

Sister Club News

Keeping in Touch . . . Sharing Activities

Editor

Rihab Ouri
 Women's League of Beirut

FROM OUR PRESIDENT: To Friends and Members of Welcome Clubs International



Dear Ladies,

I hope you have had an excellent start to 2019. A New Year brings new possibilities and new hopes as we believe that changes are necessary to grow.

Once again, Sister Club News allows us to get to know one another. Sharing is what makes us grow in understanding and in friendship. Sharing is what helps us grow in humanity. To give and to receive allows us to knit the rich tapestry of human relationships - one of the components to a meaningful life.

In today's world, in which technology has modified the way people relate, it is still women who make it possible for people not to lose the person to person contact. The psychology of women is distinctive as it orients towards relationships and interdependence; this implies a contextual mode of judgement and moral understanding. Women search for the similar among human beings, and therefore, bring a different point of view and order human experience in terms of comprehension. Women can bring their characteristic intuition and deep perceptiveness to relate to every human being with understanding and empathy.

Sister Club News celebrates friendship among women of the world. Sister Club News celebrates intercultural understanding. Thank you for being part of Sister Club News.

Kind Regards,
 Maria Fernanda Arduino

This year, may we continue to share the genuine friendships that add happiness and warmth. Happy New Year!



Dear Presidents and Liaisons, it has been a pleasure working with you. You make for a great team and I am in gratitude for your endless support. As for WCI's President, Maria Fernanda Arduino, I want you to know that it has been an absolute honor working with you. Your unconditional giving, determination, and sincerity, set great examples for others to follow to make a difference in today's society. The world is a better place because of people like you. May all good things come your way.

Warm Regards,
 Rihab Ouri

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Executive Committee Meeting of WCI in Naples

Welcome to Florida started off its season in November with a lovely luncheon at Audubon Country Club. We had over 120 members present for the occasion. Our club directories were handed out, we had sign-ups for Interest Groups, and Bill Korstad gave a wonderful talk on India.

We were also privileged, this November, to have the Executive Committee meeting of WCI here in Naples once again. For the first time, the Executive Committee members from all over the world, who were not able to attend the meeting here in the US, were part of the meeting thanks to Zoom. We could actually all see each other and speak with each other as if we were all in the same room. It was truly a ground-breaking experience for all of us. Reem Iversen from the Welcome to Florida Club, with the help of her husband Morten, were able to pull this off seamlessly. It was truly amazing!

The Board of Directors of Welcome to Florida also brought lunch to the WCI Executive Committee, and we all were able to sit down and share a wonderful meal together. Friendships flourished and a great time was had by all.

Libby Cottingham, Liaison



WELCOME TO WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL CLUB

A Parade of International Brides

Welcome to Washington began our year with our Annual Fall Tea which featured a parade of International Brides from Georgia, India, Nigeria, Palestine and Turkey. Each bride was accompanied by appropriate wedding music and the various customs and rituals were explained. This event was so positively received by our members in attendance.

Our 8 Interest Groups are off to an excellent start. They offer members varied opportunities ranging from thought provoking discussions to delectable cuisine to a trip to visit the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD and a schooner ride on the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. We again celebrated the annual American Thanksgiving where members, both US and International brought favorite side dishes and desserts to complement the turkey feast. We are excited to announce the forming of a new Informal Activity, Global Gatherings, which is aimed at attracting younger women.

We continue to remain a strong club with over 500 members. In May, we will celebrate our 60th Anniversary with a luncheon, planned by the Past Presidents.



Nigerian Bride

Susan Hayes Long, President



At the Annual Fall Tea in
Columbia Country Club



Thanksgiving fare



A day in Annapolis, Maryland

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB OF PORTO ALEGRE

XXXIII BRAZILIAN WOMEN'S CLUBS MEETING 2018

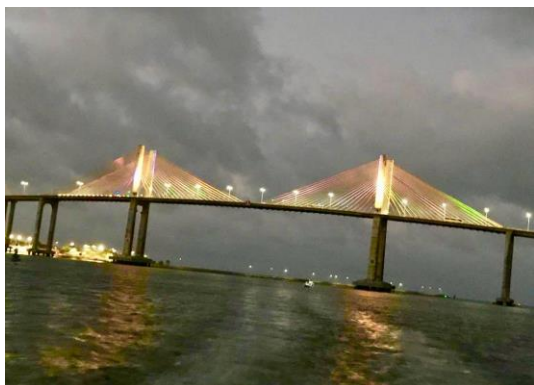
This meeting took place in September 14th to 18th. It was coordinated by Brazilian Confederation's President, Mrs. Orchidéa Corcioli and by Mrs. Ana Marta de Moura, President of International Women's Club of Natal.

The city chosen for the event was Natal (RN) located in the northeast of the country with a privileged nature and beautiful beaches. The meeting provided many activities and leisure, as well. The themes of the lectures were very interesting and were given by experts in the subjects: "Women Transforming the World" and "Secrets for Living More and Better".

The International Women's Club of Porto Alegre (IWCPOA) have received the invitation to accomplish the "XXXIV Brazilian Women's Clubs Meeting" in 2019. We are very proud about it!

Mrs. Orchidéa Corcioli during the meeting

Zulmira Sommer, Liaison



Pictures from Natal.



IWC PORTO ALEGRE President Lucia Prosdocimi, Vice President Maria Helena do Valle, Gilza Barros (IWC RECIFE).



Meeting participants of the massive group



IWCPOA President Lucia Prosdocimi holding the club's flag

Building Human Network Through Cultural Exchange

25 members of WKIC gathered early in the morning near the Abgujung station and got on the bus headed for Buyeo on Tuesday, the 24th of April. Members had been very busy, but set all the busy schedule aside for the opportunity to learn the history of Baekje kingdom, established in 18 B.C. and pre-eminent in the region for more than 700 years until 660CE. It is located southwest of Gongju and west of Daejeon.



On June 19th 'Luncheon Gathering with Korean women Leaders and Spouses of Ambassadors in Korea' at the National Press Club in Korea Press Center. Around 120 people gathered and had a fun and interesting time together talking and sharing ideas on the social and cultural characteristics of other countries. The gathering was originally planned for building the human network through the cultural exchange and eventually enhancing the understanding people with different cultural background.

On a hot summer day, 35 members of WKIC and KNCW (Korea National Council of Women) went to visit the Embassy of Republic of Indonesia located in Yeouido. We talked about the similarities between Korea and Indonesia in the history of both countries. We learned about several women warriors who fought with their thought and intellect for the empowerment of women through education. Mr. Umahari mentioned that Indonesian constitution put the gender equality on top and explained why so by using the Five Pillars (belief in one God, Humanity, Nationalism, Democracy and Social Justice) and their 1st election in 1954 and women's suffrage back then.



We went on a 2nd historic Excursion to Sunwoonsa Temple which was established around a thousand years ago during Baikjae Dynasty. Located in Jeollabook-do Province, it took about 3 hours by bus. Passing by the humongous zelkova walkway and beautiful maple trees, we got to the entrance of the temple. Right around the main sanctuary was the cluster of camellia, which is designated as natural monument # 184. We're lucky to have a commentator to help us understand the history of the temple and to give us some of the background knowledge of all these beautiful monuments.

The 40th Anniversary of Welcome to Colorado International Club



The 40th Anniversary of Welcome to Colorado International Club was held with gusto last September 12 at the Columbine Country Club.

The festive program celebrated 40 years of friendship and cultural diversity and included the participation of many of our members in a parade of countries and the performance of professional dancers, representing the countries of Peru, Argentina, Mexico, USA, Spain and Colombia.

The unforgettable and happy event was praised by many as one of the best programs they remember ever attending.

Jeanette Malek, President



Tango Dance



Flamenco Dancer

A Lady from Northern Cyprus To Be the First Minister of Finance



On behalf of WCI Turkish Cyprus I would like to share some information and pictures of our events from this part of the world. Just before leaving on our summer vacation, we had a dinner where the spouses were also invited. It was a wonderful way to take a break for summer.



The next event we held took place on November 14, 2018. The speaker was Ms. Onur Borman, who after serving in high ranking positions in the ministry of Finance, had become the first Minister of Finance and later member of parliament. Ms. Borman gave us a wonderful presentation about the development of finance in Northern Cyprus.



On Saturday, December 15 we had our annual Fundraising luncheon with proceeds going to KIKEV, a foundation for the education of children with hearing impairments. They provide schooling to help them achieve a higher level of self-sufficiency and success in the school and community. We had a bazaar where we sold different craft items as well as homemade cakes and pastries. After lunch, the children under the leadership of their teachers sang songs by use of sign language. Here are some pictures from the event. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a very happy festive season and best wishes for the coming year.



Inci Musannif, President and Zeynep Akgunay, Liaison

The 2018 AGIWA Holiday Trip

Every year, AGIWA members embark on a trip to explore new terrain. This year's journey was to **Latvia and Estonia**. We've provided an extract from Antje, seated at centre, and one of our founding members:

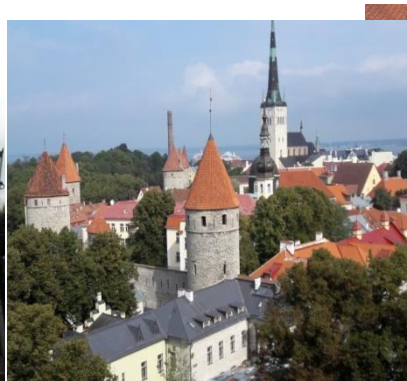


In Latvia, the city of Riga offers the largest number of Art Nouveau buildings in Europe, as well as a cathedral whose construction in the typical northern style, started in the 13th century. In Estonia, a guided tour of Tartu gave us an overview of the city; most notable is its university, founded in 1632. On the northern coast, we visited an old fisherman's cottage on the shore and passed through Kasmu. In the Kalamaja

district, we visited the open-air festival grounds where a song fest with 30,000 participants takes place every five years. Near Tallinn, we visited the open-air museum Roca al Mare, which featured historical buildings from all regions of Estonia.



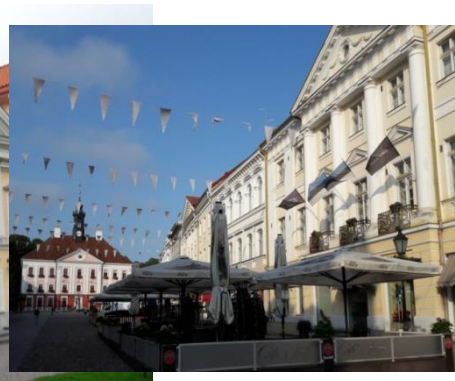
Riga



Tallin



Vihula Manor Hotel



Tartu



IMPRESSIONS

What a journey! What weather! What an atmosphere! This journey was as holidays should be: blue skies each day, sunshine, warm surroundings, interesting and interested people!



This group was like a family, so well acquainted in such a short time. They were all helpful towards each other, mostly towards me at my age, so always got an arm to lean on. No journey could have been better. And then these two newly independent countries: our guide said, "We are just 27 years old. What has a person achieved by the time they are 27?" It's incredible how much they have suffered over the centuries, but now they are a part of Europe, with us. Thank God for this miracle.

Kim Riedel, Liaison

Celebrating Christmas Lunch 2018

Christmas is within a few days! It is a day of joy and festivities, but the true meaning of Christmas is the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ which is celebrated on December 25th. This day is also a reunion of families and friends and festive activities including exchanging of presents, singing Christmas carols and concerts. Every year, in Beirut we have for almost the whole month of December a rich program of concerts called "Beirut Chants" offering Christmas concerts to the public.

In Lebanon, the main meal for Christmas is the roasted turkey and as sweets we have the French "Buche" or Swiss roll. A few days ago, around 150 Women's League members and guests celebrated Christmas on December 11 in Coral Beach hotel where we had our traditional Christmas lunch. Everybody enjoyed the festive atmosphere. Many distinguished guests attended this event. Among them, the Ambassador of Colombia, the Spouse of the Ambassador of Bangladesh and several NGO Presidents.

The president of the Women's League, Mrs. Salwa Damiani, honored the previous presidents of the League during the party by offering them small gifts, and thanked the Executive Board members for the efforts they have done to make this lunch event a big success. We have to remember that the Women's League is 99 years old. It is the oldest Women Organization in Lebanon. Next year we will celebrate the centennial. WL wishes you a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year 2019!



WL Presidents with Ambassador and Spouses of Ambassadors



WL President and Board members



Salwa Damiani, President





Lifelong Learning with Friends



Annual General Meeting



Executive Board 2018-2020



Christmas Luncheon 2018



White Dinner



Our new Club year starts in April. This year we welcomed our newly-elected Executive Board to begin their two-year term in office. We are very excited at this transitional time when our Club gets a fresh start, with new ideas and new activities. One significant change we are very proud of is the new look and new layout of our Club's Newsletter, "**Our World**". Our expanding Club activities continue on and they are thriving with almost all activities in full attendance! We have a variety to choose from, staying true to our belief in keeping our members' minds and bodies fit. But most important of all, we offer our members the opportunities to learn and experience new things, be amongst friends and above all, to have fun! Here are just some of these few examples.

Vena Velarde Iversen, Liaison

Did you know that **Mont Blanc** originated in Hamburg and its headquarter is still here? We learned about its history, brand story and observed how its fine designs and workmanships are made. It is indeed one of the best writing instruments in the world!



Our October Cultural Presentation took us to Ethiopia, in the horn of Africa. Our guest speaker, Dr. Marja Priess, a Finn talked about Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia and showed slide photos which she took while living there with her family for many years. She also brought with her different traditional Ethiopian clothing which we were able to touch and admire afterwards. It was indeed an enlightening afternoon!



At our Monthly Meeting Luncheon in August, as our Club's Liaison, I introduced **WCI**, its history, developments, and most importantly, its new initiative "Educating Women"



A visit at the **Traditional Chinese Medicine Center** in Hamburg. We learned about its principles, history, the concept of Qi and Yin-Yang and its healing methods.



On a gray September afternoon, Eva and Elfie our two gracious Austrian greeted us with warm sunny smiles. Today's topic? Viennese Coffee House Culture which dates back in 1683! Afterwards, we had of course Austrian coffee and accompanied by Eva's delicious self-baked goods like Apple strudel, Sachertorte and many more. Undoubtedly a fun way to learn!

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY TEA



Despite a winter storm that threatened to force the cancellation of our annual event, twenty-two ladies braved the weather to enjoy our traditional Afternoon Tea held on March 8th - International Women's Day. Our thanks go to the dedicated staff of On A Roll Café who did a beautiful job for us. Although purple is the traditional color of International Women's Day, a new dawn, was selected as a way to show solidarity with the recent surge of attention to women's empowerment. Members of BIC and guests paid particular attention to ways we can help our "sisters" in the ongoing struggle for opportunity, respect, and equality locally and in the world, with a focus on education. A few stood up to speak and share information about their work and efforts in the field.

Rebecca Nebes

2018 WTIC Activities



In Spring, festive activities:

- *Seafood Cooking Demo at Ji Pin Restaurant.
- *Matinee Lecture
- *Annual Tea Party in honor of Madame Hadwig Martin from Germany
- *Exploration: Visit Investigation Bureau of the Ministry of Justice, Potluck at AIT and MOFA minister's residence.

In Summer, fruitful functions:

- *Art & Culture: Garden 91 in Yangmingshan
- *Art & Culture: Journey into the infinities of Zao Wu-Ki, O-Bank's Virtuoso Horn Ensemble
- *Chinese New Year Luncheon
- *Annual Registration Luncheon
- *Exploration: To Old Town Wan Hua, visit Delta Electronics Headquarter



In Autumn & Winter:

- *Exploration: To United Daily News, Guqin & Calligraphy Museum, Persimmon Farm
- *Turkish Cooking Demo
- *Art & Culture: Kaushiung Museum, Masterpieces from TATE in London
- *FAWA Meeting in Manila



Olivia Jen,
Deputy Executive Secretary

2019 Educational Program of Women's International Club

WIBC has been proudly affiliated with Welcome Clubs International since August 2005. We follow its rules and regulations and attend their Conferences every two years. This Year, Maria Walker and Vilma Boettcher represented WIBC in Washington, DC. They talked about their experiences and encouraged members to attend.



WIBC maintains a floating membership of between 37 and 50 women of many nationalities. Officially, we get together once a month. As a way of familiarization, there is a small presentation from one of the members, which enlightens us on their daily routines and customs.

WIBC Board of Directors, which is composed of a President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer and a Liaison has recently changed. This takes place every two years. Our biggest challenge is to engage new people to lead new groups or to serve on the Board. Plus, the regular members participate in our monthly gatherings by offering their homes for our meetings.



WIBC's Board will start the coming year of 2019 by inviting women to participate in our educational program. We plan to introduce a weekly conversational class in Spanish and English. The teaching will include situations at different phases of our daily life. We believe in the importance of empowering women across all cultures and communities. For our party on December 2, we had an amazing attendance of 62 people. It was a very special gathering where live music, dancing, great food and singing by the members left a sweet memory in everyone's heart.



Vilma Boettcher, Interim Liaison

2018 Year of Our Fundraising

The second half of 2018 has certainly been busy for our club. Our monthly luncheons were well attended. We also hit an important milestone of having 100 members in our club. Some of the other activities we enjoyed were many interesting trips with our Museum Goers group, monthly potlucks at member's homes to raise funds for our charities and trips to plays and an opera. Our French group, Francophone, remains active and our Book Club and World Cinema offerings are wonderful enrichment opportunities for our members. Our singing group Les Chanteuses continues to entertain groups in nursing homes and other facilities. They always bring good cheer wherever they sing.

This year our club held two major fundraisers. These fundraisers benefited the Travis Mills Foundation, Hallowell, ME, Seeds of Hope, Biddeford, ME, 68 Hours of Hunger, Somersworth, NH, and New Generation, Greenland, NH.

Our first major fundraiser was a fashion show at the Wentworth by the Sea Country Club in Rye, NH on September 23rd. Many of our members modeled fashions from PJ's Unique Peek in Kennebunkport, ME and beautiful hats from Puttin' on the Glitz, Portsmouth, NH. A raffle of many interesting items and gift cards was also part of the festivities. A sold-out crowd enjoyed a delicious lunch and a fabulous fashion show.

Our last fundraiser for the year was a Holiday Craft Fair held in York, ME on November 10th. This event featured many local crafters and members sold Chowders, Soups, and Chili as well as baked goods. A raffle was held and many beautiful donated items were given away. A new addition to the fair was a free children's craft table where kids, parents, and grandparents could make a holiday ornament.

We finished our year with our annual Holiday Luncheon. Our Executive Board served over 40 members and their guests a delicious lunch. Our singing group Les Chanteuses led us in some holiday singing. It was a nice time to honor our outgoing president Lucille Gentsch and other officers and welcome our new slate of officers for 2019. We look forward to another successful year for our club. Our committed members **keep** our mission alive and provide fellowship and fun with many interesting and wonderful ladies.

Models from the September Fashion Show



Marion McAuliffe

Photo from the Holiday Luncheon



Fall 2018 Report from IWCP

The International women's Club of Philadelphia held its welcome back Annual Luncheon at the beautiful Historic Philadelphia Cricket Club on September 20th. Many of our members attended and we welcomed a large number of new members. Our club is growing! We added 20 new members in 2018. Members enjoyed a lovely outing in October to the Library Company of Philadelphia, the oldest library in our country, now strictly a research library, holding numerous historic documents and artifacts. We were lucky to have the curator give us a tour of the exhibit William Birch: Ingenious Artist. His Life, His Philadelphia Views and His Legacy. We enjoyed a delightful Tapas lunch after wards.

In **November** our members were treated to a tour of Hamilton Fever at the National Constitution Center.

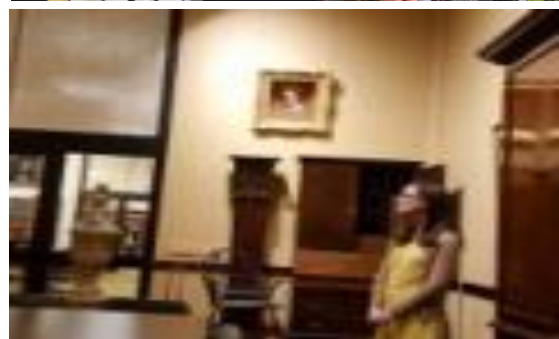
In **December** we enjoyed a lovely Holiday party together at The Farmhouse at People's Light in a delightful country setting.

Our 2 book clubs are thriving, as are our 2 Happy hours, one in the city and one in the "burbs", where people have a chance to meet after workhours.

But our most popular events remain our monthly potluck luncheons at member's homes as well as our expat dinners with partners. Our club managed to raise significant funds to support our 3 charities.

Respectfully,

Jacqueline Yates, Liaison



Newest Scholarships to Nova Southeastern University

Once again, 2018 was a very busy and successful year, and our Club grew with new members and we raised enough monies to give \$20,000.00 worth of scholarships to Nova Southeastern University for deserving international female students to further their studies. The last quarter of the year proved to be as busy as ever! We started with our Fall Membership Meeting, which gave us the opportunity to introduce our newest scholarship recipients to our membership. We introduced Anuja Dhungana, Nepal, Paula Lazarim Marquez, Brazil, Vanessa Cornish, Bahamas, Trina Haque, Bangladesh and Shenere St. Philip, British Virgin Islands. These are all highly deserving ladies and we are enjoying getting to know them the more they become involved in the Club activities. Our Members provided delicious food from their countries and a wonderful evening was enjoyed by all attending.



NIGHT OF ALL NATIONS, our biggest event of the year, was a huge success attracting 94 members and guests. This was held at Lighthouse Point Yacht Club where we enjoyed a cocktail hour on the outside patio under the stars, a wonderful dinner. Amazing entertainment and a fabulous Viennese Dessert Table provided by our members! Our chairperson, Lisa Barone, outdid herself, but promises to have an even more spectacular event for 2019!



In December, 83 members and guests attended a fabulous Holiday Lunch at Lago Mar Country Club! The event was chaired by Janet Brady, assisted by Rora Marvasso, who supplied the most beautiful decorations, and Nina Britton, who generously supplied a gift for every guest attending. Nova Southeastern University was well represented at this event and also donated a gift for each guest. A fashion show was provided by Stein Mart and our members were the models!!! They looked wonderful.



*Broward
International
Women's Club
wishes all members
of Welcome Clubs
International a very
Happy and Healthy
2019.*

**Janet Brady,
Liaison**

