

Sister Club News

Editor
Rihab Ouri

Women's League of Beirut

Features

President and Editor letter

- * Prague Conference p 3
- * Welcome to Taipei Int'l Club p 4
- * Women's League of Lebanon p 5
- * Women's Int'l Border Club Part1 p 6
- * Welcome to London Int'l Club p7
- * Welcome to Florida Int'l Club p8
- * Int'l Women Club New England p9
- * Int'l Women's Porto Alegre p10
- * Anglo German Int'l Assoc. p11
- * Welcome to Washington p12
- * Broward Int'l Florida Part 1 P13
- * Welcome to Colorado Int'l p14
- * Broward Int'l Florida Part2 p15
- * Int'l Porto Alegre Part 2 p16
- * Int'l Wom.of Hamburg p17
- * Welcome to Turkish Cyprus p18
- * Int'l Women Club Of Hamburg p19
- * Int'l Women Club New England p20
- * Berkshire Int'l Club p21

FROM OUR PRESIDENT: Dear Friends and Members of WCI

. This semester, WCI has had the pleasure to welcome to our organization two new clubs. One of them is *Welcome to Korea International Club*. WKIC was founded by Dr Kim, also President to the *International Council of Women*. Eshrat Demougeot, WCI Founder's Representative, and Athenia Kuo, Consultant to *Welcome to Taipei International Club*, discussed the possibility to found an international women's club in Korea four years ago. Since then, a team of capable and committed ladies, ably led by Dr Kim, have been working to achieve this goal. Today WKIC is a reality of almost 120 members. The second club we have had the honour to welcome to our organization is *Women's International Club Jakarta*. Vivenne Shen, Regional Membership Chair to Asia, and I travelled to Jakarta, Indonesia, and met President Pooja V. Assomull. Pooja and the ladies of the *WIC Jakarta* Executive Committee hosted us graciously.



The welcoming ceremony of *WIC Jakarta* to WCI was held. Following that, we shared a lovely lunch of delicious Indonesian food. In the evening, the Taiwan Trade Office invited us to have dinner at an exquisite restaurant. Likewise, we also had the possibility to visit Old Jakarta, the National Museum, and to enjoy wonderful meals at the Cafe Batavia and Kunstkring Restaurant.

(continued on page 2)

President's Letter Cont. & Editors Letter

WCI is honoured to have these two new vibrant clubs as members to our organization. If you happen to visit a friend abroad, or learn about a club that shares our goals of Friendship and Understanding, let us know. Let us work together so that we can strive to help women from all over the world learn from one another, grow in wisdom and multicultural awareness, and share with others their talents and capabilities. Let us each of us be ambassadors to Friendship and Understanding throughout the world.

? JbXFY UFXgž

Maria Fernanda Arduino, EdD

WCI President

Welcoming Ceremony of *Women's International Club Jakarta* to WCI at the offices of WIC.



WIC Jakarta President Pooja V. Assomull, Vivienne Shen, Regional Membership Chair to Asia, and WIC President Maria Fernanda Arduino, and members of WIC Jakarta Executive Committee

Letter from the Editor,

It is my pleasure to keep in touch with you ... with you means with life ... like we have always been ...and again in this year and the years to come. Actually, my involvement in the WCI activities; manifesting in my responsibility to edit our Newsletter and my attendance in the conferences ... both have kept me in touch with you all.

Missing you all!

I thank you all for making WCI members one family.

Rihab Ouri

**Editor of the Sister Clubs Newsletter
Women's League of Beirut, Liaison**



May 2016 Prague Conference

On Behalf of all the Sister Clubs of the WCI ,Presidents, Liaisons and members would like to you for your hospitality that took a lot of planning

and energy.

We had the most wonderful time in Prague and Budapest the most Cultured and civilized country.

The conference every two years is

**Essential for bonding and
togetherness among the members.**

Enjoy Prague pictures



By Rihab Ouri



Exploration Group trip to TWI a Coffee Roasters

In 2012, USA Today named Taipei as one of the world's top 10 cities for coffee, the only Asian city to make the list. On May 11th, thirty EG members visited the coffee roasting and sampling store whose owner won the 2012 Taiwan coffee brewing championship! One of the Chairpersons, Olivia, told me that her members filled up 30 sign-up slots for the trip within 6 hours!



International Cooking Demonstration: BRAZIL

Only 25th at the Shangri-La Ballroom of the Far Eastern Plaza Hotel, 90 more members attended the programs arranged by the spouse of the Commercial Office Mrs. Shirley Franco. She prepared the drink – accompanied by authentic Brazilian cheese bread us. There were also give-away presents and a Nova music band that sang along with Shirley. Franco showed his full support and delivered a introducing Brazil and its culture to our members. Cooking Demonstration Chairperson and our Mrs. Lily Chiu, presented an exquisite porcelain floral vase to Shirley to express our appreciation. In the end, we also thanked Shirley for providing our members with a bag of information about Brazil!



of Brazil in Taipei,
Caipirinha,
and other dishes for
delightful Casa
Director Fábio
short speech
International
WTIC President,



Art & Culture Interest Group

Art & Culture Interest Group was invited by the Mongolian & Tibetan Affairs Commission to attend the Special Reception of the Exhibition of Tibetan Art at the National Palace Museum on May 2nd. It is a rare and unique exhibition of Buddhist sutras, statues, artifacts, and ritual objects. The organizers also prepared some Tibetan delicacies and butter tea to treat their guests.

On June 8th, our Art & culture members went on an excursion to Shengkeng, a renowned Tofu town of Taiwan!

The members first rolled up their sleeves and indulged in a Tofu

DIY session. Watching the boiled soya milk turn into a big chunk of delicious fresh tofu step-by-step, our members were simply overwhelmed with joy to have a taste of their own handmade Tofu! We later strolled along the renovated Old Street with the guides, and learned about the history of Shengkeng, as well as the architectural features of the old buildings.

Since Shengkeng is famous for its tofu dishes, how can our members leave the place without tasting all the yummy food listed on the menu? We filled up three tables fitted with 10 persons each, and sampled the delicate tofu, satisfied by the happy memory of this interesting trip.

By Jessica Liu Chia Deputy Executive Secretary



Women's League of Lebanon

WL October 2016 Speaker at the American University of Beirut was

Mrs. May El Khalil

May El Khalil is the Founder and President of the Beirut Marathon Association. The Beirut Marathon Association oversees the annual Beirut International Marathon, which has been held every autumn since 2003 and was accredited by the International Association of Athletic Federations (IAAF) in 2009.

In 2015, the race and social



Mrs. May Khalil Surrounded by WL members movement attracted over 38,000 runners from 104 countries.



In 2001 she suffered a near-fatal accident that placed her in a coma. Mrs. El Khalil spent two years undergoing dozens of surgeries that enabled her to walk again. Determined to celebrate the gift of life and mobility, she founded the marathon to help mend divisions in Lebanon. She wanted to shift the focus from that which divides the Lebanese people, and bring them together to celebrate that which they have in common—their love for exercise and their relationships with friends and family. Mrs. El Khalil spoke at the TED global conference in Edinburgh Scotland in 2013. There she shared the Beirut Marathon Association's story with an international audience, and she explained that she founded the largest

running event in the Middle East as an instrument of peace through sports. The assertion she made in her talk was that “peacemaking was not a sprint, but a marathon”, meaning that this kind of endeavor was a long race that requires commitment, endurance, and optimal belief in the ultimate goal. For May this optimum goal is peace and prosperity for her country, as she still runs her figurative Marathon towards that goal.

Mrs. El Khalil has been recognized for her work nationally and internationally the AIPS Power of Sport Award in Lausanne, and the Laureus World Sports Academy Lifetime achievement award in Abu Dhabi.



https://www.ted.com/talks/may_el_khalil_making_peace_is_a_marathon?language=en

Maryem Ghubril , WL Secretary

Women's International Border Club was born on August 18, 2005, in San Diego (Chula Vista) California.



The Club is affiliated with WCI. We are 11 years old and have 34 members of various nationalities. WIBC is working towards opening a website before the end of this year.

WIBC was represented at the Conference in Prague by Maria Walker (Charter Member) who passed on to us some of the wonderful memories of her stay in

Prague and her experience during the meetings and the post conference trip in the Czech Republic. Maria applauded Sarka for her hard work and success in the organization of the conference.

Maria said that during the meetings she attended, she found that many of our challenges were the same as those of other clubs around the world. Among them were: getting members to sign up for the luncheons and pay ahead of time, reinforcing cultural connections, avoiding solicitation (which is strictly against the policy of WCI) and promoting interesting functions to attract new members. Maria Walker talked about the Florida Club and its successful "Men's Club". The Women's Club of Berkshire, New Hampshire, includes husbands as members. (Wouldn't this be a wonderful way to increase our membership?)

Our monthly activities (see picture to the right) vary according to national and foreign holidays. We get together to strengthen our friendships and discuss cultural issues of general interest such as women's issues and about the holiday we are celebrating. We promote the International Women's high tea in March and in October we have the traditional Oktoberfest usually, at the house of one of the charter members.

The Board comments (sadly) on the lack of participation from our members. Many of our older members have made changes in their lives: retirement, moving out of the state, change of status, health issues, etc. We do receive participation from the new members. Nevertheless, we struggle (like many others) to fulfill our Club's monthly obligations in an attempt to attract more members and keep WIBC active.



**Vilma Boettcher
for Angela Hecht,
Liaison**



Members of Welcome to London International Club visited the Sky Garden, one of London's highest landscaped public gardens, known as the Walkie Talkie due to its unique shape. It is a magnificent three-floor space at the top of a skyscraper. The sun was shining on the day of the visit, the 360 degree view of London spectacular and the lunch as the finale of the visit in the surroundings of one of London's highest landscaped public gardens most enjoyable.



Maria Fernende The President visiting London

In July, 12 members enjoyed a lunch at The Sanderson hotel which is occupying a 1950s building with interiors designed by Philippe Starck.

Longford Castle, situated near Salisbury in Wiltshire with the river Avon running through its grounds and home to the Earls of Radnor for generations, was our September visit. Long Ford Castle is one of the most magnificent of all English country houses. The Long Ford Castle collection, established by successive generations of the family, is

one of the finest in the United Kingdom. It includes paintings by Van Dyck, Claude, Teniers and Hals, together with British paintings by Reynolds and Gainsborough, as well as oriental porcelain, Brussels tapestries and continental furniture.

On the 27th of September we had a very successful AGM which was followed by a lunch in an Italian restaurant. All 21 members enjoyed the meal, meeting friends and keeping abreast of all the news.



Clarence House, home of Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall was visited in August by members. It was interesting to see where Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall receive some of the dignitaries, members of their charities and royals. Photographs were not permitted, unfortunately the torrential rain made it impossible to take photos outside.

Lee Phillips Medawar Liaison





Pictured above are some of our Welcome to Florida International Club members enjoying one of our casual Summer Luncheons. The monthly summer luncheon is the only activity our club holds during the summer. All our Interest groups, monthly luncheons with programs and Special Events begin in November and end in April. The summer luncheons are coordinated by a volunteer member, who arranges these small gatherings of twenty or more women the first Friday of each month May to October in a local restaurant in the SW Florida area. Past President Mary Anne Schulz served as Chairperson for these two summers.



International Women's Club of New England



IWCNE Celebrated International Women's Day on May 8, 2016.

Our event was an homage to women's clubs around the world. It was attended by 50 women. Anna Kristina Sawtelle, our Founder, gave an outstanding, informative and entertaining talk about her experiences starting and working with groups in the whole world. Margareta Claesson graciously hosted us in the Atlantic Design Center of Eldredge Lumber and Hardware, Inc. in York, ME. A musical interlude was provided by our Les Chanteuses including a "Happy (80th) Birthday" for Anna Kristina.

Once again we enjoyed a great night with the "wearing of the green", eating corned beef and soda bread, and enjoying live music at our annual fundraiser for St Patty's Day. We raised over \$ 300 for our charities.



Zoi Diamond, Liaison

International Women’ s Club of Porto Alegre

MARCH AGAINST CORRUPTION -



On August 30th there were demonstrations throughout Brazil in favor of the President Dilma-Roussef impeachment and against corruption. The members of IWCPOA were present in support of this movement.



FIRST SERVE PROJECT

In August, celebrating Brazilian Olympics the IWCPOA helped with food for lunch, a program developed for low income children. “Triska Sport Center” is a private school. It is located on the outskirts of Porto Alegre, where the populations is very poor. They developed a program called “First Serve” to the neighborhood kids. We believe sports improve self esteem of children, encouraging them to have a healthy life. Three times a week the children go to sport center and have tennis classes, arts classes and daily meal. It was the



IWCPOA action of charity this month,

SOCIAL MEETINGS

Members of the IWCPOA gather weekly in social meetings, where in addition of strengthening the ties of friendship, deciding the new



charitable actions.
Zulmira Sommer Liaison



Anglo-German Int'l Women Association e.V.

MEET THE NEW AGIWA 2016-2017 COMMITTEE



Sigrid, our former President for the last 3 years, is German now gives the new Committee a helping hand.

Virginia, our Membership Secretary, is German and is also responsible for the printing and distribution of our News-letter.

Ursel, our Treasurer, who also supports our Membership Secretary, is German.

Susan, our new Chairwoman is British and has lived in Hamburg since 1968.

Geysa, our Vice Chairwoman and Event Coordinator, is Brazilian and active in planning club events.

Stella, is British and a new member of our Committee was WCI consultant for Asia until recently.

Not shown in photo.

Paulette, is US American born in France and AGIWA's WCI representative.

Anke, who is German, has served on the AGIWA Committee before and is a keen historian.

THE AGIWA ROUND TABLE - An Inter-cultural Exchange of Ideas, Experiences and Opinions

This is a new activity of the Anglo-German International Women's Association in Hamburg. 10 ladies meet once a month to discuss from different topics from different angles in depth. Last month we discussed "Traditions, do they have a place in our world today? And a lively discussion took place. This month our topic will be "What is Home for you? Where are your roots ? "

The topic changes monthly. It is very instructive and very interesting activity since most members are from different countries and backgrounds.

We did not, however, discuss any political or religious subjects as our constitution does not allow that, but there is a great range of other topics that can be discussed in a friendly atmosphere, of course in English.

Paulette Seibert, WCI Liaison.Agiwa

WELCOME TO WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Our Club started the 2016-2017 season in September with its customary Fall Tea showcasing our international membership. Ladies from diverse parts of the world gave us a presentation of their culture heritage by singing, dancing and reciting poetry.

Russian Members dancing to the melody of *Kalinka* Bollywood in Washington

Greek Performers



Performers from Taiwan



USA History: (L to R) An American Indian; A Pilgrim; A Colonial Lady and a Suffragette.



Ladies from Kazakhstan



Recently, we were honored to welcome 20 new members to the Club from diverse backgrounds. We are pleased to have so many talented and interesting ladies join us. Our mission to foster friendships is being fulfilled.

We have started planning for the May 2018 International WCI Conference which will be held here in Washington, D.C. An exciting and very interesting program will await WCI members. Details will be made known as we progress.

New Members



(L to R) Marie Carr, conference coordinator, Valerie Dunn, Welcome to Washington president, and Irene Jacoby, Welcome to Washington's WCI Liaison.

Irene Jacoby WCI Communication Chair & Liaison



Part1

Broward International Women's Club Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

Close to 50 members of the Broward International Women's Club celebrated off their 41st Anniversary Year with a Fall Membership Dinner. The festive evening took place at the Beach Club Condominium, hosted by Maria Salgado and May Muench. Many of the women brought specialty dishes that reflected the cuisine of their native country. It was a fun time to catch up with what members did for the summer and some of their special plans for the upcoming year.



After socializing for about a half-hour, President Janet Brady welcomed everyone and invited them to take their seats for a brief program. Janet first introduced Jennifer O'Flannery Anderson who not only is a member of the Club, but also is Vice President for Advancement and Community Relations for Nova Southeastern University. Jennifer accepted the check for \$20,000.00, which was the donation this year to the Scholarship Fund for foreign-born female students attending NSU. The four students, who each received a \$5,000 scholarship, also attended and addressed

the members, expressing their appreciation to them. They represented the countries of Taiwan, Slovakia, Cameroon and Nigeria. These students all deserved their scholarships and are so proud to represent their countries.



After the introduction of the Board of Directors, the Chairperson for "Night of All Nations" Maggie Rogers, spoke about our biggest fundraiser of the year, taking place in November which is entitled "Evening in the Casbah". "We will celebrate the diversity of the various countries of origins, while also celebrating the common threads that bind us as American citizens," Maggie Rogers noted. "The evening will start with a Champagne Reception from 6:30 to 7:30 p. m, followed by dinner." Guests are asked to dress in clothing that reflects their place of birth, or cocktail attire. There will

be music, dancing and entertainment.

Warm wishes to all Members of Welcome Clubs International!

Janet Brady, President, B.I.W.C

Welcome to Colorado International Club

Welcome to Colorado Fall Launch

Meeting and greeting was the norm as WTC members reunited at the Annual Fall Coffee. President-elect Jeanette Malek warmly welcomed the enthusiastic audience giving special recognition to new members. Members later explored Interest Group Showcase tables featuring over 50 fall programs. Guests left with the eagerly awaited Calendar of Events and Membership Directory.

Julia Banks WCI Management Consultant
WCI Past President 2010-2012
Welcome to Colorado Int'l Club
left to right Karen Sluss, Julia, Bunny Rankin.



LeAnn Nelson , President



Part 2

Broward International Women's Club

Close to 50 members of the Broward International Women's Club kicked off their 41st Anniversary Year with a Fall Membership Dinner. The festive evening took place at the Beach Club Condominium, hosted by Maria Salgado and May Muench. Many of the women brought specialty dishes that reflected the cuisine of their native country. It was a fun time to catch up with what members did for the summer and some of their special plans for the upcoming year.

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Janet Brady, President

Part 2

October 2016 Activities

Bellow the news and pictures about IWCPOA events, in October 2016.

The IWCPOA is a small club but fulfills the duty to help needy organizations and low- income communities. In October the club chose an entity that assists children and adolescents with multiple disabilities, to receive donations.

The members of IWCPOA have donated milk and non-perishable food.

Our Vice-President Maria Helena Pilla do Valle delivered the donations to director of the entity "Educandário São João Batista".

Small actions that minimize major problems !!

Our club also encourages social gatherings between the members, where the bonds of friendship are strengthened.



Food delivery to Charity



IWCPOA board meeting organizing the final details for the Annual Brazilian Convention.

XXXI Meeting Confederations of Women's Clubs Brazil

Slogan: "Friendship as a source of life"

Date: From 14th to 18th October

City: Joinville State: Santa Catarina



IWCPOA Social Gatherings.

Zulmira Sommer
Liaison





October 13 - IWC
Monthly Meeting
October Festival



Day Trip to Altes
Land – Buxtehude
September 27



September 27
Herzaphelhof Jork



Geysa Wiemann
Liaison



August 23 – Fruit picking Quickborn

July 20 - Lunch with Hut

Welcome to Turkish Cyprus Club



We started the season with our Board on the 8 September 2016 the subject being the Cyprus Conference May 2017 and the changes to be made to our Status upon the demand of the government covering all the associations and unions in North Cyprus (please find below the photo of the day). On 21 September, we celebrated the promotions of our two members a) Zehra Başaran – appointed as the new Ambassador of North Cyprus to London b) Növber Vechi –appointed as the new Ambassador of N. Cyprus to Strasbourg.



c-we regretted the loss beloved Tanguil Caginer



d. 9 October 2016 a meeting \dinner was held at the Chinese House Restaurant upon the visit of the WCI Regional Chair, Mrs. Hıfziye Zincir (Please find the photo of the occasion below).

Of course our donation for supporting education, needed children and disabled people continued as listed below : i) Donation made to WC International. ii) Cyprus Turkish Educational Fund; iii) Cyprus Turkish Association for the Orthopaedics; iii) Donation to conservatory student İbrahim Şevki and IT student Ebru Gökkaya to enable both to finish their last year of education; iv) SOS Children's Village; v)SODAY---- Social Aid and Support for Families...

No doubt our birthday celebrations continued covering the last and the present months.



**Işın
Ramadan
Cemil ,
President**



International Women's Club, Ankara

After a long and an exciting summer season, we had our first meeting on October 4. For a change, we met at the Mezzaluna restaurant. Some of our members, who were still enjoying the sun and the sea at Bodrum were not present. We had a worthwhile exchange of ideas for our winter activities.

Our first activity will be organized as a lecture and demonstration panel on **October 27** at the Fitness Center on SOQI bed(Infrared bed), reflexology, traditional Chinese hand and foot massage, bioenergy, sports massage and deep tissue massage for advanced age.

On **November 19**, at the residence of the Bulgarian Ambassador His Excellency Nadezha Neynksy, a fashion show will be organized by a well known designer followed by another show of traditional Turkish wedding dresses by the Institute of Turkish Culture.

I wish a Happy, Healthy and a Prosperous year to all the IWC members for 2016-17.



Our IWC group took part in a delux river boat (the MS La Belle de Cadix) expedition during 2-9 June 2016 in southern Spain and Portugal. We have sailed from Sevilla to Cadiz. A Flamenco show, in its birthplace, Cadiz-Jerez was wonderful



International Women's Club of New England

The biggest fundraiser of the year on September 11th.



The theme was Jeans & Jewels—we all wore jeans, jewelry and bling! Many wonderful raffle prizes were the highlight of the evening, but we also danced and had a delicious meal! Everyone had a great time while raising almost \$2000 for our charities.

In November we will hold the annual Holiday Fair, another major

fundraiser. A variety of craftspeople are invited to rent space from us to offer their creations. Members of the club also make Christmas decorations and baked goods to sell, as well as raffle tickets and a luncheon throughout the event. In addition to raising money for our charities,

the Fair is a good opportunity for the club to be well known in the community.

At the end of the year, the recipients of our fundraising will be: Girls on the Run, New Hampshire (trains disadvantaged young girls to run for sport and exercise), Hospice Help

Foundation, Time of Wonder Early Learning Center in

Kittery, Maine, and Dress a Girl Around the World.

**Zoi Diamond,
Liai**



Berkshire International Club

Great Barrington Sunday February 7, 2016

Chinese New Year
Koi Restaurant

On Sunday, February 7, the year of the Monkey swept away the last of the Goats, and 27 members of the Club sat down to celebrate the Chinese New Year at the Koi restaurant in Great Barrington.

After a delightful spring-like drive through the Berkshires, bathed in sunshine, we were warmly welcomed as we gathered around individual tables and chatted with fellow club members. The expected buffet-style presentation never materialized; instead we enjoyed a more traditional family-style service, one table at a time, of course after course of tempting food, offered with grace and charm by a cadre of helpful servers. The menu maintained the tradition of ten courses - a platter of mixed appetizers for starters, followed by soup, chicken, shrimp, beef, tofu, eggplant, watercress, fried

vegetable rice, and white or brown steamed rice - broken only by the serving of rice during the meal instead of at the end, and by fortune cookies instead of the usual finish of fresh fruit. Suffice it to say, it was easy to follow the Chinese protocol of ensuring that a little was left on each plate to signify that

the food had been sufficient, although the western innovation of "doggie bags" took care of that!

The company departed not only satisfied but determined to "do it again next year", giving the organizers **Heidi Störmer** and **Irmgard Arruda** something to crow about when preparing for the Year of the Rooster.



- *Gerry Leamon*