



Sister Club News

March 2015

President's Letter

Dear Sisters in all the Sister Clubs,

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

It is my great pleasure to welcome the International Women of Istanbul and the Anglo-German International Women's Association into membership into Welcome Clubs International. Both are well established clubs in Turkey and Hamburg, respectively. President Nilgun Coruk reports that IWI has a membership of 600 plus, whose objective is to improve the relations among the foreign women and their friends living in Turkey. The goals of AGIWA, under the leadership of Sigrid Grafe, are to strengthen friendship among their 150 plus members through their numerous activities and cultural exchanges. We hope to learn more about these clubs at our May Board Meeting in London.



To date about 25 delegates and guests are expected to convene on May 11th at the Lansdowne and Royal Automobile Clubs to discuss the future of WCI and how we can best offer assistance to the individual Member Clubs. While we will conduct the business of WCI, we will experience the friendship and camaraderie that is offered through the exchange of cultural activities and touring in London.

Please enjoy the following articles written by our Sister Clubs throughout the world. The purpose is to exchange ideas as each club develops their own programs. Again we thank Rihab Ouri who compiled all the information, and to all the clubs who took the time to write the stories which will be of interest to all. I look forward to meeting some of you in London.

**In friendship,
Pam Bansbach
President – Welcome Clubs International, Inc
Denver, Colorado**

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2-Welcome to Turkish Cyprus Club

As our Liaison is on leave at the moment, it has been a pleasure for me, the secretary, to write to you.

Please find below the news of the opening events and some relative photos:

An invitation by all the old members took place at the Rocks Hotel – Kyrenia to open the new season and welcome the new members. The president's informative speech about the WCI was followed by the election of the new board which consists of the following names:

Işın Ramadan Cemil – President
İnci Musannıf – Vice President; Liaison
Servet Erkmen – Treasurer
İmren Feridun – Secretary
Narin Ferdi Şefik – Active Member
Behiye Müftüzade – Active Member
Akile Ahmet Raşit – Active Member
Heybeti Balman – Active Member
Işın Erkmen – Active Member

On 13th January 2015 the first general Assembly was held where some crucial decisions were taken including the invitation of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General, Mrs. Buitenhuis, and the Ambassador of Holland Mrs. Brechjne to a working lunch at the residence of the President on the 18th of February 2015.

Thank you for your efforts to convey our news to the SCN.

Imren Feridun, Secretary



3 - International Women's Club, Ankara /Turkey

Our first activity this year took place in Qatar Embassy on November 7...
Presentation about Qatar accompanied by Qatar music took place.
We were also invited to an afternoon tea party with Karat specialties served.
Our president Aytül Gökçe received a clock as a souvenir. All participants received brochures about Qatar...

Our second activity,
Ambassadors' wives were invited by us to New Year lunch at the Tennis club on
December 18 2013...We are planning a consort in France Embassy on February
18, 2015.

New Year 2015 Lunch

Ancillary Kaftanoglu



4- International Women in London General Meetings



February

When: 5 February, 9:30 to 12:30 am

Where: Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore SW7

Speaker: Prof. Michael Wheeler, author and editor of several books on Ruskin, introduces him and tells the story of the origins of the National Trust.

March

When: 5 March, 9:30 to 12:30 am

Where: Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace SW1Y

Speaker: Jude Currivan, PhD is a cosmologist, sensitive, healer, Hay House author, futurist and educator.

Members, guests and visitors are welcome at our General Meetings. Members free, non-members £10 at the door.

Special Events

The Maison Boucheron – Charity Event for Kids Company

When: 11 February, 7 to 9 pm

A pre-Valentine's Day Celebration of Romance at The Maison Boucheron to reveal the romance of the Maison's history, its creations and stories behind the jewels. Tickets are £55 and all proceeds will go to kcwc's chosen charity, Kids Company.

Gershwin Classic

When: 2 April, 7 to 9:30pm

Program: "Gershwin Classic", a musical evening

A special evening version of our General Meeting featuring Gershwin. Tickets must be bought in advance, price TBC (members and their guests have priority).

Tracey Goo
Kcwc Secretary

5 - Berkshire International Club



Bidwell House Tour and Picnic October 11/2014

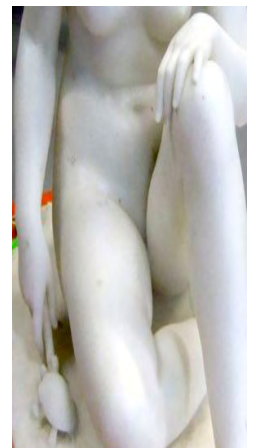
Barbara Palmer, Director and Rosalia Padilla, Resident Caretaker treated us to a delightful tour of the house. They effectively brought to life the interesting colonial history of Monterey and Tyringham.



Williamstown Art

Conservation

Director and Conservator of Paintings, Department Head gave a group of about 14 BIC members and guests as a tour to remember. He regaled us with a story of Picasso's theater curtain that hung for years at the Four Seasons in New York. On the right the curtain is upside down being treated on the floor of one of the Stone Hill galleries.



Annual Degustation

As ever the annual Degustation
was a very enjoyable affair.

Compared to the past years,
the group that gathered was on the small side.

No matter !

The warm and happy crowd enjoyed Benigna Chilla's Hospitality
On a lovely summer day inside and out

Holiday Party

December 6, 2014

Williams Faculty Club



Vera Lecocq, Liaison

6 - Welcome to Colorado International Club (WTC)

“Mexican Train” (a game)

A group of twenty-one WTC members meet monthly to play the fun game “Mexican Train”. Members alternate in opening their homes and providing lunch. In December “Mexican Train” members were delighted when greeted by KRIS KRINGLE. (A mythological figure of folklore – the same as “Santa Claus”.)

Welcome to Colorado offers five game groups that play weekly or monthly; Bridge, Mah-jongg, Mexican Train, Rummikub, and Scrabble. WTC has twenty-six Interest Groups that offer a variety of events throughout the year. In addition, four major events; two “coffee” socials, a Tea and Brunch are held annually.



**JuliaBanks Past
president & Liaison**

7- INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND

In 2014, the International Women's Club of New England raised \$11,800 which we granted to the following charities:

Partners for World Health in Portland, Maine which sends used hospital equipment to third world countries

Esperanza Academy in Lawrence, Massachusetts, a school for underprivileged young-women

Fairtide, Inc. in Kittery, Maine which provides housing for the homeless and prepares them to become financially stable

Our major fund raisers were the Fashion Show which you saw in the October SCN,



and our Holiday Fair pictured below. In the photo are members Ellen Farber-Libowitz, Lynn Gass, and Tinker Newick.

The checks are normally given to the charities at our January monthly luncheon meeting. That luncheon meeting had to be cancelled due to Blizzard Juno which dumped 4 feet of snow and 8 foot drifts on Maine and New Hampshire,

During the calm before the storm, 2014 Fundraising Chair, Rosa Hernandez hand delivered one grant check to Mary Oplinger, Executive Director of Fair Tide, Inc. They are pictured below. Then she mailed the grant checks to the other two charities.

In accordance with our club's mission, we will continue our fundraising efforts through 2015 under the leadership of the new Fundraising Chair, Lucille Gentsch.

Besides the two major fundraisers, many small events and pot luck dinners raise a good portion of our charity funds.

May you all have a wonderful Spring!

In friendship,
Zoi Diamond, Liaison

8 - The Women's League of Lebanon

The Women's League celebrated its 95th Anniversary on the 3rd of November 2014 and then held its Annual Christmas Lunch

on December 17, 2014 at a very nice Restaurant on the 18th floor of a Hotel in Beirut with a nice view of the sea. This event was the last activity for 2014. This Lunch was

attended by members of the League and their friends along with previous presidents and distinguished

guests such as the Ambassador of the Philippines, the Ambassador of India, the spouse of the Ambassador of the Czech Republic etc. Everybody enjoyed the delicious food, the wonderful scenery, music and lottery.

Our first lecture in January was given by a Lebanese lady, called Sarah Beydoun, She obtained her Bachelors Degree from the American University of Beirut in Sociology and her Master's from the St. Joseph University in Beirut. Her Thesis

was about Prostitution in Lebanon. After her graduation, she wanted to help the unprivileged women, so she thought of making the prisoners engage themselves in doing some work,. She started training incarcerated women on hand embroidery and stitches. She use to give them the material to do these embroideries so as to earn money in return. Then she opened her atelier where she would transform these materials into fancy handbags under the brand name of "Sarah Bags" which is now a famous brand name with 22 shops around the world which sell these bags. She now employs 200 women (50 are still in prison and the others are ex-prisoners and live in their villages.)

In January we also went on our first trip to the town of Byblos (or Jbeil) north of Beirut. Byblos is claimed to be the oldest continuously inhabited town in the world long before Greece and Rome. Byblos has one of the unique archeological sites in the world. Besides visiting the Lebanese American University there, we also visited the beautifully decorated city, for according to the Wall Street Journal, Byblos was spotlighted among the most beautiful Christmas Trees in the World for the year. We had another lecture in February about environment entitled "Changing Consumption Patterns can Save the Environment"

The lecturer was Mr. Najib Saab, Secretary General of Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED).



Lamia Kawar
President

9 - Welcome to Taipei Sister Club News - 2015 Spring Issue



I. Annual Registration Luncheon: 2-WTIC 2015 Annual Registration Luncheon was held on December 2nd, 2014 at Formosa Regent Taipei Hotel. Members and guests came together to connect and reflect upon the year of 2014, and to renew club membership as well as re-elect the 2015 boards of directors.

Our newly-elected President Jine Jeou Kao(right), wife of the Deputy Minister Kao of Foreign Affairs is no stranger at all to WTIC, as she had been serving as WTIC's Executive Secretary.

The program was well received. Members and guests celebrated over joyous conversations and delicious food, the spirit of Christmas and holiday cheers spread throughout.

II. Tour of the China Pacific Catering Services Newly elected President J. J. Kao organized a visit to China Pacific Catering Services, one of the top10 companies in Asia that caters for in-flight meals for all the major Air Lines. Due to the hygiene regulation, members all "dressed up" like going for a game of "who's who"

After touring the kitchen, members commented that they would have never complained about the quality of the food anymore since they learned how much effort was invested into preparing a meal. A first class cabin meal was served after the tour. No doubt that the 5-star quality lunch hosted by CPCS impressed everyone.





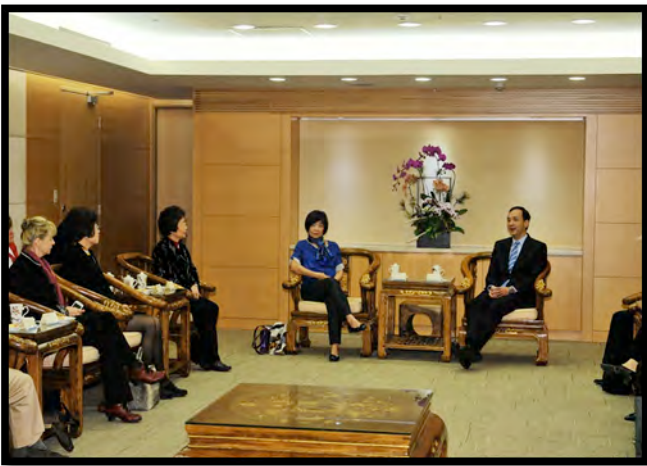
III. Visit to Taipei City and Lin Family Garden

The exploration Group organized a tour to visit Banchiao, one of the major District of New Taipei City. Our members were very honored to have the opportunity to meet up with Mayor Chu, who hosted a brief discussion with us. His vision and down-to-the-earth gesture won our hearts.

After the tour of City Hall, we continue our program to visit Lin Family Garden. The Lin Family was the richest family in Taiwan 130 years ago and still plays a very big role in Taiwan's financial sectors. Around 1980, the Lin Family donated their private garden to the City. During the tour, the life style of the owners then unfolded.

By Vivienne Shen
Liaison, Welcome to Taipei

10 - Women's International Border Club



Dear Sister Club friends

WIBC starts its Members News Report by commenting on one of our most exciting programs of 2014, which was the Gala



Members of WCI and WIBC during the Gala Dinner in their honor

Dinner offered to Welcome Clubs International officers visiting San Diego in October last year. The evening was a total success! The international ambiance with 38 people, the music, the food and the attendees from almost 17 different countries, represented the mission of WCI ("... among women of all nations"). The dinner took place at The Crosby Private Club on Thursday, October 16, 2014. The special menu, live music and dancing, pleased all the attendees and our guests from afar.

Angela Hecht (hostess) commented on the small and a cozy group who attended the High Tea party. It was a glamorous and friendly get together. The table displayed an array of wonderful finger food carefully crafted by other members of the club. A variety of teas from around the world was served using Angela's cherished tea cup collection. The discussions were about each other's experiences during their lives in foreign countries. These type of gatherings are very interesting and informative as we tend to

get attached to those who have gone through similar experiences before coming to the our new home - United States. We talked about cultural shocks and our time of adjustment in this country.

Saturday, December 6, 2014 at the Johnston Christmas Dinner - We celebrated Christmas with Christmas carols and traditional American food. We sang the beautiful White Christmas and a few other songs accompanied by a piano player.

Lori and Alfonso's place was beautifully ornamented with Christmas decorations.



Fresh poinsettia arrangements and other Christmas ornaments were displayed around the house. At the end of the dinner the hostess graciously distributed the scarlet red poinsettia to her guests.

Our programs for this year (2015) will be intense, as we are preparing for the 10 year celebration of Women's International Border Club in August of this year.

**Vilma G. Boettcher, Founder and President
San Diego, California, February 2015.**

11 - International Women's Club of Philadelphia

IWCP Newsletter

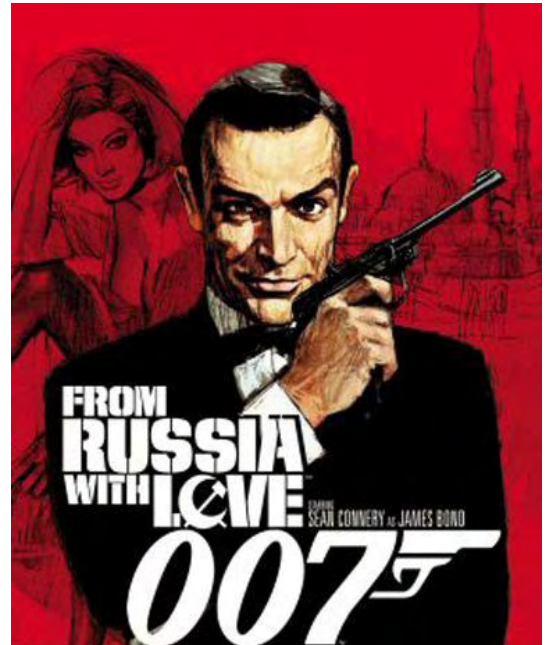
Chester County Historical Society: The 1960s Pop Culture Movies, Memorabilia, and the Media

Potluck Luncheons

April 14 (Tuesday), 10:30am

The triumph and tumult of the 1960s is graphically depicted in this extraordinary special exhibit, featuring over 150 pieces of movie memorabilia from the collection of the late Steve (Mr. Movie) and Michell Friedman that promises to be an interesting and reflective journey back in time. Civil Rights, space exploration, the war in Vietnam, and the Cold War are among some of the themes. Serving as windows into the national psyche, movies captured the issues of the day and today reveal how movie-makers influenced the public

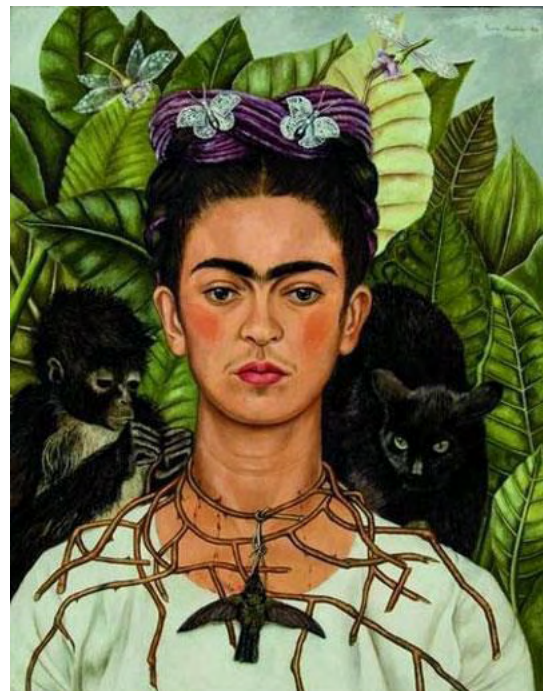
Lunch: TBD (There are several exciting new restaurants nearby.)



Frida Kahlo: Art, Garden, Life Celebration

Bus trip to the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory of the New York Botanical Garden in Brooklyn, N

Helga Ruus-Neubert
President IWCP



12 - Welcome to Florida International..Liaison

Welcome to Florida International Club, Naples, Florida



Our year actually starts in November with regular luncheons with a short business meeting and lunch and a special program. We go through April and then we have a monthly summer luncheon for members who are here, but without a business meeting or program. Mary Lou Kelley has done a wonderful job of organizing this last summer.

In January we had a very special lady here in Naples speak at our luncheon. Myra Daniels has been a prominent promoter of Naples for many years. She told us of her life and achievements. A picture and article is included.



In February we had what is called a "Membership Tea". We have members that were brought in last year as chairman of the event. This year's chairman was Bonnie Slobodien. We took in twenty two new members this year. A picture is included. What was interesting is it was evenly divided that half were Foreign born and half American born...we like to keep that status of members in our club. At this point we have many countries represented with our 200 members.



We also gave out an award for an outstanding woman that has shown her willingness to help with our organization in so many ways. She was even the WCI President and our President at one time. This Marion Adair Award was given to Donna Suddeth, picture included. Marion Adair was the lady that started our club back in 1986 and needless to say, we will be celebrating our 30th Anniversary next year in 2016.

We introduced the candidates of the Executive Board Officers for the next two years. They will take over May 1, 2015. We will vote on them in March and they will be installed in April.

A special recognition was given to 4 ladies that have served our club for as long as we have been formed. Pat Adams, 1986, Caroline Janick, 1986, Mary Lou Kelley, 1986 and Rita Harding, 1988. A special Thanks to our President Pam Girtman and her board for the last two years.

Lila Corner ,Liaison

13 - The Federation of International Women's Associations in London

I would like to thank everyone who attended to our January Board Meeting. It was a lovely meeting where we all exchanged ideas. Also this past month, several of us enjoyed visiting the Chilean Embassy to explore Maria Rita Phillips' stunning exhibition. We are deeply saddened by the loss of Monica Singh -Past President of Indian Women Club. She will be truly missed and our deepest sympathies go to her family and friends. We look forward to seeing many of you at FIWAL's Valentine High Tea which will be held at the Turkish Ambassador's Residence on the 11th of February at 2:30pm.



February Activities:

Londres Accueil: Tuesday 3 February, 12.00-1.30pm.

Lunch Fifty-Fifty with Around the World Club. Let's meet French and English speaking participants to improve each other's fluency in languages and improve our knowledge of cultural differences, customs. Half in French – Half in English.

FOCUS: 4 February, 10.30-12.30. Promoting a Healthy Body Image for your Child.

13 Prince of Wales Terrace, W8 5PG With children being exposed to a multitude of social images placing value on self-worth and unattainable ideals of physical beauty it is no surprise that parents are concerned with their children's body image.

TWPA: 6 February 11:30-12:30. Talk about Alzheimer's disease & other kinds of dementia at 4 Willoughby rd. N8 0HR

The Women's Council: Thursday 12 February 2.30 - 5.00p.m. Valentine's Tea and Romantic Cabaret with Andrew Brewis at the Army and Navy Club, The RAG.

Welcome to London International Club: 14 February. Valentine Event.

Hulya Kocu
Fiwal President

International Women's Club, Ankara

Dear Club Members,

On February 18 2015, we have organized the Hande Dalkılıç recital in French Embassy. During the recital, Mazurka B minor, Polonaise A flat Maj.Op.53 D-minor from Chopin, and The Tunes of Upper Euphrates, Blonde Bridge folk song, from Erzurum were played. Our 150 guests were invited to a tea party after the recital and had a warm

conversation together.

One of the most important memories of this event was that the piano which was used belonged to Chopin and it was brought from France. This piano was owned and used by Chopin for his own works.

The profit of this event was donated to the children with Red syndrome.

Hande Dalkılıç was born in

Ankara. She started her academic training in Bilkent University Faculty of Music and PERFORMING ARTS IN 1989..

Her first CD, which includes the world premier of A.Adnan Saygun's Op. 76 Piano Sonato was released in 2000 under the BMP label..

She likes to pay special attention to feature works by Turkish composers especially at her concerts abroad.

Hande Dalkılıç has also given recitals and chamber music in such countries as Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia, and Ukraine.

She got her Associate Professor degree 2006 and her Professor degree in November 2013 in Hacettepe Ankara State Conservatory where she currently teaches..

**With my best wishes,
Incilay Kaftanoglu
Liason
Ankara Turkey**



16 - **Editor's letter,**

Undoubtedly, March 8 is our remarkable International Women's Day which we celebrate with joy and jubilation every year. It is a global celebration blended in the culture of many countries for the economic, political and social achievements of women.

It is the day that should make all men proud of women's excellence in almost every field and appreciate their performance as collaborators; not as competitors.

Though the day lost its political flavor, women have never behind any war or international terrorism.

I am sure, women on global level do not object to be an occasion for men to express their love to the women around them in a way somewhat similar to Mother's Day and St Valentine's Day mixed together. In others, however, the political and human rights theme as designated by the United Nations runs strong, and political and social awareness of the struggles of women worldwide are brought out and examined in a hopeful manner.

Rihab Ouri

SCN Editor

Women's League of Beirut Liaison



**WCI BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING EVENT SCHEDULE
LONDON, ENGLAND
MAY 11 – 15, 2015**

There is still time to make a reservation if you or anyone from your club wishes to attend.