

## President's Letter

Edited by Rihab Ouri



Dear Sisters in all the Sister Clubs, A huge thank you goes to all the delegates and guests who convened in London from May 11<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to conduct the business of Welcome Clubs International. We had a very successful meeting and enjoyed the friendship of participants from all over the world. We opened with a most delicious Welcome Dinner at the Lansdowne Club, had very special lunches at The Royal Automobile Club while we were meeting, went to the Theater, and enjoyed many special attractions in the interesting city of London. We were fortunate to be invited to the spring luncheon and speaker, offered by the FIWAL organiza-

tion, an association member of WCI with a membership of 33 clubs. Our most heartfelt gratitude goes to Dee Phillips Medawar and the members of the Welcome to London International Club who planned a lovely program for all delegates. We all left with fond memories of the people and our time there. An important part of the agenda was to establish a basic itinerary for the WCI Conference to be held in Prague from May 15 to May 20, 2016. Sarka de Jong, President of the International Women's Association of Prague, has made arrangements for us to stay at the Modra Ruze, a boutique hotel in the heart of Prague for a cost of \$130 a night for double occupancy. In order to accommodate as many requests as possible, there will be a Welcome Reception on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup>. A city tour on Monday will be followed by a Welcome dinner. Board meetings will be on Tuesday and Wednesday. A farewell lunch will be on Thursday followed

by more sightseeing on Friday. The 5 or 6 day post trip will begin on Saturday.

We are very excited that our beautiful new website is now available for all to see. Our new web address is [www.wciclubs.org](http://www.wciclubs.org) and the private domain is password protected. Please contact your Liaison for the user ID and password. The winners of the \$20 gift certificates were Nancy Carpenter and Eshrat Demougeot, both from the Washington Club, Helga Ruus-Neubert, from the Philadelphia Club and Irene B Peshmeze of the Berkshires Club. Our thanks to all who looked for the butterfly.

Again, we are delighted to share with you these events, projects, and programs from our clubs located around the world. Our appreciation goes to Rihab Ouri who compiled all this information which will be so helpful to our membership, and to all the sisters who took the time to write and send us these stories.

**In Friendship,  
Pam Bansbach  
President Welcome  
Clubs International,  
Inc**

### The WCI Vision & Mission

*It's 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.*

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## From The Editor

### Dear friends and colleagues in the Clubs of SCN

I would like to extend my thanks to Dee Phillips Medawar and the Welcome to London International Club for hosting us in London for 2015 Board of Directors meeting. It gave me the opportunity to put the faces with the corresponding names respectively and with whom I was communicating through the e-mails for SCN. The meeting promoted broad acquaintance and togetherness among women of all nationalities, interaction of ideas, exchange culture and made new friends and more bonding with old friends.



### Condolances

Our condolences go to Isabel who is in charge of WCI Directory who lost her husband Fred recently. May God have mercy on his soul and patience to Isabel's heart.

**Rihab Ouri**  
SCN Editor



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB OF HAMBURG

### IWC Hamburg Activities

#### International Women's Day (08.03.15)



#### Salsa Night 06.06.15



#### High Tea in Hotel Atlantic Kempinski (27.05.15)





# Welcome To Colorado

Members of the Interest Group who offered the event

## REBIRTH OF DOWNTOWN DENVER\* (\* Denver, Colorado, USA)

Denver, the “wild west” was founded in 1858. Lower downtown soon became dominated by rail yards and various industries. By 1970 the area was mostly abandoned and housed vagrants. Through a comprehensive Urban Renewal Plan the area is now booming with office buildings, apartments, condominiums, cafes and retail, surrounded by several parks, bike paths, greenbelts and the Rocky Mountain Region’s premier transit hub. Union Station houses train, light rail and bus transportation. Underground tunnels permit passengers easy access to various transportation areas without going outside. The Union Station Terminal, over 100 years old, was preserved and beautifully restored.

Welcome to Colorado members were treated to a fascinating two hour walking tour of the Union Station area conducted by a professional guide/engineer who was involved in the core planning of the renewal project.

Interest was so great that several tours were conducted, followed by lunch at a gourmet restaurant.



Julia Banks , Past President

Pictures of the front of Union Station

Tour Group



## Welcome Clubs International (WCI) Board of Director Meeting in London May 2015

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The London trip was a wonderful combination of business and pleasure. The Welcome Clubs International Board of Directors meeting was led by Pam Bansbach, Welcome Clubs International President. Dee Phillips Medawar helped arrange the meeting rooms, lunches and events. The meetings were held at the Royal Automobile Club and lasted for two days. We had a dinner with one of the local London Clubs and a luncheon with the FIWAL Club. The usual business items were covered like the review of the WCI budget, WCI web site, the sites for the next meetings and the next Welcome Clubs International Convention. It was determined the next Executive Meeting will be hosted by the Berkshires Club in Williams Town, Mass., in October of this year. The meeting concluded with exciting news, the Prague Club is graciously hosting the next international convention in May 2016.

Sight seeing in London included theatre in London. We saw, "Beyond Bollywood" and "Les Miserable". We did have some time to visit famous historic places in London including, Buckingham Palace, Hyde Park, Piccadilly, museums, etc. The London trip was a wonderful combination of business and pleasure. The post trip was a four day Scotland tour. So, ten of us took the train from London to Edinburgh. The train ride to Edinburgh was a pleasure, the train system is excellent, and the views of the countryside beautiful. We marveled at the endless rapeseed fields that bloomed bright yellow. Our Scottish guide met us at the train station and off we went to explore Scotland, umbrellas in hand. We went by mini bus across the island to Oban, the along the Loch Ness to Inverness, where the Ness meets the North Sea. We saw Urquhart Castle at Loch Ness and the views fulfilled every dream of the Scottish Highlands. A visit at a distillery gave us insight into the production of single malt whiskey.

As we approached Edinburgh we visited the Culloden Battlefield and saw the museum of this battle between the Scots and the British. In 1746, followers of the house of Stuart made an attempt to regain the British throne, and lost in one of the bloodiest battles in history. Thus, the fate of Scotland was sealed, and as we know, the conflict is not over. We spent the next two nights at a hotel in Edinburgh and enjoyed the Edinburgh Castle, The Palace of Holyrood House, the Royal mile, The Scottish Museum, a literary tour and last but not least St Giles Cathedral including the amazing Thistle Chapel. This was a magnificent working vacation we will all remember because of the wonderful friendships we made with women from all over the world.

**Debi Tepper**

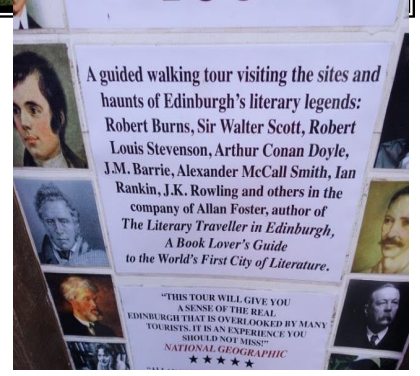
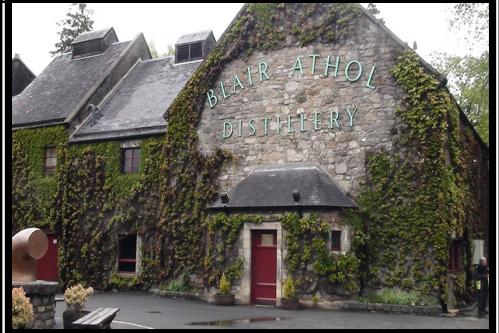
**See pictures of post trip on Page(5)**



The first three important churches in the history of Christianity



Many thanks to Mr. Carpenter who provided me with all the pictures he shot for London trip





**Marian Adair**

Welcome to Washington wrapped up the club season with its Annual Meeting Thursday, May 28, this year held in the elegant Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria Va. Chair Eshrat Demougeot (past WCI president) along with help from club members, organized a nearly sold-out luncheon, complete with an extensive display of artwork and crafts made by the members.

A treat for everyone was having Immediate Past WCI president and Welcome to Washington member Caroline Adair Dimmers attend and offer a special Inspiration---a favorite poem of our

**Founder (and her mother) Marian Adair:” Hugs “**

It’s wondrous what a hug can do...A hug can cheer you when you’re blue.

A hug can say, “I love you so,”

Or, “Gee, I hate to see you go.”

A hug is, “Welcome back again,”

And, “Great to see you! Where’ve you been?”

A hug can soothe a small child’s pain

And bring a rainbow after rain.

The hug! There’s just no doubt about it--

We scarcely could survive without it!

A hug delights and warms and charms.

It must be why God gave us arms.

Hugs are great for fathers and mothers.

Sweet for sisters, swell for brothers.

And chances are your favorite aunts,

Love them more than potted plants.

Kitten crave them. Puppies love them.

Heads of state are not above them.

A hug can break the language barrier.

And make your travels so much merrier.

No need to fret about your store of ‘em.

The more you give, the more there’s of ‘me .

So stretch those arms without delay

And Give Someone A Hug Today!!!! by Dean Walley



**Iman Atalleh Ambassador’s wife League of Arab States**



**Lee Claytor Elizabeth Barnes**



**Nancy Carpenter, Caroline Dimmers, Rihab Ouri, WCI Sister Club News Editor, Deborah Sneed**



**Past presidents of W2W Leilane Mehler, Beverly Rogers, Laurie Nakamoto, Margaret Dudas, Nancy Marshall, Joan Chase, Eva Salmoiraghi, Faye Wickersham.**

*May Activities*

May 6 - Mother's Day at the Clube da Criança.

May 8 & 22 - Group studies at Tereza Verzoni.

May 11 - 20 afternoon painting session at Maria Helena.



May 12 Board meeting at Maria Helena and good wishes for Zulmira Sommer representing our Club at GFWC Conference in Memphis.



May 20, Beauty sessions promoted at Tatiana Gasparetto's party room.

May 28 - Happy Hour at Viviane Viegas's party room. Our May Encounter



**GRACIOUS DONATIONS FROM ASSOCIATES.**

Gabriella Pa Ilavicini - Printer, monitors and others .

Rute (Elone 's friend ) - one complete set of computer.

Tania Mundstock and Sonia Machado for Clothing to our basic food basket partner Iara of NGO Sanmartins .

**Suzy Tse**

# WELCOME TO TURKISH CYPRUS CLUB

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## *May-June 2015 Activities Lunch on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015 with Asst. Professor Ertan Akün*

Lunch on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015 with Asst. Professor Ertan Akün where he presented to us a very valuable presentation of cancer concerning the world in general and Cyprus in detail.



## *Lunch on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 with Ms. Alessandra Viezzer*

Lunch on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 with Ms. Alessandra Viezzer, the Head of the Programme Team Task Force Turkish Cypriot Community, where we discussed the relations and the possible AIDS of the European Union to Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus again in detail. (Please find below the photographs of the day)

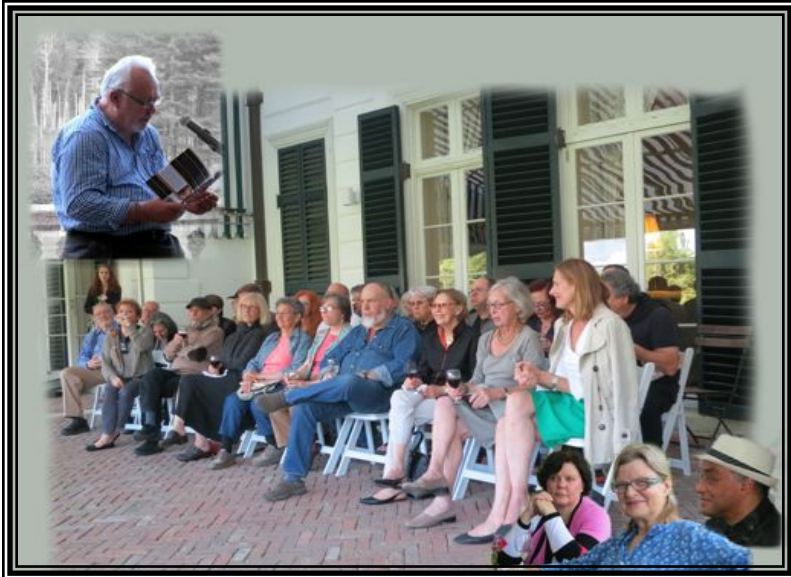


Members of the Welcome to Turkish Cyprus Club were at the meeting/dinner held at the Colony Hotel-Vista Restaurant on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015, upon the visit of the WCI Regional Chair for Turkey and Cyprus, Mrs. Hıfziye Zincir.

**Işın Ramadan Cemil**  
President



**Gonzo Poems Charles Giuliano**



The picture has been taken for Charles Giuliano during one of this year's summer evenings telling stories of his life, often accompanied by the poem that tells about it.



**Koii Restaurant Great Barrington**



This year the weather forecast of an ice storm interrupted our well-laid plans for a Sunday feast at Koii in great Barrington. We had to let the restaurant to know by Thursday. We reluctantly canceled the event and returned the checks, but invited anyone to come anyway for an a 'la Carte experience should the weather and road be ok. It turned out the storm wrapped up earlier than expected and the temperature stayed cold, making it a snow rather than an ice event. The club contingent was able to gather a table full for a heart - warming meal.

**International Women's Day [IWD]**



On March 19, 1911, more than one million women and men attended rallies on that day campaigning for women's right to work, vote, be trained, to hold public office and to end discrimination. IWD is now celebrated each year on March 8.

**Vera Lacocq , Liaison**

# Welcome To Taipei International Club

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## Les Duos d'Amour Music Concert



The Art & Culture Group of WTIC joined with the Industrial Bank of Taiwan Education Foundation to present the concert “Les Duos d’Amour”, featuring world-renowned harpist Shannon Chien and flutist Christian Plouvier at the concert hall of the Industrial Bank of Taiwan on February 13, 2015. The repertoire was mainly



flute and harp concertos. Casting a spell on the audiences, the beautiful concerto “The Andante in C” by Mozart was among the many pieces that made “Les Duos d’Amour” such an enjoyable and admirable concert. Our appreciations go to musicians and the staff of Foundation for their fantastic arrangement

## New Year Luncheon

There were more than 160 ladies attending the gala luncheon at Formosa Regent Taipei Hotel on March 3, 2015 to celebrate the upcoming spring in Chinese Lunar Year of Ram. Among the many programs WTIC has organized, the spouses of the Diplomatic Corps featured a fashion show to present the beauty and elegance of national costumes from countries in Asia, South Pacific, Latin America, Africa and Europe. Other performances such as Salsa, Tai Chi, and chorus also won thunderous applause. There was no way better than a vigorous Lion Dance to bless all members for a prosperous and successful year. The food was appetizing and the feast was filled with spirit of joy and warm sharing



## Paraguay Food Demonstration Fare

The International Cooking Demonstration Group of WTIC collaborated with the Embassy of the Republic of Paraguay to showcase Paraguayan culture and cuisine at the Taipei World Trade Center Club on March 26, 2015. The event began with an introduction to Paraguay and folk dances by Paraguayan students, followed by the cooking demonstration of “vori vori de pollo” (chicken soup with ricotta dumplings) by Mrs. Norma Dias de Bobadilla, spouse of the Paraguayan Ambassador to the Republic of China (Taiwan). More than 100 guests attended the event, enjoying not only the wonderful Paraguayan delicacies but also radiant moments of gathering



Annie Shen, Deputy Executive Secretary

**Friedas's Birthday Party : 100 Year Young**



**Potluck Luncheons throughout the year & National Constitution Center and Beer Garden Outing**



**A Trunk Load Full of New Bedding Items**



Luciana Aspesi, IWCP's charity coordinator, took this picture when she recently delivered the New Bedding items to the Home of the Sparrow, made possible through your contributions to the Club. Ashley Stirling (pictured), the Donations Coordinator of The Home of the Sparrow, was on hand to accept the bedding material. Thank you Luciana for your dedication in finding and purchasing these greatly appreciated items. Thank YOU IWCP members for your continues support

**Helga Ruus-Neubert President IWC Philadelphia**

*Spring Monthly Luncheons*



The ladies in the photos represent Argentina, Germany France, Colombia Greece, Estonia, U.S.A. and Zimbabwe.

This Spring, apart from the installation of our new Board of Directors, we have enjoyed our monthly luncheons which take place in various ethnic-style locations around our area! Our Social Chair, Nina Britton, arranges these wonderful luncheons where our members can really get to know each other in a closer setting, and therefore, they bring in their friends, and so our Club has grown hugely in the last two years from around 70 to 100 members. These members represent about 41 different countries, so it makes for most interesting conversation, and getting to know about other cultures.

I attended the FIWAL Luncheon at the Radisson Blue Hotel in London in May and met many WCI and Welcome to London members of FIWAL. It was wonderful to put a face to some of the names.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer with safe travels.

**MULTINATIONAL**

**LADIES**

**EXCHANGING**

**41 CULTURES**

**Janet Bradly ,President**

***Welcome To Washington Club News 2014-2015***

Our 2014-2015 year got off to an exciting start with our annual Fall Tea. It is the time when we rekindle our friendships and celebrate the diversity of our club. The Fall Tea Chair, (originally from Bulgaria) Eva Salmoiraghi's attention to detail ensured a great event and Leilane Mehler (originally from Brazil) produced a spectacular Parade of Nations!

As fall turned to winter, our wonderful Interest Group Programs and Informal Activities taught us about Neo Impressionism, the American Red Cross, and Hungarian-born Anna Weatherley's painted porcelain. We sipped tea at residence of the Ambassador of Mexico and Mrs. Medina-Mora. We heard thought provoking presentations on the future of books. Antarctica, the American thanksgiving and the South Urals, all the while tasting many delectable dishes prepared by members and served in the lovely homes of our members. We took a bus ride to the Philadelphia Flower Show, always a treat!

Finally the snow is behind us, and we were so fortunate to have only postponed one program! This spring our Interest Group and Informal Activities committees planned visits to historic buildings, an embassy and museums. We learned about Sydney, Australia and enjoyed a "Day of Beauty" or "High Tea", and celebrated Mexico's Cinco de Mayo with a delicious feast !

The Final program will be the Annual Meeting and Luncheon in May at the lovely Belle Haven Country Club, where we will have an Art Exhibit of our many talented members.

**Diana (Bohn), Welcome to Washington representative.**

## Women's League of Beirut

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On May 8, 2015, the Women's League ended its current year which started last October 2014, by a Garden Party at the Marquand House Gardens of the residence of the President of the American University of Beirut, President Peter Dorman. This Party was attended by the President and his wife along with the ambassador of the Philippines, the Ambassador of Australia and his spouse, distinguished guests, members of the League with their friends.

There was a musical program of singing and dancing kindly offered by the Embassy of the Philippines to Lebanon. This party was followed by a reception where there was various delicacies and a big cake with the logo of the League. Everybody enjoyed the program.

Two days later on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, I headed to London with Mrs. Rihab Ouri to attend the Board of Directors Meeting which was held there by the Welcome Clubs International and prepared by Mrs. Dee Phillips Medawar of the Welcome Club of London who prepared a very nice program of meetings, luncheons, reception and ended by the Fiwal Lunch. We also enjoyed the four day post trip to Scotland which was very well organized.

Mrs. Aida Armali came to Lebanon after the meetings to visit her family here. During her visit she met many of the League's member and enjoyed attending a brunch prepared by one of our societies.

Looking forward to next years Conference in Prague.

**Lamia Kawar**  
**President**



**International Women's Day 08.03.2015**

**Salsa Night 06.06.2015**

**High Tea in Hotel Atlantic Kempinski (27.05.15)**









