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WCI Mission

WCI is a non-profit association of international women's clubs. Its purpose is to unite a worldwide network of independent international women's clubs around the world that share a common goal of cross-cultural education and Friendship .

Sister Club News No. 3

President's Letter

Dear Ladies,

Spring is finally here! Our early flowers are up--we welcome them!

We welcome new women moving into our areas of the world. We make new friends in our clubs and welcome new friends into our homes. We welcome visitors to our clubs as we are welcomed when we are guests at a club in a foreign city.

New people bring fresh perspectives, new understandings. WCI has a Board meeting in Istanbul in early May. We have asked your President, Liaisons and Boards to answer these questions--
What services would you like from WCI?
What is the value of WCI to your club?
The Board welcomes your comments. We will look at all the answers—we expect some fresh new perspectives. The Board will discuss the comments. Then you will read the summary of our discussion in the Sister Club News. The WCI Board kindly thanks you for your help in creating this updated mission for WCI.

Rejoicing in spring coming--

Caroline Adair Dimmers
WCI, President

A word from the Editor

I would like to convey my thanks to the WTC Sister Club of WCI for the warmth and hospitality extended to us during our stay in Denver. Meeting Sister Club members soon after my arrival to Beirut Lebanon it made a big difference in my feeling welcomed at Denver. And special thanks to Julia Banks for the interesting and well-organized trips and conference are a highlight of our time in Denver Colorado. Thank you all for your hospitality, and I won't forget meeting any of you. I wish I am with you in Turkey. Enjoy your stay Turkey is a very nice country and the Turkish people are very kind and hospitable. Hoping to meet you again in 2014. My regards and love to you all.

Rihab Ouri



1- Welcome to Colorado International Club

WTC is celebrating its 35th Anniversary with a series of special events through the year, which include:

- * A presentation by United States Ambassador Christopher Hill.
 - * An International Women's Day Tea with special speaker, the winner of the 2012 Marian Adair Award, Slavica Park.
 - * A Spring Brunch featuring a Parade of Nations (members in their country's colors or attire), live music and special gifts.
 - * The Fall Grand Celebration; a luncheon featuring a fashion show and surprises.
- During the year Welcome to Colorado International Club will offer to its members an additional 200 events.



Julia Banks, Liaison

2- Kensington Chelsea Women's Club(KCWC - International Women in London)

KCWC, previously known to many as the Kensington Chelsea Women's Club, continues to celebrate the 30 year Milestone Mark in the greater London community. The club hosted a well attended KCWC Gala Celebration at the Honorable Society of Lincoln's Inn, the Great Hall on 2 March. The Gala was a magnificent success marking the start of our 30th year celebrations and festive plans to continue with an afternoon tea in May and a celebration luncheon at the Royal Automobile Club in June. Additionally, we plan a club trip once again to Princess Diana's ancestral home is "Althorp" for the 10th Anniversary of the Anthrop Literary Festival and a view of the family home of the late Princess Diana and her brother, Lord Spencer. The trip has become a highlight of the spring/summer season in England.



**Susan Lenora
President**

3- Welcome to Taipei

The New Year Luncheon held at The Formosa Regent Hotel marks a bright beginning for all members. We manifested the old tradition by sharing the feast, laughs and good wishes; celebrating the arrival of the spring, signs of blossoming new life with beautiful songs and invigorating dances, and reflected the hopes for a better tomorrow through members' hard work and dynamite performances. To name a few: the Chipao (national costume) show that sew and present by sewing group member, Hollywood dance by international dace group. The day ended with a beautiful surprise-the song perform by Madam Sawadogo, the wife of the Dean of the Diplomatic corps; The Ambassador Huggins of St. Kitts; Madam Lin, our President and Vivienne, the Executive Secretary.



*Vivienne
Liaison*

4- ISTANBUL Club Turkey

Organized by MARMARA VAKFI. It is one of the biggest NGO (non profit organization) of Turkey. There was a very special session in the Summit. The name of the session was “ Modernization and Women”. In that special session there were 18 lady speakers. Some of these speakers were members of Turkish Parliament, chairwomen of Turkish Women’s Union, journalists, editors of Newspapers. I attended the session also as the president of our club and contributed to the discussions with valuable ideas. I shared the details of the meeting with other members of our club. It was really a good opportunity for Turkey and for some NGOs in Turkey .

Ümran Kumcuoglu
President

5-Berkshire International Club

The Ministry of Information and Communications of the Royal Kingdom of Bhutan, artist and teacher **Benigna Chilla** developed and taught a course on contemporary art in Thimphu, introducing 31 students of varying art backgrounds to the theories and practices of contemporary visual art. President **Ghetta Hirsch** gave a short welcoming address, greeting old and new members and urging donations to the Berkshire Immigrant Center (also a BIC), which our BIC supports as a project. She noted that many club members were at one time immigrants themselves



6- Welcome to Florida Club



April 2013 Luncheon of the Welcome to Florida Club. Caroline Dimmers was our guest and participated in the program. The board put on as our last farewell. Our program first had the installation of new officers for 2013-2014. We, each on the board, portrayed a lady that was quite well known in the beginning of



Naples...dressed the part and read a little story about her...then the final one was so special as Caroline Dimmers portrayed her mother, Marion Adair who was the founder of our club in 1987....a slide presentation went along with all the characters including several pictures of Marion Adair .It was a most special luncheon and program and one the club will remember for a long time to come. We so appreciated Caroline coming and spending few days with us.



Isabelle the hostess is in action.



**Lila Corner,
President**

7- The American Women's Club of Lebanon

The American Women's Club of Beirut, Lebanon is a vibrant group of expats. Some have been in Lebanon for a very long time, some are just newcomers. They focus on good will, expressing the American culture and ways in numerous ways. This year our charity work is focusing on women and children. We give a lot of help and support to other organizations, such as Kafa, an organization that helps abused women. We have recently given to help the mass number of refugees that have recently come over the Lebanese border. Next week we have a visit to The Mission Of Life, a homeless center that helps vast amounts of people in need no matter their background, status, race or religion. The ladies of our club also have a lot of social activities. Fun and culture is a major role in enhancing our member's lives. We play Hand and Foot, a fun card game, every month. We have a garden club and art club. The ladies go out shopping, have lunch, coffee mornings, go to the movies and music concerts. The list is endless and they are always busy. One of the great events we have is the White Elephant Sale, a two day flea market, where everything is sold at a set price of \$2.00, no matter what the item is. This takes a lot of effort from our members. However, we have a great time in the process.



So, if you are ever in Lebanon put our meeting on your list of things to do.

8- Welcome to London International Club

We held a New Year lunch at the end of January which we all enjoyed. Here are some pictures taken then, below including the one brave husband who came. ..

We are all busy preparing for our 30th Anniversary lunch. This will be on 23rd April, a special day as it is England's National St George's Day and also Shakespeare day and World Book Day. We are delighted that we will have some of our founder members coming to join us, and Jocelyn will tell us how it all began 30 years ago. Our special speaker will be Sarah Harrison, an author whose books about women's lives are much admired. We went to see the Irish Musical "ONCE" last week and in May we are visiting Charles Dickens House, and holding a recent members coffee morning where we hope to get to know them better.



**Jenny Habib
President**

9- Welcome to Washington Int'l Club

Many Welcome Clubs hold a Friendship Tea each spring to introduce international guests to their clubs, and to show solidarity among our many sister clubs around the world. Today Welcome to Washington members and their international guests were hosted by Mrs. Tina King, Honorary Member, and wife of Pu-Tsung King, Representative of Taiwan/ROC. The venue was historic Twin Oaks, an 1888 mansion built by the founder of the National Geographic Society, later serving as home to nine ROC Ambassadors. The Welcome remarks noted that there were 23 nationalities represented in the group of approximately 70 guests. Following a surprise cultural floor show of exacting Taiwanese martial arts and delicate ribbon dancing, guests enjoyed an elegant feast with celebratory cups of green tea. Mrs. King bid each guest farewell with a gift of National Geographic Traveler magazines featuring Taiwan.

**Faye Wikersham
Liaison**

10- Le WIC du Languedoc-Roussillon

At the Salon on 8th March we celebrated Women's International Day in a very festive ambiance. We had a social occasion, the tables were prettily decorated by Angie Wilson and Maureen Night gale. The meal prepared by Linda Gordon was, as ever, much appreciated. During the meal, French accordionist played international songs with some members singing along. It was well supported by about 60 attendees.

**Pearl Casteleyn
Liaison**

11- International Women Club Of Ankara Turkey

As IWC of Ankara would like to extend our best wishes for the new year 2013. For that occasion we arranged a luncheon event in the most prestigious private club (Kavaklıdere Tennis Club of Ankara). We invited the wives' of ambassadors stationed in Ankara. Everything went very well. Our next activities will be a daily trip to historical town Beypazarı on February 20, 2013 and another trip to our very modern city Eskişehir on March 14, 2013. We have also arranged a trip to China which will take place between 18-29 April. Visiting Shanghai, Beijing and Xian. Already over 30 peoples have registered and paid their nonrefundable deposits.

12- *Women's League of Lebanon*

The Women's League held its annual Mother's Day Lunch on Wednesday March 13, 2013 at "Cafe D'Orient". In the Arab countries we celebrate Mother's Day on March 21st. every year. We were around one hundred and thirty ladies attending this event, members as well as friends of the League. Among the guests, were a former Minister H.E. Mrs. Mona Afeish and Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mrs. Raana Rahim.

It was a happy occasion honoring world Mothers and paying them the tribute they all deserve, while a famous singer enchanted the audience and Ellen Genadri played the piano to entertain the ladies...the mothers! Upon arrival, each attendee was presented with a small chocolate

box as well as a wrapped gift.

May God Bless all mothers wishing them many happy returns.



Salwa Damiani
President

13- *Int'l Women's Club of Porto Alegre, Brazil*

On March 6th. We had our first Monthly Co fraternization and we celebrated in advance the International Women's Day at the lovely home of Jacqueline. March 12th. We had the first PTA meeting with the parents. Our coordinator and monitor oriented their talk for the parents of the new students on how to discipline and help their children at home. March 27th. We did the Easter Party for the children. Each of them received an EASTER EGG. The size of the EGG depended on their behavior and notes in school. The Association donated the Easter Eggs.

Suzy Lee /Liaison



14- *Welcome Club International California*

Persian New year Party.

Persian New Year celebration at Nasi's beautiful home. What a party that was unbelievably good and plentiful food, great fun dancing and above all hospitality and friendship. On behalf of our board and all the members of WCIC, I want to thank you very much for your hospitality and for the class act event. We all feel very privileged of being the recipients such generosity. Best regards to all and, again, our deep appreciation to our Iranian Members

Aracilia Vila
President





Book Groups of the Sister Clubs

1- The American Women's Club of Lebanon

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK BY: GERALDINE BROOKS

This book was inspired by a true story, although it is historical fiction.

The author spans several continents and centuries as she imagines the trail and rescue of The priceless Sarajevo Haggadah. A beautifully illuminated Jewish Volume.

The main character, Hana Heath, an Australian rare book expert is given the opportunity of a lifetime. To unravel the mystery behind the books rescue from the Bosnian War.

In this compelling and gripping, intense multilayered novel. People of the Book, delivers a fascinating, character and historically detailed, richly imagined and dramatic conclusion.

We all enjoyed reading this book! Some compared it to Da Vinci Code, with allot more substance!

The author has a gift for storytelling and captivates history in every detail.

It is definitely worth reading! We all loved it!

Mary Jo Karam

2- Kensington Chelsea Women's International Women in London

The April KCWC book groups suggest the following books –

Daytime group:

1. "Family Romance: A Memoir", by John Lanchester. Faber and Faber (3 April 2008). A story of family secrets and lies.

Evening group:

2. "Late for Tea at the Deer Palace", by Tamara Chalabi. Harper Press (21 July 2011).

Late for Tea at Deer Palace is an exquisite multi-generational memoir that tells the story of an extraordinary family's century in Iraq.

Spanish group:

3. "El Cuaderno de Maya" by Isabel Allende. Vintage Espanol (5 June 2012).

The book is about a young lady sent to the island of Chiloe, off the coast of Chile. Spanish.

**Susan Lenora
President**

3-Welcome to London Women's International Club

1 – "An uncommon Reader" by Alan Bennett as it is really funny!

2- "William Pitt the Younger" by William Hague, which is an accurate and fascinating record of the earlier years of our Parliament and the career of a Prime Minister.

Jenny Habib

4- International Women Club of Ankara Turkey

Our club members read:

- 1."Serenad", Turkish author Zülfü Livanelli
- 2-"Atatürk and Leadership", Turkish author Sami Çelik
- 3-"Call(çağrı)", Hz.Mevlana
- 4-"Debbie", Macomber
- 5-"Déjà vu", Susan Fraser

İncilay Kaftanoğlu

5- WIBC / California

We are reading a new book which may be of interest for your reading group. It is a huge thriller!

1-The name is: "SANCTUS" The Author is : SIMON TOYNE

This is a suspense book type Da Vinci Code

Vilma Boettcher

6- Le WIC du languedoc-Roussillon- France

We are currently reading "Winter in Madrid" by CJ Sansom set during the Spanish Civil War. However I cannot give any information as I have not finished it yet and we shall not discuss the book until 19 April. So we shall have to miss this edition.

Pearl Casteleyn

7-Berkshire International Club

Rare Books at the Clark Museum

Karen started with a volume of the Nuremberg Chronicles, a book that was published in Latin and German in 1493, in an edition of about 2000 volumes that described the knowledge of the world as it was known at the time in Europe. Another book from about that time is a Compendium of Marine Life by Konrad Gessner. Both books provide an interesting look into the view of the world before the Enlightenment: a mix of bible content, history, natural history, and fables



Editor of the SCN No. 3

Rihab Ouri

