Women's International Club Jakarta (WICJ), whose warm hospitality and thoughtful planning created a memorable experience for participants from around the world.

DAY 1: APRIL 26, 2026 – REGISTRATION; MEET AND GREET

The conference journey officially began with registration and check-in, followed by a lively Meet and Greet reception that immediately filled the room with energy and warmth. WCI participants were graciously welcomed by the wonderful volunteers of WICJ, whose genuine warmth and enthusiasm set the tone for the days ahead.



WCI Executive Committee Members



WCI Conference Participants with WIC Jakarta Members

DAY 2: APRIL 27, 2026 – OPENING PROGRAM; BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING; GALA DINNER

The opening session featured welcome remarks from the 17th Biennial Conference Chair Nina Handoko, WICJ President Tari Arsita Boestami, and WCI President Lea Hesse. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Jungsook Kim, President of Welcome to Korea International Club and Immediate Past President of the International Council of Women.



WCI 17th Biennial Conference Chairperson Nina Handoko


(L-R) WICJ President Tari Arsita Boestami & Keynote Speaker Dr. Jungsook Kim



WCI President Lea Hesse

The program continued with a thought-provoking panel discussion entitled "Empowering Women through Education and Cultural Heritage: A Multidimensional Framework for Sustainable Development." Moderated by Dinar Ari Wijayanti, WIC Jakarta member and WCI UN Council member, the lively exchange explored how women-led enterprises can drive sustainable development by elevating local handicrafts, supporting artisans, preserving cultural heritage, and creating long-term economic opportunities for communities.



Panel Discussion

During the luncheon, participants were treated to a commemorative video chronicling Welcome Clubs International's remarkable journey from its founding in 1986 to the present. The inspiring presentation celebrated WCI's 40th Anniversary, reflecting on four decades of international friendship, cultural understanding, and the many achievements made possible through the dedication of its member clubs.





Following lunch, the WCI Board of Directors convened for its Annual Meeting. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet face-to-face, discuss matters important to WCI, and learn about the many activities, achievements, and inspiring initiatives of our member clubs during the past program year. Meanwhile, other conference participants enjoyed a variety of interactive programs and browsed the curated mini-bazaar, which showcased a range of beautiful Indonesian handicrafts, textiles, and locally crafted products.


Eshrat Demougeot (R)
WCI Historian & Events Consultant
giving the Inspirational


The Board in action


WCI Director of UN Council Sunny Shin
delivering her report


WCI Board of Directors

The Gala Dinner was a spectacular celebration of Indonesian culture and friendship. Guests were treated to an enchanting evening of traditional Indonesian dances, a stunning fashion showcase of contemporary batik designs modeled by diplomats' spouses, and delightful musical performances by talented singers.









2026 Marian Adair Award recipient Pooja Assomull (second from left)

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the 2026 Marian Adair Award to Pooja Assomull, Past President of WIC Jakarta, in recognition of her outstanding service and dedication. The evening also provided an opportunity to honor a long-awaited recipient. WIC Jakarta had been selected to host WCI's 16th Biennial Conference in 2020, but the event was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the presentation of the 2020 Marian Adair Award to Gina Alamsjah could not take place. WCI was delighted to finally present this well-deserved award to Gina in person.



2020 Marian Adair Award recipient Gina Alamsjah (second from left)

Another memorable moment of the evening was the ceremonial cake cutting to commemorate WCI's 40th Anniversary, celebrating four decades of friendship, cultural exchange, and the enduring bonds that unite our member clubs around the world.





As the evening drew to a close, the formalities gave way to laughter and celebration as everyone took to the dance floor, ending the night with joyful dancing and unforgettable memories.

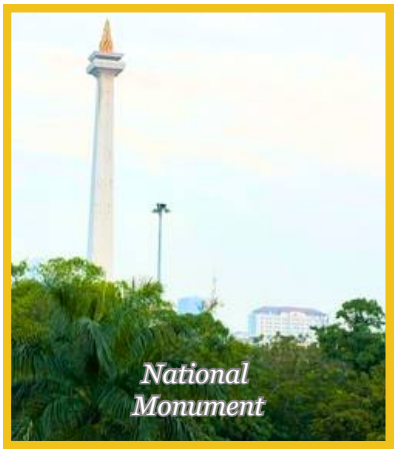
DAY 3: APRIL 28, 2026 – COURTESY CALL; CITY TOUR; WICJ CLUBHOUSE VISIT

The day began with a visit to Balai Kota (Jakarta City Hall) for a courtesy call on the Governor of Jakarta. Participants were warmly received and treated to a delightful brunch featuring a variety of Indonesian specialties. As a token of friendship and goodwill, the Governor's representative presented commemorative gifts to WIC Jakarta and WCI, making the visit both meaningful and memorable.

From Balai Kota, our group continued to Jakarta Cathedral, a national cultural heritage landmark that reflects the rich history of the Catholic faith in Indonesia. Just a short walk away, we visited the Friendship Tunnel, an underground passage linking the cathedral with the nearby Istiqlal Mosque. More than a physical connection, the tunnel stands as a powerful symbol of Indonesia's commitment to religious tolerance, mutual respect, and interfaith harmony. In the near distance, the iconic Monas (National Monument) rose above the city skyline, commemorating the Indonesian people's struggle for independence.


At Balai Kota




National Monument


Outside the Friendship Tunnel

Following a delicious buffet lunch, the group continued to Indonesia's National Museum for a guided tour. The museum's impressive collections offered a fascinating journey through the nation's rich history, diverse cultures, and artistic heritage, giving participants a deeper appreciation for Indonesia's remarkable legacy.


At the National Museum

That evening, participants once again experienced the warmth and generosity of their hosts at the WIC Jakarta Clubhouse. Guests learned about WIC Jakarta's Social Welfare programs and the meaningful impact these initiatives have on the local community. The evening was made even more special by heartfelt performances from beneficiaries of the club's social welfare institutions and scholarship recipients, whose songs and presentations were both inspiring and uplifting.

A delicious dinner and warm fellowship provided the perfect setting for conference participants and WIC Jakarta members to celebrate the friendships forged throughout the week.

During the evening, WCI President Lea Hesse and WCI Historian and Events Consultant Eshrat Demougeot presented gifts and Certificates of Appreciation to Conference Chair Nina Handoko, WIC Jakarta President Tari Arsita Boestami, Immediate Past President Nazneen Khubchandani, and the dedicated members of WIC Jakarta. Their tireless hard work, unwavering commitment, meticulous planning, and extraordinary generosity made the 17th Biennial Conference an unforgettable success and created lasting memories for everyone in attendance.









DAY 4: APRIL 29, 2026 – TRIP TO YOGYAKARTA; GIRILOYO BATIK VILLAGE

The day began bright and early, with everyone up and ready by 4:30 a.m. for the journey to the train station. The scenic train ride from Jakarta to Yogyakarta offered a relaxing opportunity to admire Indonesia's picturesque countryside, where lush rice fields, quaint villages, and rolling landscapes unfolded outside the windows.

Upon arrival, the group traveled to Giriloyo, where participants learned how the traditional art of batik has empowered local women by creating sustainable livelihoods and improving the well-being of their families and communities. A hands-on batik workshop followed, giving everyone the chance to experience this treasured Indonesian craft and to gain a deeper appreciation for the skill, artistry, and cultural heritage behind each piece.








Learning about women empowerment through batik making


Batik workshop

The day concluded with a delightful buffet dinner accompanied by a live band, where participants gathered to relax, reflect on the day's experiences, and enjoy one another's company. True to the spirit of the conference, the evening soon gave way to music, laughter, and dancing, as everyone embraced the opportunity to unwind and celebrate the friendships that had grown throughout the journey.





DAY 5: APRIL 30, 2026 – BOROBUDUR TEMPLE; PAKU ALAM ROYAL PALACE

We arrived at the magnificent Borobudur Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, at 8:30 a.m. Despite the morning heat, the experience was nothing short of awe-inspiring. As the world's largest Buddhist temple, Borobudur captivated visitors with its remarkable architecture, intricate stone carvings, and centuries of history. Equally breathtaking were the lush landscapes surrounding the temple, whose tranquil beauty made the visit all the more unforgettable.







An unforgettable highlight of our stay in Yogyakarta was a special Royal Gala Dinner at the Paku Alam Royal Palace. The evening began with a charming horse-drawn carriage ride through the city, setting the stage for a truly memorable experience. Dressed in beautiful batik sarongs generously gifted by WIC Jakarta, we arrived at the palace, where we were graciously welcomed by the Gusti Kanjeng Bendara Raden Ayu Adipati Paku Alam (Princess Gusti). As a keepsake of the occasion, each guest received a beautifully crafted batik sash adorned with a brooch, a thoughtful gift from the royal household.

Following a guided tour of the palace, we gathered for an elegant dinner featuring the culinary delicacies of Yogyakarta. One of the evening's greatest privileges was the opportunity to sit with the Princess and enjoy a delightful conversation about her book and her inspiring efforts to revive and preserve ancient batik designs, ensuring this treasured cultural heritage continues to flourish for future generations.

The evening's dinner officially brought WCI's 17th Biennial Conference to a close. As WCI President, it was both an honor and a privilege to deliver the closing remarks, reflecting on an unforgettable week of learning, cultural discovery, and renewed friendships.

One of the evening's most anticipated moments was the announcement of the host for our next gathering. We are delighted that the 2028 WCI Biennial Conference will be hosted by the Broward International Women's Club in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA. As we bid farewell to Indonesia with hearts full of gratitude and cherished memories, we look forward to reuniting with our WCI family in Fort Lauderdale for another extraordinary conference.


The procession of horse-drawn carriages


Princess Gusti




Dinner with Princess Gusti


Closing remarks & presentation of 2028 Conference host


Our very own batik masterpieces!



Photos courtesy of WIC Jakarta, See Mun Leong, Lea Hesse, and members who shared their photos on WhatsApp.

By Lea Hesse
WCI President

BALI POST-CONFERENCE REPORT
May 1-5, 2026

by
Maria-Antonieta Rodil
WCI Director of Digital Communications

Day 1: May 1, 2026 – Traveling to Bali; Welcome Dinner

A group of conference attendees flew from Yogyakarta to Bali International Airport, where post-conference hosts, led by Dr. Siti Mariah Waworuntu—a prominent academic, Southeast Asian textile expert, and former WCI Jakarta President—welcomed us. Our home base was the Hyatt Regency in Sanur, a peaceful coastal town where lush greenery and traditional Balinese architecture immediately set the tone. Attendees enjoyed a welcome dinner alongside representatives from the Bali Governor's office.



Post-dinner vibes



Master weaver

Day 2: May 2, 2026 – Trip to Rumah Luwih; NEKA Art Museum

Our group traveled to Rumah Luwih, a colonial-style beachfront resort in Gianyar. The morning began with a presentation on "Women in Textile Art" by Dr. Tjok Istri Ratna C.S.—lecturer, researcher, and writer—followed by a luncheon and trunk show. We gained a deeper understanding of Bali's rich textile traditions and the integration of its artistic elements into contemporary fashion. Meeting the artisans directly—and supporting their work—was a highlight in its own right.

The afternoon took us to Ubud, Bali's cultural and spiritual heart, nestled in the island's central foothills. The drive alone was worth it: artisans' villages, ornately decorated family shrines, and historic temples lined the road at every turn. At the NEKA Art Museum, traditional and contemporary Balinese art shared the same walls—a collection that rewards close attention. The day concluded with a traditional buffet dinner on the beach at Tanjung Sari Heritage, a boutique hotel in a breathtaking setting.



Striking a pose with the stars of the show

Day 3: May 3, 2026 – Exploring Tenganan; Klungkung Palace Complex

Sacred architecture



Another memorable experience was our visit to the ancient village of Tenganan Pegringsingan, one of Bali's oldest indigenous communities. There, we learned about the village's unique customs and world-famous weaving traditions. Exploring Tenganan was truly a journey into Bali's soul, offering a rare glimpse into cultural practices that have been preserved for generations. Lunch was at the Lotus Seaview Restaurant in Candidasa, with views to match the food.

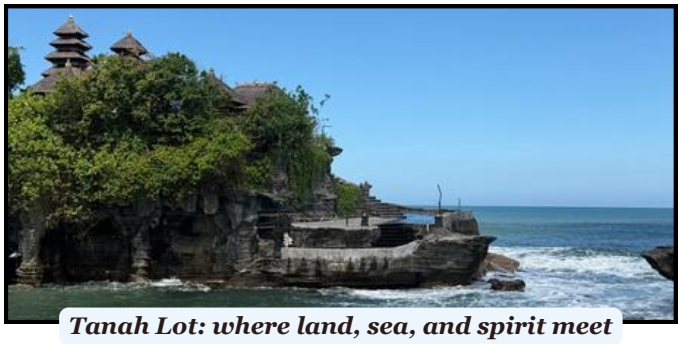


Experiencing Balinese hospitality and the beauty of the Indian Ocean



Meeting the people who keep Bali's cultural heritage alive

The afternoon brought a visit to the Kertagosa Pavilion at the Klungkung Palace complex—the former Judicial Court, renowned for its Kamasan-style ceiling murals depicting karmic consequences and the Hindu epic of Bhima Swarga. Extraordinary in every sense. Participants spent the evening at leisure in Sanur.



Tanah Lot: where land, sea, and spirit meet



Street food: klepon dessert

Day 4: May 4, 2026 – Visiting Tanah Lot Temple; High Tea; Kerambitan Palace

The morning began at Tanah Lot—the celebrated sea temple rising from a coral rock separated from the mainland, dedicated to the gods of the sea and one of Bali's most treasured cultural and spiritual landmarks. The main temple area was temporarily restricted, but the surrounding grounds and coastal views were impressive on their own.

Sustainable winemaking, cultural preservation, and the empowerment of women in the field



The afternoon shifted register entirely. The group visited Nuanu Creative City and Luna Beach Club, experiencing a side of Bali where sustainability, creativity, and innovation share the same space. At The Elysium—a pavilion of glass, bamboo, and ocean horizons—the group enjoyed a light lunch and High Tea alongside a presentation, "From Ocean to Vine," by Yoke Darmawan, Founder of the Bali Ocean Days Conference and Corporate Affairs Director of the women-owned, fair-trade Sababay Winery.

Ending our Bali journey with gratitude, fellowship, and celebration



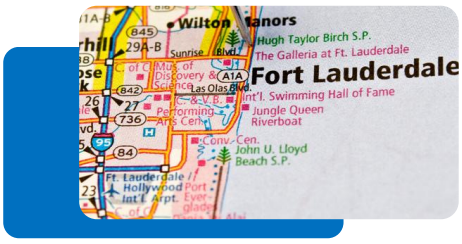
The Gala Farewell Dinner and cultural performances, held at the historic Kerambitan Palace, served as a fitting culmination and farewell. This royal residence, established in 1650, provided the perfect setting—and it delivered. Traditional cuisine, music, fellowship with the royals, and live dance performances filled the night.

Day 5: May 5, 2026 – Farewell to Bali and Heartfelt Thanks

Participants headed home with full bags, as well as deepened and newly formed friendships. What the Bali program offered, beyond its remarkable itinerary, was time and space for genuine connection among WCI members. Deep thanks to Dr. Waworuntu and her team, presenters, artisans, and the local host who made the week magical. Their knowledge, generosity, and warmth showed at every turn. Sampai jumpa lagi—until we meet again!



WCI'S 18TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE (2028)



Where and When

Mark your calendars for an extraordinary gathering! The Broward International Women's Club proudly presents WCI's 18th Biennial Conference, set to take place in the lively city of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, from April 23 to April 27, 2028. Join us for an inspiring conference of connections, learning, and enriching experiences in this beautiful coastal destination.

Why You'll Love Fort Lauderdale

Nicknamed the "Venice of America," Fort Lauderdale features over 300 miles of scenic inland waterways—perfect for boating and yachting adventures. Sunseekers will find 24 miles of pristine Atlantic beaches, each offering its own personality, from the laid-back atmosphere of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea to the bustling energy of Hollywood Beach. The city is home to one of nature's wonders: sea turtles nesting along its shores. Its thriving arts scene includes renowned museums, galleries, and live performances, while Las Olas Boulevard and downtown hotspots offer endless shopping and dining options. Fort Lauderdale perfectly blends beachside relaxation with upscale excitement, making it a memorable destination for our world-traveling sisters!

Travel and Accommodations



Arriving in Fort Lauderdale couldn't be more convenient. The city is served by two major international airports—Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport and Miami International Airport—making travel smooth for visitors from across the globe.

We will be staying at the Sonesta Fort Lauderdale Beach Hotel, renowned for its breathtaking ocean views and outstanding amenities.



Bahamas Cruise Grand Finale

As the grand finale of our conference and the continuation of our journey of friendship, we will embark on a post-conference cruise to the enchanting islands of the Bahamas. We will set sail on the afternoon of April 27 and return on the morning of Sunday, April 30.

We eagerly anticipate the exciting adventure ahead—a journey sure to further deepen our connections. We hope you can all join us!

WCI UN COUNCIL REPORT

by
Sunny Shin
WCI Director of UN Council

- Bridging technology and mindset in the region to advance women's empowerment by changing perceptions and opening the door even wider for the next generation of young women.
- Bringing about engaged classrooms, stronger communities, and sustainability through training.
- Grassroots-level educators as a transformative force.

The CSW70 Parallel event, held virtually on March 16th from 8:30 to 10 a.m., brought together 113 participants from around the world for insightful presentations on key topics.

Oualae Alalami, Vice Chair of the Arab International Women's Forum, and Tapasi Ray, IT Professional at Nanritam, served as the featured speakers in a session skillfully moderated by Nesrin Comert, UN Council Conference Focal Point. That week, bombings in the Middle East prevented Haifa Al Kaylani OBE, President and Founder of the Arab International Women's Forum, from attending in person while she was in the United Arab Emirates and receiving frequent evacuation and shelter alerts. As a result, her presentation was delivered by her colleague, Oualae Alalami, ensuring her message was still shared with attendees.



Behind the scenes, a dedicated team of 14 WCI UN Council members, along with advisers, a graphic designer, and technical support, ensured the event ran seamlessly and managed the session's narratives and Q&A.







On Friday, March 13th, from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m., WCI hosted a live collaborative Parallel event with five other organizations, including NAWO. The event provided a valuable platform for dialogue on global justice and educational access. Maria Fernanda Arduino, a WCI UN Council Adviser, delivered an engaging presentation on behalf of Welcome Clubs International under the theme “Access to Justice Across the Life Course Through Education.” Drawing on the remarkable achievements of three WCI sister clubs, she illustrated how education can empower individuals, strengthen communities, and uplift society as a whole. Since 2024, the UN Council has been expanding its collaborations with other organizations, continuously extending its outreach and impact.





NOTE TO SISTER CLUBS

It is important to remember that WCI cannot use the United Nations logo. If WCI or any of the Sister Clubs wishes to display consultative status on its letterhead, only the following statement can be included:

Welcome Clubs International, Incorporated, in special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 2020

In Friendship,
Sunny Shin
WCI Director of UN Council



SISTER CLUB NEWS

2025 – 2026 PROGRAM YEAR

BROWARD INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

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

Membership Meeting



It has been a busy year, as usual, starting in September with our Membership Meeting, chaired by Janet Brady. This is always a happy meetup after a summer break. We introduced our new scholarship recipients, representing countries including Argentina, Bermuda, Jamaica, Honduras, and Colombia. It's always exciting to meet our newest students. The event was a potluck dinner where every member attending brought a dish from their own country, which made for an interesting and delicious buffet!



Night of All Nations

In November, we celebrated our annual "Night of All Nations," our biggest fundraising event of the year at the iconic Riverside Hotel in downtown Fort Lauderdale. A champagne reception was held on the hotel's rooftop, which provided a spectacular view of the city lights. This was followed by a wonderful dinner with Dr. Meline Kervorkian, Ed.D. Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Associate Provost at Nova Southeastern University, who accepted the $25,000 check representing scholarships for 5 international students needing assistance to complete their studies. Dr. Kervorkian was also the keynote speaker. Afterward, we danced until closing. The successful event was chaired by Lillian Campbell and Dinora McClellan.

Holiday Luncheon



Janet Brady chaired the Holiday Luncheon held at Jacaranda Country Club, welcoming many members, their guests, Nova Southeastern University faculty, and one of our scholarship recipients. Unfortunately, the other recipients were unable to join us because they were taking exams. The event featured a wonderful raffle with beautiful baskets crafted by Robin Schultz. We all missed our much-loved member Laurie Morse, who had always assisted Robin in making the baskets and who recently passed away. Several vendors participated, and entertainment was provided by a DJ from DanceBeat Entertainment.



Membership Meeting

On January 17, our Membership Meeting was held at Miyako Japanese Buffet, which offered a delicious variety of food and was chaired by our Social Secretary, Nina Britton.

Valentine's Day Lunch

On February 14, we had a delightful Italian lunch at Tarantella Ristorante, chaired by Nina Britton, who made sure no one went home hungry. Nina informed those present about upcoming events. The door prize was a free ticket to our International Women's Day event. The lucky recipient was Rora Marvasso!





International Women's Day

The event was held on March 7, 2026, at the Sheraton West in Plantation, Florida, and we were serenaded by saxophonist Ruben Gonzalez during the cocktail hour. Our special guest speaker was Judge Jackie Powell. We honored three of our members: Catherine Armand from France, Florence Shu Blankson from Cameroon, and Samina Chohaan from Pakistan, who unfortunately could not be there, but we will celebrate her in May. It is a pleasure to honor such loyal and hardworking members of our club. This time, three of our scholarship recipients attended: Valentina Marcone from Argentina, Emily Maia Cabrera from Bermuda, and Nina Lin Zheng from Jamaica.

Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center Tour

A Fascinating Day at the NSU Guy Harvey Oceanographic Center on April 17! Our BIWC members enjoyed an incredible behind-the-scenes visit to the NSU Guy Harvey Oceanographic Center, beautifully organized by Rick Lassiter. It was an inspiring afternoon filled with marine science, innovation, and a deeper appreciation for the vital work being done to protect our oceans. From cutting-edge research labs to conservation initiatives shaping the future of marine life, every moment offered something new to discover. The passion and expertise of the NSU team made this experience truly unforgettable. A heartfelt thank you to Rick for coordinating such a meaningful and educational outing for our members. Rick's dedication to creating enriching opportunities for BIWC is truly appreciated.

Last Membership Meeting of the Season

On May 15, we hosted our last membership meeting of this calendar year at the lovely Brio Italian Grille.

by **Betty Amundson, BIWC President**
Janet Brady, WCI Liaison
Dinora Mclellan, Internet and Marketing Chair

CHINESE LADIES' ASSOCIATION of GUAM

Founded in 1995
Guam
Facebook page

The Chinese Ladies' Association of Guam (CLAG) organizes numerous fundraising events throughout the year and donates to a variety of deserving organizations.

On May 1, 2025, we celebrated CLAG's 30th Anniversary and Inauguration. This milestone reflects our dedication and the remarkable growth we have achieved together as an organization. We take pride in our collective accomplishments and look forward to continued success in the years ahead.





We proudly raised funds in support of the Chinese School of Guam, enriching educational opportunities and preserving cultural heritage for future generations.

Our commitment extended to supporting the Chinese Cultural Lion Dance Group, fostering artistic expression and tradition, and contributing to the Guam Memorial Hospital Volunteer Association, which promotes health and well-being across our community.









On May 10, 2025, we celebrated Mother's Day with warmth and gratitude, recognizing the invaluable wisdom and lifelong contributions of our senior citizens at the Tumon Senior Center. Our heartfelt tribute continued during the Christmas season, as we honored our seniors once more amid a joyful display of red and green outfits.







August was a busy month for our organization. On August 20, 2025, we rallied behind The Salvation Army's "ROCK AID XIV," bringing the community together with an energetic fundraising event at Hard Rock Cafe. Later, on August 30, we joined the VEG RUN 4th Annual Global to show our commitment to environmental sustainability and to inspire others to help protect our planet.











On September 20, 2025, we partnered with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam and local businesses for the Guam International Coastal Cleanup. Together, we worked to preserve the natural beauty of our island's shores.



On October 9, 2025, we transferred funds to support relief efforts for typhoon damage in Hualien, Taiwan.



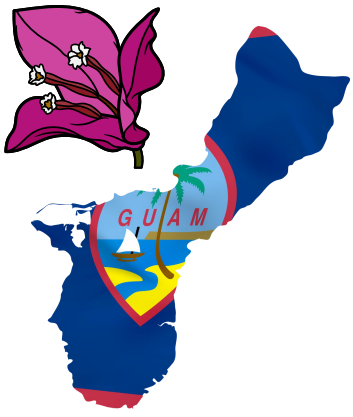


The Federation of Asian Women's Associations (FAWA) Convention took place in Taipei, Taiwan, on October 27, 2025. We were honored to participate in this international gathering, which brought together delegates from countries such as Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, and Malaysia.





On November 8, we contributed to the fight against cancer by helping raise funds for "Relay For Life of Guam" at the American Cancer Society.



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

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB of NEW ENGLAND

Founded in 1992
Maine
www.iwcne.net

Building Up, Reaching Out

Our organization's logo beautifully weaves together the symbolism of a palm tree and pine cones. The palm tree, with its nourishing kernels, signifies vitality and sustenance. Its branches offer shelter and comfort to the weary traveler—an analogy for each member who finds renewal and camaraderie within our club. The pine cone pays tribute to our New England roots, blending warmth, resilience, and regional pride into our identity.

In our club, we gather to encourage goodwill, friendship, and mutual understanding among women from all walks of life. Our community embraces women of diverse ethnic backgrounds, religious beliefs, and political philosophies, creating an inclusive environment where every voice is valued and respected. Through dedicated fundraising activities, we support charities that provide essential assistance to women and children, making a meaningful impact in their lives and empowering them to thrive.

Impacting Lives, Inspiring Change

For over three decades, the IWCNE has been a beacon of generosity and compassion, raising and donating over $362,000 to organizations dedicated to uplifting women and children. In 2025, our philanthropic efforts focused on three remarkable charities: one that provides crucial support to caregivers raising children whose parents struggle with substance abuse; another that funds adaptive equipment and therapy for children with developmental disabilities; and a third that champions the healthy development of youth from disadvantaged families. Through these contributions, we strive to create lasting, positive change and empower those who need it most.





Each year, members eagerly gather for our annual fashion show—an event that beautifully weaves together charitable fundraising, delicious food, camaraderie, and unforgettable moments. This spirited celebration not only generates vital support for our causes but also creates lasting memories and deepens the connections within our organization.







Long winters inspire a season of warmth and togetherness, where festive gatherings bring light and joy to the coldest months.



St. Patrick's Day reminds us that spring is on its way, and together, we embrace the promise of new beginnings.

A Tribute to Our President

Anne Supenia was born in Blackpool, England, and her early memories include surviving the air raids of World War II. With three daughters and several grandchildren, Anne's life has been shaped by family and adventure. Her husband's service in the US Air Force gave them the opportunity to travel extensively throughout England, Scotland, Wales, and several destinations in the United States. Her love of exploration has also led her across Europe and as far as Tanzania, enriching her perspective and deepening her appreciation for cultural diversity. As both a past and current president of IWCNE, Anne is dedicated to fostering international understanding, friendship, and support among women. Her leadership embodies the club's mission to connect, empower, and uplift women from all walks of life. IWCNE is truly grateful for her unwavering commitment and inspiring example.

by **Denise Gaffney**
WCI Liaison

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB of PHILADELPHIA

Founded in 1989
Philadelphia, PA
www.iwcp.org

Our Story, Mission, and Impact

Founded in 1989 by Patricia Macfadyen and Peg Robb, the International Women's Club of Philadelphia was established to welcome women from around the world and help them build friendships, connections, and a sense of community in the Philadelphia area.

Guided by its founding purpose, IWCP continues "to welcome women of all cultures to the Philadelphia area and to promote friendship, cooperation, and understanding among women."

IWCP currently has 168 active members representing 42 countries. Approximately 20% of members are Americans who have lived abroad for at least one calendar year, while the remaining 80% are from countries across Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia-Pacific.

In 2025, IWCP strengthened its leadership, added outreach positions to the Board, expanded its programming, and broadened member engagement.

IWCP's recent programming reflects the Club's mission by fostering friendship, cultural exchange, education, and community-building. Speaker programs have focused on the immigrant experience and food insecurity. We are also excited to now have a shared "clubhouse" in the city through our recent partnership with the Cosmopolitan Club, founded in 1928.

Monthly Programs and Activities

A popular new program is our monthly morning gathering in different city neighborhoods at coffee shops, many of which are run by immigrants. We continue to offer successful monthly happy hours, language groups, cultural visits, teas, and luncheons in both the city and the suburbs. A new Book Club was also launched, focusing on modern German books in English translation.



Oktoberfest: Celebrating German traditions at a member's backyard!



Mornings filled with warmth and meaningful conversations at neighborhood cafes.

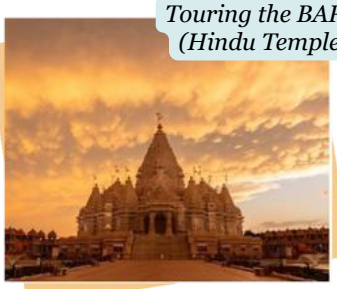




A Private Tour of the Comcast Collection



At the Warwick Lavendar Farm



Touring the BAPS (Hindu Temple)

A Special Event

In December, we enjoyed an extraordinary one-hour guided tour of Anila Quayyum Agha: Interwoven at the Michener Art Museum.



This special exhibition is the most comprehensive to date for this important Pakistani-American visual artist. It surveys two decades of the artist's practice across various media, including sculpture, embroidery, painting, and drawing. Featuring nearly forty artworks from key public and private collections, the exhibition highlights conceptual themes that run through the artist's work: interwoven concerns of belonging, access to knowledge and divine presence, and mutual solidarity.

These programs have helped IWCP increase member participation, welcome new members, and create more opportunities for connection across cultures, neighborhoods, and generations.

Supporting WCI and CSW70

IWCP is proud of its long-standing connection with Welcome Clubs International, which we joined in 1997. This year, IWCP members Jacqueline, Dilek, Gudrun, Georgienne, Brighid, and Nathalie had the opportunity to attend CSW70 at the United Nations in New York, joining women from around the world to support justice, equality, and expanded opportunities for women and girls.

A special point of pride was seeing IWCP Board Member and Webmaster Tapasi Ray represent our club at the Parallel Event, "Overcoming Real Barriers to Achieve Gender Parity and Equitable Systems for Women." Tapasi spoke about her volunteer work with Nanritam, an Indian non-profit dedicated to transforming lives in rural communities through affordable healthcare, quality education, and eye care. She highlighted Nanritam's efforts to empower grassroots educators, provide medical services, and expand opportunities for underserved communities.



Passing the Baton

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have served as IWCP's liaison to WCI since 2000. Over the past 26 years, it has been a privilege to help strengthen the relationship between IWCP and WCI and to support meaningful opportunities for our members. This year, I am pleased to pass the liaison role to Dilek Karabucak, who will continue this valued connection.

by **Jacqueline Yates, WCI Liaison**
Dilek Karabucak, WCI Liaison

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB PORTO ALEGRE

Founded in 1994
Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

A Welcoming Community

The Porto Alegre club currently boasts a dynamic community of 40 members. While the majority are from Brazil, our club is enriched by the global perspectives of four international members who proudly represent China, Belgium, Argentina, and the USA.

At the heart of our club lies a mission to warmly welcome and fully integrate every member into our organization. We extend a warm invitation not only to those from Porto Alegre, but also to newcomers from across Brazil and around the world, ensuring everyone feels at home as they settle into their new surroundings. We encourage a spirit of collaboration and lasting friendship by organizing monthly gatherings —sometimes at vibrant cultural events, other times in the welcoming homes of our members—where connections are strengthened and a sense of belonging flourishes. This April, for example, in addition to a lunch hosted by a member, we visited an art exhibition. Our activities entertain, educate, and inspire, creating opportunities for members to learn from one another, celebrate diverse backgrounds, and build meaningful relationships to last a lifetime.









Supporting Children, Changing Futures









Since its foundation, the Porto Alegre club has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to charity work, continually making a positive and lasting impact on the local community. One of our most meaningful initiatives is our ongoing support for an after-school project at the ACASA institution, which serves 90 children aged 7 to 12. Our involvement goes beyond simply providing two nourishing meals a day; we also supply essential school materials at the start of each academic year, ensuring that every child has the tools they need to succeed in their studies.

In addition, we organize festive celebrations for special occasions such as Easter and Christmas, creating joyful memories and a sense of belonging among the children.

For those facing especially challenging circumstances, several of our members have taken on the role of "Godmothers," offering personal mentorship, emotional support, and guidance, further strengthening the bond between our club and the families we assist.

Situated in one of the most marginalized areas of the city, ACASA relies on our ongoing support to provide a safe and nurturing environment for these children. Our efforts not only offer security and comfort to the young ones but also provide peace of mind to parents, who can pursue their livelihoods knowing their families are well cared for and supported by our community.

From Waste to Worth



The Porto Alegre club is also proud to champion sustainability and environmental stewardship through a creative side project: the collection of bottle caps and blister packs. The bottle caps we gather are donated to a local institution that supports children with disabilities, where they are sold to generate much-needed additional income. Meanwhile, the collected blister packs are repurposed for eco-construction—once pressed together, they can be used to build walls, doors, and other vital structures. Through these efforts, we not only contribute to environmental protection but also extend our support to vulnerable groups within our community, reinforcing our commitment to making a positive and multifaceted impact.

by Isaura Riedl
WCI Liaison

WELCOME TO CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Founded in 2002
San Diego, California



Club Diversity and Evolution

We have an amazing group of women in the WCIC of San Diego. The club originally began with European members, but it has since evolved to reflect a predominantly Latin American background, including members from Mexico and most South American countries.



Day of the Dead Celebration

Our “Day of the Dead Celebration” is one of our most anticipated and vibrant events. The members enthusiastically embrace the tradition by donning creative costumes and preparing an impressive selection of dishes that represent diverse culinary traditions.

The Dancing Club

One of our interest groups is the Dancing Club, led by Mercedes Lindemann. Mercedes has done an outstanding job with this group, which continues to grow. The members of the Dancing Club are outgoing and love to dance at every event. They enthusiastically celebrate members' milestones, birthdays, and anniversaries.





Other Fun Activities

Other fun activities included an exciting visit to the San Diego Zoo, where we participated in an immersive safari day. This unique adventure allowed our group to observe exotic animals up close, learn about wildlife conservation, and enjoy interactive exhibits that made the experience both educational and memorable.

We also celebrated St. Patrick's Day, transforming our gathering space with vibrant green decorations, shamrocks, and festive banners. The celebration offered a wonderful opportunity for everyone to learn about Irish culture and strengthen the bonds within our diverse community.



2027 BOD Meeting



Our club will host the Board of Directors meeting in 2027. The event will take place in Queretaro, Mexico, and will also include San Miguel de Allende. Both cities are renowned for their beauty and safety as colonial destinations in Mexico, with a post-conference trip to Mexico City.

While in Mexico City, we will visit the Anthropology Museum, Castillo de Chapultepec, the Teotihuacan ruins, and take a guided city tour of the Historical Center, ending at the famous "La Opera Bar."

by Elizabeth Long
WCI Liaison

WELCOME TO COLORADO INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Founded in 1978
Denver, Colorado

We have welcomed over 25 new members to our organization and introduced several exciting new programs.



New Members – October 2025



Board of Directors 2025–2026

Our new additions include 'Art Appreciation' and walking tours of historic homes in the Denver area, highlighting their fascinating history. These programs have attracted great attendance and enthusiasm.

The Art Appreciation series began with explorations of Renaissance masters like Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael. This monthly gathering continues to inspire lively discussions and deep appreciation among our members.



St. Pat's Happy Hour

Special events have become a highlight of our calendar, from festive Christmas Happy Hours to spirited St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Each March, International Women's Day is marked by guest speakers who share the stories of Colorado's trailblazing women, reminding us of the rich history, strength, and resilience of women within our own community.

Our new monthly Gardening Program is always at capacity. And, our popular beading classes, led by Past President Ursula Kafadar, help members create spectacular jewelry to proudly showcase.

Luncheons at 'She Chef Restaurants' provide a welcoming space for members to connect, while our wine-tasting events offer opportunities to savor new flavors and enjoy each other's company.



Gardening Club



Opera Party

Jennifer Heglin, our resident opera connoisseur, consistently arranges excellent performances for us at Lamont Opera Theatre at the University of Denver.

History and Culture programs feature inspiring speakers who educate us on significant historical events and introduce us to countries and cultures from around the globe.

The book clubs, 'Women Who Read' and 'Book Reviews,' often welcome authors to discuss their works.

Our monthly 'Just Coffee' meetups and International Cuisine events remain crowd favorites, bringing members together over shared interests and new tastes.



Russian Culture Event



Spring Luncheon



At the Movies with Zorro



Life Stories

In summary, our members are thriving and thoroughly enjoying a wide range of engaging programs while forming new friendships along the way.

by **Kathy Meyer**
WTC President

WELCOME TO FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL CLUB

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

Club History and Mission



Welcome to Florida International Club, established in 1986, proudly celebrates its 40th anniversary this year! Marian Adair, who modeled our club after the Welcome to Washington International Club, would be delighted by our continued success. Membership has grown steadily, accompanied by an expanding array of activities. Members have formed lasting connections locally and globally, especially through WCI's international conferences. Our shared mission is to empower women, girls, and their families around the world.

Membership and Social Engagement

WFLIC has 208 members, including 107 from 48 countries and 101 U.S.-born, many with international experience. Each year, we welcome 15–20 new members.

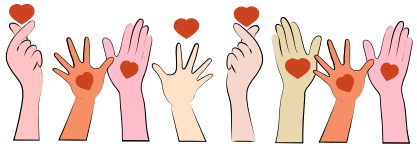
We keep members connected through monthly newsletters and luncheons featuring guest speakers in fields like health, arts, music, and journalism. With over 20 Interest Groups and various special events, our members enjoy a lively social calendar. The Executive Board meets monthly to ensure smooth operations and fresh ideas for the club.

Our motto is to foster a caring, creative community where women support one another, give back, and build lasting friendships. Through a supportive environment and diverse activities, we offer members opportunities to connect and learn about each other's cultures. Our commitment to giving back strengthens both our club and the wider community, helping us make a positive impact locally and globally.









Community Service and Outreach

Highlights from this past year include monthly group volunteer projects organized by the "Beyond Us" group, with full participation from all Board members and an increasing number of members. Each month, the group selects a deserving local community organization to support. This year's events included setting up and assisting needy families in selecting donated gifts at a holiday gift store for the Guadalupe Center in nearby Immokalee, manning a water distribution booth at the Empty Bowls Organization event, serving food to seniors at the local Senior Center, and collecting and packing food and clothing for shelters. We also packed food for distribution to food banks through Meals of Hope, which provides citywide hunger relief in our community.

Global Connections and Cultural Exchange





The club offers a diverse range of activities that foster international friendship and cultural exploration. One of the highlights is the monthly Zoom series, "Let's Go On A Trip Together," hosted by liaison Luba Rotsztain. This virtual event enables members to discover different cultures, places, and professions alongside Sister Club members from around the world.

Members can join any of the 20 Interest Groups, which offer regular social and learning opportunities. These groups include culinary gatherings such as the Barefoot Contessas, who prepare dishes inspired by Ina Garten, as well as language and cultural meetups for Italian, French, German, and Spanish speakers. These gatherings enable participants to practice languages while enjoying international meals, meaningful conversations, crafts, and more. In addition to language and cooking, other groups focus on arts appreciation, knitting, games, theatre, movies, and fashion. Social meetups like "Coffee and Conversation" or "Evening with Friends" provide a welcoming environment for members to connect over shared interests.






Exploring Traditions, Bridging Generations, Strengthening Our Bonds








Diversity is celebrated through events like the International Luncheon this spring, where members wore traditional attire from their birth or adopted countries, collectively showcasing more than 35 nations. Each participant introduced her country with a banner and a brief presentation, further strengthening the sense of community and global connection.

Annual events further enrich our members' experiences. The New Member Tea welcomes newcomers with a ceremony, a gift, and the presentation of a permanent member badge. The Platinum Tea, held in early spring, honors members who have been with the club for over 20 years. These long-standing members share stories about the club's history and founder, reinforcing its sense of community and tradition.

To mark the end of the club's season, members gathered for an International Potluck—a festive meal that provided a relaxed setting to celebrate achievements and friendships before the summer break.

On the international stage, club representatives attended the WCI Biennial Conference in Jakarta, Indonesia. Alongside women from Sister Clubs worldwide, we participated in efforts to empower women through cultural performances, awards, and excursions, further strengthening our bonds of sisterhood.





by Rose Curreri
WFLIC President

WELCOME TO KOREA INTERNATIONAL CLUB

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

Experts Insights Luncheon





The Welcome to Korea International Club (WKIC) held an expert invitation luncheon lecture on June 12, 2025, at the Korea Press Center to mark the 30th anniversary of the Beijing World Conference on Women. President Jungsook Kim of WKIC highlighted the significance of the Beijing Declaration and explained key discussions and Parallel Events from the UN CSW69.
Dr. Eunkyung Kim of the Korean Women's Development Institute shared insights on the outcomes of UN CSW69 and the Beijing+30 action priorities, including gender equality through technology, freedom from poverty, zero violence, and climate justice.

Exploring Korea's Historical Treasures





The Naksansa Temple





At the Ahn Junggeun Memorial Museum

On June 13, 2025, members of WKIC visited Jongmyo Shrine, a UNESCO World Heritage site where ancestral rites for the kings and queens of the Joseon Dynasty are performed. We strolled through the shrine with a guide and learned about the newly restored Jongmyo.

On October 13, 2025, we journeyed to Seoraksan Mountain via Hangyeryeong Pass, a historically important route connecting the inland regions with the East Coast. Despite the rainy weather, we continued the tour and later stopped by Naksansa Temple, a historic temple founded by Uisang during the Silla Dynasty.

On April 10, 2026, we toured the Hanyangdoseong Historic Site Museum and the Ahn Junggeun Memorial Museum in Namsan. At the museum, we learned about the history and construction process of the Hanyangdoseong Fortress and observed traces from different historical periods. Afterward, we explored the Ahn Junggeun Memorial Museum, where we reflected on the life and patriotic spirit of Ahn Junggeun.

37th ICW Triennial General Assembly in Marrakesh





Dr. Jungsook Kim

Three members of WKIC attended the 37th Triennial General Assembly of the International Council of Women (ICW), held in Marrakesh, Morocco, from June 23 to 28, 2025. The Assembly, held under the theme "Women's Empowerment: Peace and Sustainable Development," brought together over 240 delegates from 39 countries. On the first day, a symposium took place under the theme "Think Local, Act Global." At the closing ceremony, President Jungsook Kim was inducted into the International Council of Women Hall of Fame. The Assembly reaffirmed the international commitment to women's empowerment and sustainable development, further strengthening the foundation for global cooperation.

The 25th FAWA Conference in Taipei





Ten members of WKIC attended the Federation of Asia-Pacific Women's Associations (FAWA) conference, held in Taipei, Taiwan, from October 27 to 30, 2025. WKIC members actively participated in discussions and networking sessions throughout the program, taking part in workshops focused on four areas: Women and Health, Peace, Technology, and Climate. These workshops provided practical insights into gender equality and global challenges. At the gala dinner, the Korean team wore hanbok (traditional Korean clothing) and performed "O Sole Mio" and "Miryang Arirang" with coordinated dance movements. Overall, the event fostered meaningful exchanges and strengthened networks among participants across the Asia-Pacific region.

A Lecture by the Ambassador of the Netherlands





As part of our international exchange program, our club hosted H.E. Peter van der Vliet, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Korea, at the Seoul Club on November 20, 2025, for a lecture titled "Social Participation and Empowerment of Dutch Women." The lecture highlighted the historical development and ongoing efforts of Dutch women toward social and economic equality, and also addressed challenges such as the gender wage gap and prevalence of part-time employment.





WKIC 9th Anniversary Celebration Highlights

On December 11, 2025, WKIC celebrated its 9th anniversary at the Press Center. More than 120 guests attended, including current and former National Assembly members, long-time supporters of gender equality, and members of the Welcome Club. President Jungsook Kim delivered a welcoming speech, highlighting WKIC's activities and expressing gratitude for the ongoing support. Chyung Dai Chul, Chairman of the Parliamentarian's Society of the Republic of Korea, and Insun Lee, Chair of the Gender Equality and Family Committee of the National Assembly, also gave congratulatory speeches. The event concluded with a concert featuring two renowned singers.

WKIC Annual General Assembly and AI Lecture

On February 23, 2026, we held our 10th Annual General Assembly at the Girl Scout Center. The 2025 program and financial reports were unanimously approved, and the proposed plans and budget for 2026 were also passed. New board members, SunJoo Lee and KyungSun Yoo, were elected.



On this same day, February 23, a lecture titled "Understanding and Applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI)" was delivered by Prof. Junveom Peoyn of the Artificial Intelligence Practical Research Institute. The presentation introduced AI concepts and explored practical applications, including smartphone AI tools and AI-generated music and videos.

This past year has been remarkable, brimming with memorable excursions, joyful celebrations, insightful conferences, and engaging lectures that enriched our community.

by Sunny Shin
WCI Liaison

WELCOME TO LONDON INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Founded in 1983
London, UK
www.wtlclub.com @wtl_club











16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINS GBV CAMPAIGN WITH NAWO

THIS PARTNERSHIP DEMONSTRATES ***WTL***'S COMMITMENT TO RAISING AWARENESS, ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE, AND SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.

THESE EFFORTS ARE GROUNDED IN THREE CORE PILLARS:

BUILDING ***FRIENDSHIP*** THROUGH THE SHARING OF IMPACTFUL WORK

UNDERSTANDING THE SITUATION,

AND

EDUCATING ALL THROUGH WEBINARS, EVENTS, AND CONFERENCES.





16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GBV CAMPAIGN LAUNCH LONDON 2025





Awards Ceremony of 16 Days of Activism Against GBV 2025





Palace of Westminster London



UNDERSTANDING



EDUCATION





FRIENDSHIP



Great Hall at Houses of Parliament

WOMENS PARLIAMENT GUILD HALL CAMBRIDGE 2025















FRIENDSHIP
UNDERSTANDING
EDUCATION

Christmas 2025









Princess Katarina of Yugoslavia



Prince Michael Aisin-Giorio China

With great humility and joy, I share that I have been awarded an Honorary Doctorate in New York in 2026, honoring more than two decades of volunteer service and dedication to women's empowerment at local, national, and global levels.



by **Nesrin Comert**
WTLC President

WELCOME TO TAIPEI INTERNATIONAL CLUB

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

We are pleased to present highlights from a vibrant and purposeful year marked by signature events and special programs, reflecting our ongoing commitment to fostering international friendship, cultural exchange, and mutual understanding.

Annual Events

Annual Assembly & New Year Luncheon – Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of WTIC. This valued occasion brings members together in fellowship and renewed purpose. This year's gathering was especially significant, as we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of WTIC—honoring four decades of dedication to connection, service, and cross-cultural engagement.






Annual Lecture – "Dancing With Memory and Life" featured Ms. Oly Sela, who guided members through a meaningful intergenerational dialogue and wellness workshop. The program thoughtfully addressed the importance of preserving the memory of the Holocaust, encouraging reflection on history, resilience, and shared humanity.







Indian Tea Party – "From Assam to Alishan: A Celebration of 100 Years of Indian Tea in Taiwan" offered an enriching cultural experience. Through this program, members explored the heritage and traditions of Indian tea while appreciating its historical and cultural connections within Taiwan.

Christmas Luncheon – A highlight of the year, this festive occasion featured performances and exhibitions by various interest groups, showcasing their accomplishments and contributions and reflecting the vibrant spirit of our community.






Interest Group Activities

International Cooking Demonstration: Inspired by Saint Lucia and the Taste of Cocoa Tea.









The Art & Culture Group: We organized visits to notable exhibitions throughout the year, including “Hidden Gems” at the National Museum of History, presentations of French masterpieces from the Metropolitan Museum of Art at the National Palace Museum, and centennial exhibitions celebrating cultural legacy.









Exploration Group: It has been another delightful year of discovering Taipei together. With the ease of the city’s modern transportation system, members enjoyed an early summer day immersed in the serene sounds of the Guqin within a beautifully restored Japanese-era residence, experienced the artistry of movement at the Cloud Gate Theatre, and explored Taipei’s oldest streets and revered temples, which continue to tell the story of the city’s rich past.











National and Global Engagements



- Participated in the 25th Convention of the Federation of Asia-Pacific Women’s Associations (FAWA), held in Taiwan under the theme “Women in an AI Era: Breaking Barriers, Inspiring Change.”





- Took part in a WCI webinar where Professor Daisy Chang of Michigan State University offered insights into the well-being and effectiveness of aging workers during periods of transition.



- Attended the 17th WCI Biennial Conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, further strengthening international friendships and collaboration.

by Olivia Jen
WCI Liaison

WELCOME TO TURKISH CYPRUS CLUB

Founded in 2000
Mersin, Cyprus

The Welcome to Turkish Cyprus Club held its first General Assembly for the 2025–2027 term, electing Ms. Işın Ramadan Cemil as the President, alongside new Board members.

After the meeting, members enjoyed a lively "Happy Hour," courtesy Ramadan Cemil Enterprises, toasting to the start of a new term in a welcoming atmosphere.

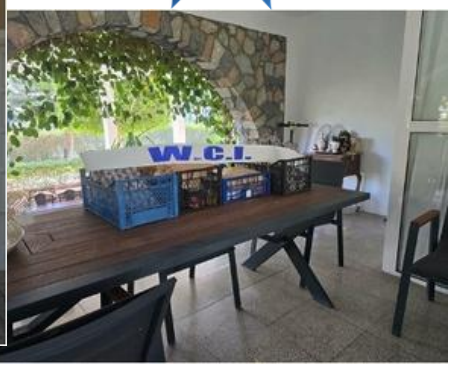
Election Day





Working Together





Giving is Receiving

On July 10, 2025, the Welcome to Turkish Cyprus Club donated kitchen supplies to the Girne Rehabilitation Center Cheshire Home, supporting the daily lives of its residents. We're firm believers that even the tiniest acts of kindness can ripple into big waves of change. This initiative reflects our dedication to compassion, solidarity, and caring for our community.

SOS Children's Village



Then, on July 18, we spread some cheer by donating funds to SOS Children's Village, helping kids enjoy Scout Camp. We were delighted to play a part in creating unforgettable memories and supporting children's personal growth, confidence, and a true sense of belonging. Contributing to their journey means investing in a brighter future filled with hope and opportunities for all of us!

Moments of Unity: Celebrating Friendship, Art, and Advocacy in Welcome to Turkish Cyprus Club

November was truly special this past year. On November 11, members of the Welcome to Turkish Cyprus Club enjoyed a delightful lunch at an authentic local restaurant in Northern Cyprus. In a warm atmosphere, we exchanged ideas, discussed current projects, and strengthened the bonds of friendship that unite our club.



Fellowship Gathering









Gaza Biennale

On November 14, we provided funding to the Gaza Biennale in Nicosia, to support the exhibition of works by Gazan artists. We are proud to stand in solidarity through art, fostering cultural expression and raising awareness through meaningful initiatives.



"Awareness Walk"

And on November 25, we participated in a "Say No to Violence Against Women" Awareness Walk. Our members proudly joined the awareness walk organized by Inner Wheel District 222 Northern Cyprus, in cooperation with international Inner Wheel clubs and the United Nations, as part of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Together, we raised our voices to say "No" to violence against women, promoting awareness, unity, and a shared commitment to a safer, more equal world.



With the First Lady



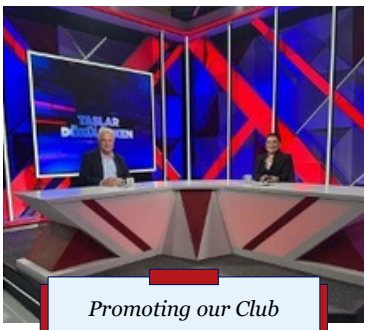
New Year and Still Going Strong

On February 9, 2026, we paid a courtesy visit to Ms. Nilden Erhürman, spouse of the President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. During the visit, we introduced our club, presented our projects, and exchanged views on community-focused initiatives.

Our organization happily supported athletes participating in the Wheelchair Basketball Tournament held in France from 12–15 March 2026 by donating wheelchairs. This meaningful contribution enhanced their mobility, independence, and performance, reflecting our steadfast commitment to inclusion, solidarity, and empowerment through sport.



Empowering Athletes



Promoting our Club



Inaugurating an Exhibit



"Hello Spring" Luncheon

On 16 March, President Işın Ramadan Cemil spoke about our club on a television program, highlighting its mission, activities, and contributions.

On April 1, members of our club, led by our President, attended the opening of the "Republic's Memory Book: Women Exhibition," organized by Girişimci İş Kadınları Derneği. The exhibition featured a portrait of President Işın Ramadan Cemil in recognition of her many achievements.

On April 21, we had the pleasure of hosting a "Hello Spring" to welcome new members and discuss future projects.

After lunch, we explored The Arkın Rodin Collection in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Showcasing 31 original pieces, it stands as one of the largest Auguste Rodin collections in the Eastern Mediterranean. This inspiring visit brought together art, friendship, and our shared vision for future initiatives.



The Rodin Collection

by Hatice Topukcu
WCI Liaison

WELCOME TO WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Welcome to Washington International Club

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


Immediate Past President Lea Hesse presents "globe" to President Gail Landau

May concludes President Gail Landau's 2-year term. We finished the year with just under 500 members, 62% US members and 38% international. WTW was vibrant with *140 events* – sometimes daily offerings – and a very engaged membership!

Our Fall tea was a tour around the world of Tea Traditions, humorously "led" by a caricature of President Landau. The musical "Alexander Hamilton" took center stage for our Holiday Party. Finally, our Annual General Meeting in May included the induction of new President Judy Page and her Executive Committee.




New President Judy Page and her Executive Committee


Cultural Expressions' Latin Culture


ASEAN Culture Day


Cultural Expressions' Diwali

Deeper friendships were forged in our numerous, small group events. Music and dance seem to have brought us together on several occasions! Our international members enjoyed American culture as shared by our groups, such as Gourmet's Cowboy Chow event or Oscar Party. Our members were immersed in foreign cultures shared by Cultural Expressions, such as the Diwali celebration, or Latin Culture event. The Chinese Embassy shared *Jiangsu qipao* designs accompanied by *Jiangnan sizhu* music, while the Malaysian Embassy opened its doors for ASEAN Culture Day. The deepest dive into *"friendship through understanding"* is through our "Telling Our Life Story" group, where members truly share personal experiences.


Jiangnan sizhu chamber music at the Chinese Embassy



Gourmet's Cowboy Chow lunch


Sharing Mesopotamian roots in Telling our Life Stories


Garden Group picnic at Norfolk Botanical Gardens

At least once a year, "Literature, Travel & More" does a virtual program shared with sister clubs. We held an author talk on "Spitfires," the daring women aeronauts of WWII in Europe! We love having Sister Clubs join us!


Exploring Gallaudet University for the hearing impaired with Washington Behind the Scenes


Our Spring New Member Orientation




With some Honorary Members from various Embassies

WELCOME TO WASHINGTON GOES TO INDONESIA!

WTW delegates trouped for an adventure in Jakarta and Yogyakarta, Indonesia, for the WCI 17th Biennial Conference!

WTW traveled with the most number of delegates from outside Asia. We had WCI President/WTW Past President Lea Hesse, WCI Past President/Founders Representative Eshrat Demougeot, WCI Liaison/WTW Past President Jenny Crabbe, WTW Membership Chair Anushka Maroli and her husband, WCI Executive Committee Maria Antonieta Rodil, former WCI Treasurer Nancy Carpenter and her husband, WTW members Kim Crane and Helga Schwartz, and former WTW Honorary Member Madame Haflin Nazri Aziz of Malaysia who joined us in Yogyakarta! We loved reconnecting with sister club friends and making new ones! WTW is grateful to WCI and our host, WIC Jakarta, for such a rich experience!



WTW Delegates at the Conference opening


WTW Delegates at the Jakarta Gala Night


WTW Delegates at the JakartaGovernor's Office


WCI Delegation arrives in Yogyakarta Train Station


Helga & Kim on a train ride

We appreciated visiting the rarely-opened "Friendship Tunnel," connecting the largest mosque and the largest cathedral in Indonesia. Riding horse-drawn carriages to the Royal Palace in Yogyakarta for an evening with the Queen of Java and the Prince was a FINALE!


Jenny, Maria Antonieta and Lea "meet & greet" at the Westin Jakarta

Our host club, WIC Jakarta, invited us to their Clubhouse and shared their philanthropic projects with us. A dawn train ride to Yogyakarta was an adventure! So was a climb up the UNESCO Heritage site of Borobudur, and making our very own batik designs!


Dave and Anushka on the train

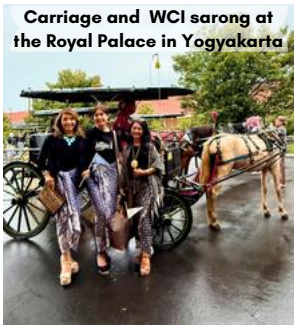

Borobudur Temple UNESCO Heritage site



President Lea Hesse gives Biennial closing remarks


WCI thanks our host, WIC Jakarta in their Clubhouse


Our own batik handiwork from the Batik Village


Carriage and WCI sarong at the Royal Palace in Yogyakarta



JENNY SICAT CRABBE
WCI LIAISON
PAST PRESIDENT, WTW

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL BORDER CLUB

Founded in 2005
Chula Vista, California

Club Growth and Diversity

Our club continues to grow and now has 56 members representing a diverse range of nationalities, including American, German, Austrian, Mexican, Indian, Bolivian, Peruvian, Iranian, and Brazilian.

Our club kicked off the new year with a lively membership meeting in January 2026. Together, we embraced another year filled with shared friendships and exciting adventures.

Membership Meeting and New Board

We also chose a new board, consisting of the following members:

- President: Marie-Luise Sczyrbowski
- Assistant to the President: Lori Allen Johnson
- Vice President: Christina Mahler
- Treasurer: Mona Beizai
- Secretary: Beverly Sturr
- Event Coordinator: Sunny

Annual and Holiday Events

Throughout the year, we mark special occasions with themed events. For Valentine's Day, we dress in red and decorate with hearts. International Women's Day is usually celebrated at a restaurant, with a cheerful raffle, and displays of original pottery by one of our talented members. Mother's Day is another delightful event, where everyone participates in flower arranging and takes home a beautiful floral creation.



We joyfully celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) in our purple outfits, a symbol of justice and dignity. Together, we honored the remarkable achievements and contributions of women everywhere!



Valentine's Day isn't just about romantic love—it's also a wonderful opportunity for women to celebrate friendship, support, and shared joy.



We are also fortunate to have a member who owns a large citrus farm. Each spring, she welcomes us to pick tangerines, blood oranges, and grapefruits and serves breakfast to fuel our adventure in the orchard.



A Sweet Spring Citrus Gathering

Our summer picnic at the beach is always popular, featuring hamburgers, sweets, and plenty of time to relax by the ocean. In November, we embrace the Halloween spirit by dressing up in costumes, with a prize for the best outfit.



Picnic by the Sea



One of our annual traditions is a swap event, where members bring items they no longer need and raffle tickets are sold, turning one person's trash into another's treasure and raising funds for the club.

Club Traditions and Fundraisers

Interest Groups

We are always looking for new ways to connect and have fun as a group. Each month, our birthday club gathers to honor members' special days with laughter, dancing, and memorable moments. We also plan to start a cooking club where members can bond over culinary discoveries and shared kitchen adventures. We also want to organize a walking club to enjoy the fresh air and beautiful scenery—especially along the beach. These groups strengthen our friendships, build mutual support, and deepen our connection to the community.



A Birthday Bash for Mona Beizai

by **Marie-Luise Sczyrbowski**
WIBC President

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB JAKARTA

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

Handing over of Executive Committee (2024-2026) to (2026-2028)





Executive Committee (2026-2028)

Membership and Executive Committee

On March 27, 2026, the Women's International Club (WIC) Jakarta welcomed its newly elected Executive Committee. This diverse group includes representatives from nine nationalities: Austria, the United States, Germany, Malaysia, India, Japan, France, Singapore, and Indonesia. Today, WIC Jakarta is home to 300 members spanning 23 nationalities, with 60% Indonesians and 40% expatriates.

Social Welfare Projects

Currently, WIC Jakarta, through our Social Welfare Committee, supports 12 institutions: five orphanages, five homes for underprivileged seniors, one mental health facility, and one shelter for cancer patients. This support includes providing basic necessities such as food and toiletries, as well as trainers and physiotherapists for children with special needs, among other services. Last year and starting in 2026, the Social Welfare Committee successfully organized its annual Children's Day (18 June 2025), Seniors' Day (12 August 2025), and Teachers and Caretakers' Training (26 January 2026).

Scholarship

As of March 2026, our Scholarship Committee supports 50 students from four universities in Jakarta: Universitas Indonesia, Universitas Negeri Jakarta, Institut Pertanian Bogor, and Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah. On September 27, 2025, our scholarship students enjoyed their annual outing. Fifty students, accompanied by ten members from our club, participated in the "Escape Adventure" outbound program at Rumah Perubahan Jakarta Escape, founded by Mr. Rhenald Kasali.

Annual Fundraising

Our 57th Annual Charity Bazaar, scheduled for 12–13 November 2026, is one of the largest gatherings of international communities and institutions in Jakarta. In 2025, 40 embassies and 218 local businesses participated in the event. Starting in March 2026, we organized three fundraising events leading up to the annual bazaar. The Bazaar Proceeds Committee (BPC) 2025–2026, a special team formed each year to allocate surplus funds from the bazaar, provided one-time support to 10 institutions. This included classroom construction and renovation, replacement of bathroom doors and kitchen ceilings, new kitchen countertops, books, laptops, kitchen appliances, a chest freezer, a cooler, wheelchairs, a blood pressure monitor, and a stethoscope.

Events and Activities

Every year, we celebrate a variety of events and festivities, including Indonesia's Independence Day, Chinese New Year, Halal Bihalal, Kartini Day, and Christmas. In 2026, we proudly hosted WCI's 17th Biennial Conference and our club's 76th Anniversary.

We are grateful to the ambassadors and their spouses from the following embassies for hosting our cultural coffee mornings in 2025: Jordan, Bulgaria, Austria, the Netherlands, Estonia, Palestine, the European Union, Brazil, Egypt, Portugal, and Chile. For 2026, monthly cultural coffee mornings are already scheduled at the embassies' residences. These gatherings offer a wonderful glimpse into the cultures and traditions of many countries.

We also offer a variety of activities for members, tailored to their interests. These include padel, choir, happy afternoon, wastra (batik), handicraft, language classes (including Bahasa Indonesia), yoga, international cooking, and dance circles.

Traveling and Learning

WIC Jakarta organizes yearly domestic trips and international trips every two years. In May 2025, we visited the Province of Lampung, our provincial sponsor for the 55th Annual Charity Bazaar. In September 2025, 15 WIC members traveled to Armenia and Georgia. These trips offer a deeper understanding of different cultures through firsthand experiences, foster stronger bonds among members, and provide new perspectives.

WCI 17th Biennial Conference

This year's highlight was hosting the WCI 17th Biennial Conference 2026, an international gathering that was held in Jakarta (27–29 April) and Yogyakarta (29 April–1 May), with a post-conference trip to Bali (1–5 May). The conference united representatives from eleven women's organizations from the USA, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Taiwan, and Indonesia, fostering knowledge sharing, cultural exchange, and meaningful connections.

We extend our gratitude to participants from around the world for embracing Indonesia's rich cultural diversity by visiting heritage sites, engaging with local communities, and interacting with WIC Jakarta's social welfare institutions and university scholarship recipients. The keynote sessions and panel discussions connected delegates with Indonesian women leaders, artisans, educators, and community advocates.

Under the theme "Bridging Traditions and Transformations: Empowering Women through Education and Cultural Heritage in a Changing World," the conference fostered international friendships and cross-cultural understanding among participants.

Congratulations to our two past presidents, Gina Alamsjah (2020 Awardee) and Pooja Assomull (2026 Awardee), for receiving the Marian Adair Award.

In closing, we invite you to see the photos that commemorate this momentous event. We hope you enjoy these memorable pictures as much as we enjoyed this incredible gathering with friends from around the globe.

by **Tari Arsita Boestami, WICJ President**
Klaudia Fukar, WICJ Vice President



WCI Biennial Conference Opening Ceremony (The Westin Jakarta)

Board of Directors Meeting



Marian Adair Award 2020 Recipient



Marian Adair Award 2026 Recipient





Gala Dinner and Closing Ceremony



Jakarta Cathedral



At the Tunnel of Friendship (Terowongan Silaturahmi)



Balai Kota DKI Jakarta (City Hall)



Istiqlal Mosque



Celebrating with traditional dances





A gathering of friends at the National Museum of Indonesia



Exploring our heritage











Learning about the beautiful tradition of hand-drawn batik (Batik Tulis) at Kampung Batik Giriloyo (Yogyakarta).

A visit to the Borobudur Temple, one of the greatest Buddhist monuments in the world and a UNESCO Heritage Site.









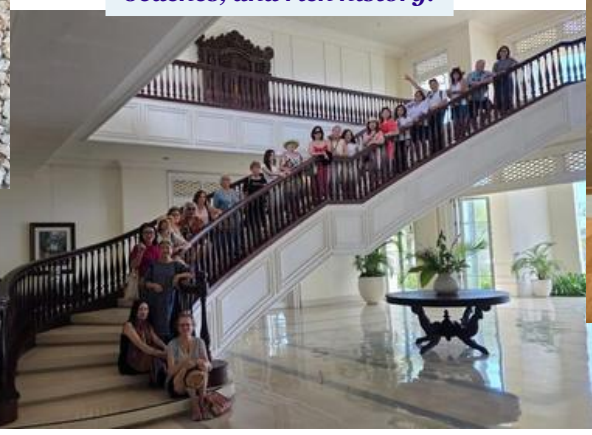
An enjoyable time at Palace Pakualaman (Yogyakarta)







A delightful post-conference trip to Bali, where we explored its vibrant culture, stunning beaches, and rich history.





Bali

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July 2025 – June 2026

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Broward International Women's Club

Chinese Ladies' Association of Guam

International Women's Club Israel

International Women's Club of New England

International Women's Club of Philadelphia

International Women's Club Porto Alegre

Welcome to California International Club

Welcome to Colorado International Club

Welcome to Florida International Club

Welcome to Korea International Club

Welcome to London International Club

Welcome to Taipei International Club

Welcome to Turkish Cyprus Club

Welcome to Washington International Club

Women's International Border Club

Women's International Club Jakarta

ASSOCIATE MEMBER ORGANIZATION

Federation of International Women's Club of London

MARIAN WOOD ADAIR FOUNDER'S FUND

In Honor of WCI's Founder Marian Adair



Marian Wood Adair
1908 - 2004

The **Marian Wood Adair Founder's Fund (MWAFF)** supports WCI's ongoing efforts to spread Marian's legacy of cross-cultural understanding, education, and global friendship.

Contributions will be used for projects promoting quality education and gender equality, in accordance with WCI's Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Affiliated Clubs and individual members are encouraged to make donations—to honor a fellow member, congratulate someone, memorialize family and friends, or simply support WCI.

Your contribution will make a difference!

Important Note to Donors in the United States

Effective April 19, 2024, Welcome Clubs International, Inc. is exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) 501(c)(3). **Donors can deduct contributions they make to WCI** under IRC Section 170.

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Clubs can add a contribution amount to their annual dues using their usual payment method.

Individuals may donate directly at any time via PayPal, with a U.S. check, or wire transfer.

To donate via PayPal, go to https://www.members.wciclubs.org/donations—our website's MWAFF donations page. Click the "Donate" button. You do not need a PayPal account to use PayPal.

Information on donating by check or via wire transfer can also be found on the MWAFF donations page linked above.