

Editor

Rihab Ouri

Women's League of Beirut

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**FROM OUR PRESIDENT:
Members of Welcome Clubs International
Dear Freinds**



I wish to take this opportunity to thank you all for allowing me to be your President for the last 2 years. I have so appreciated your encouraging thoughts and multiple communications throughout the past years. Getting to know many of you, even on a limited basis, has given me much pleasure and enjoyment and I look forward to seeing many of you in Prague.

To date 86 women and their guests have registered for the Conference and we look forward to sharing our creative ideas and cultural programs and our thoughts about how to improve our clubs and communications. In addition to that we will learn much about Praha and the Czech Republic, as well as experiencing friendships from around the world.

In this Sister Club News issue you will see women having memorable experiences through the programs offered by each individual club. Our wish is for each club to continue to build friendships between women from many cultures. It is through friendship that we develop understanding and through understanding that we can promote better relationships with countries around the world. I also wish to thank all the Members of the Executive Committee for devoting their energy and finances to lead Welcome Clubs International for the past 2 years. You will meet most of them in Prague.

I look forward to seeing you at the Conference.

**In friendship to all,
Pam Bansbach
President of Welcome Clubs
International**

Dear Freinds

International Women's Day 2016 events

To be fair, the whole world should not only celebrate women's rights, but also their social, economic, cultural and political achievement. Yet let's also be aware progress has slowed in many places across the world, so urgent action is needed to accelerate gender parity.

Leaders across the world are pledging to take action as [champions of gender parity](#).

Thanks and Best Regards,

Rihab Ouri SCN Editor



Int'l Women's Club of Hamburg

The valuable visit to Harry Brot Organized by Ing-Lore



24th November, 20 ladies from IWCH met at 10:00 am and were guided into a conference room with welcome Coffee, Tea and soft drinks. There was a presentation to explain about the Company's background and its current activities to keep us informed before starting the tour. The tour was divided into two groups. One German and One English speaking guide.

It was a very educational and interesting visit. We all learned a lot from it and before we went home, most of us bought a lot of bread, now with better knowledge of course! Harry Brot GmbH is a wholesale bakery based in Schenefeld, Hamburg with nine production sites in Germany, 45 sales offices in the north, west and east, 4,080 employees and a corporate development that can be seen. In the past five years, Harry Baker increased their turnover by 40%. This corresponds to a turnover of EUR 921 million for the year 2014

Harry Brot GmbH supplies to stores like Lidl, Aldi, Penny, Rewe, Edeka etc. The Harry-Fresh has exactly 819 planned tours and deliver 9,250 transactions daily.

About 10,000 shops food retailers offer the Harry prebake range in their baking stations. I am sure you sometimes smell the freshly baked bread when you walk in the bakery. Now you know where it comes from – The Harry Fresh! History:

Johan Hinrich Harie emigrated from Bremerhaven to Altona, bought house and land with the obligation to make bread and founded his bakery in 1688. His sons were called Harry. In Altona, at that time, the family had four stores. In 1890 Andreas Harry, the seventh generation of the founding family, modernized and expanded its operation in Altona. In 1929, the son, Franz Harry took over the Hannoversche Brotfabrik. In 1963, the company was relocated to the countryside for cost reasons. In the 1960s, Harry-Brot began to supply bread prepackaged and became the brand products. In 1970 the company moved to Schenefeld. Thank you Inge-Lore for organizing this valuable visit On



NEW YEAR COFFEE

A Fun “MEET AND GREET”! Welcome to Colorado (WTC) members excitedly reviewed the Club’s new Calendar of Events while sharing friendship, coffee and pastries. The WTC Calendar of Events, published twice a year, contains club events and members’ news. An average of 256 events is offered annually. New, this year, is an 8 page color insert which guides members through using the WTC web site, making it easy to navigate. Two features of the site really enjoyed are



pictures of recent members' photos events and a library of members’ photos with name identification.

HOLIDAYS AT COLORADO’S GOVERNOR’S MANSION

Decorated in a fusion of crimson, silver, emerald, and gold, the marble floors reflected the sparkling crystal chandeliers everywhere. Absolutely beautiful! Welcome to Colorado members shared the wonders of an historic tour of this magical palace, which combined the elegance of the past in furnishings and decor with true tales of the



wild west, guns and intrigue over railroads and silver mines. A gourmet lunch followed at the Denver Art Museum

Article by
 Julia Banks Past President
 Photos by Kathy Swanson



Broward International Women's Club



Broward International Women's Club, headquartered in beautiful Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, just attended the first Membership Meeting of 2016 at the home of their President, Janet Brady. It was attended by 50 guests and members, and two of the scholarship recipients attending Nova Southeastern University, for whom we raise funds to provide a means for foreign-born female students who are having a hardship in completing their studies. The members enjoyed a sumptuous buffet of international food that would make any restaurant pale by comparison! We gained 7 new members from the event so we are now representing 40 countries with 93 members and growing!!! We have wonderful events in this coming year and we hope that if any of the W.I.C. members are visiting our area they will contact us! Wishing you all a wonderful year of joy and peace!



**Janet Brady, President
Broward International Women's Club**

Welcome to Turkish Cyprus Club

- a) On 11th November 2015 Conference with Dr. Yeşim Örek Gümüşdağ who informed us about the present conditions and needs of the State Hospitals together with the State Measures taken to Prevent Drug Addiction in the Country.



- b) Social trip to Napoli together with Girne InnerWheel Club on 15th November 2015 where some of our members including the President met the Inner-Wheel World President Mrs.

Charlotte de Vos and had the opportunity to discuss the sanitary and ecological problems of the region. This trip included a cultural night at the San Carlo OperaHouse staging La Traviata.



- c) On 11th December 2015, lunch with world - famous Turkish actress - directress Ms. Serra Yılmaz whose visit gave us a good chance to turn out New Year Celebration Lunch into an unforgettable charity event.



d)



- d) 13th January 2016, we hosted Mrs. Hatice Düzgün and Mrs. Nurten Halimoğlu, President & Vice President of the "Social Risks Prevention Foundation" and Psychologist İlknur Türkmen who are altogether running a house for the women and their children in need of support and protection by all means. This visit was immediately followed by our Club's substantial donation of blankets, quilts, linens and white goods.

e) 10th February 2016, we had a rather academic afternoon hosting the former Secretary-General to the President Mr. Ergün Olgun who is one of the leading advisors and negotiators on the Cyprus issue. Together with all the above we of course, at each meeting, celebrate the birthdays of the month, trying to cheer our members by giving them presents and our love.



**(Işın Ramadan Cemil)
President**

Association of Turkish Women in Britain

ATWIB's guests and members at the Conference **ATWIB's Annual Christmas Bazaar**



ATWIB celebrated International Women's Day with an Afternoon Tea at The House of Lords, With our host The Lord Balfe and Madame Esra Bilgic , member and guests.

ATWIB's Members with Honorary President Madame Esra Bilgic at The Bentley Hotel -London



**Mavis Fuchs
President ATWIB**

International Women's Club of Philadelphia

News from IWCP Philadelphia:

In December, many of our members enjoyed our IWCP Annual Holiday Party at the beautiful home of one of our members -an enchanting place in a country setting -where we enjoyed a catered dinner and raised significant funds with a raffle of donated items to support our designated charity, the Home of the Sparrow. Home of the Sparrow partners with women facing homelessness to secure housing, achieve long-term stability, and chart new paths for their futures.



In January, a group of members toured the exhibit "Down The Rabbit Hole" at The Rosenbach Museum in Philadelphia, celebrating 150 years of "Alice in Wonderland. Followed by lunch in a local bistro.



Even in the cold winter months' members have been able to get together in their small language groups for their monthly coffees and lunches. Our Expat potluck dinner took place at the house of our president on a cold night in January. This is a yearly treat not many want to miss. All is well in the city of sisterly love!





On December 1 2015, the wife of the American Ambassador, Mrs. Holly Holzer Bass hosted a meeting at their residence for the I.W.C. Ankara Club. World famous Turkish flute player Sefika Kutluer, performed



accompanied by a piano. After the concert, tea and coffee was served. Members of I.W.C. enjoyed the concert and the conversations and had a pleasant day.

The day was closed with wishes to meet in a similar event in the near future.



During the first week of January 2016, the regular meeting was held followed by a lunch at the Tennis Club.

Board meetings will continue to be held every month two times and the activities and visits will be planned for the spring.



Inciay Kaftanoglu
liason AnkaraTurkey

The International Women of Istanbul

The International Women of Istanbul opened its door on Nov 29th for its famous Christmas Charity Bazar at the Hilton Convention Center. Again, more than 3,000 visitors joined our festive family & friends event and helped raising funds. More than 100 booths selling lovely Christmassy items and gifts were accompanied by around 30 foodstalls with delicious tastes from around the world. International dance acts and four choirs entertained the audience and thanks to our generous sponsors and partners a gorgeous lottery has been drawn. Around 350 volunteers prepared and run this event and we are utmost proud about this sign of friendship and support within our community. The total amount to be donated to our grantees will be agreed on in May 2016.

Beside this big charity event, our ladies met for a delicious Christmas brunch, for a Hungarian wine&dine event, for seafood cooking classes and for many other gatherings in Istanbul.



Stephanie Machoi
Chairwoman
IWI International Woman of Istanbul

Berkshire International Club

Executive Committee Meeting in the Berkshires October 2015

"... you truly introduced us to the Berkshires in a magnificent way." - *Buz and Nancy Carpenter*

"We felt very special" - *Pum Bansbach, President WCI*

WCI is the parent organization of the Berkshire International Club. In October, the BIC hosted The Welcome Club International Executive Committee of which **Salome Ott** is a member, for this year's annual meeting held at The Williams Inn that served as home base. The were five days of events from October 18th. through October 22nd organized by Salome with support from the BIC Board. Each day, in addition to the *de rigueur* committee meeting, our WCI guests explored the cultural and aesthetic offerings of the Berkshires with BIC Board members taking turns as guides. The



various venues selected in Williamstown, North Adams, Stockbridge, Lenox, Hancock and Pittsfield Massachusetts, and in Chatham New York all made terrific impressions. There was a welcome reception at the Williams Inn, then tours and visits at Williams College, The Clark, Mass MOCA, The Norman Rockwell College Faculty Club, The Golden Eagle. The Red Lion Inn, The Harvest Café' at Hancock Shaker Village and a final farewell dinner at Benigna Chilla's home with food prepared by the BIC Board



Vera Lecocq
Liaison

Welcome to Taipei International Club



The *Annual Registration Luncheon* of Welcome to Taipei International Club was held on December 8, 2015 at the Formosa Regent Taipei. There were around 170 members who attended the event, and it led us to successfully elect our new President Chihhsuan Hou, as well as the Board of Supervisors and Directors for the year 2016. The highlight of the program was performed by the young juggling artists of the Diabolo Dance Theater, to which our audience responded with their thundering applause.



Lantern Painting at Longmen Junior High School

The Diplomatic Corps members of our club were invited by the District Office of Da-an to paint lanterns to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year in Taiwan. On December 16, around 20 members gathered at the front gate of Longmen Junior High School, and were greeted by the headmaster and personnel. To everyone's surprise, inside the campus, there stood a well preserved Qing Dynasty Longanpo Huang Family Lairang Estate. Our group was immersed in an interesting history lesson, then also enjoyed an intensive course in creative lantern painting!



WTIC 30th Anniversary & Lunar New Year Celebration Gala Night

On February 18, 2016, WTIC celebrated her 30th Anniversary in a gala, with 20 tables exuberantly decorated by volunteer ladies of the Diplomatic Corps to showcase each country's ethnic features. Founders and Past Presidents were invited and received individual recognition for their graceful leadership and contribution to the club. Mme. Julie Chien recounted the history of our club's formation 30 years ago. Mrs. Elizabeth Lamb who served as WCI President also shared her wonderful memories with the club. With musical instrument and singing performances, along with a raffle drawing and cake cutting, the gala was truly unforgettable!



By Jessica Liu Chia Deputy Executive Secretary



Int'l Women's Club of Hamburg

International Women`s Club of Hamburg`s Holiday`s Activities

11.11. 11:11h! Special date in Germany – Opening of the “gate to hell”: Carnival Season.

Geysa Wiemann
WCI Liaison IWCH



Scandinavian Christmas Bazzars

Halloween 2015



Choir Performance at the Christmas Luncheon 2015



Annual Christmas Luncheon 2015



Chinese New Year 2016 Year Of the Monkey

Seminar Computational Photography

Visiting The NDR-Radio Studio



Women's League of Beirut

The Women's League has a monthly general meeting at the American University of Beirut with different speakers with different topics March 2016 Topic was about KIP Knowledge is Power

A KIP Project

The speaker Dr. Charlotte Karam



Much research and data are being generated on gender and sexuality in Lebanon. General studies of the known current efforts reveals gaps and a lack of collaboration, communication, and dissemination of information between groups working in the field, including members from civil society, academia, private, public, and legal sectors. Much of the outstanding research is unheard of or hard to access. The **Knowledge is Power (KIP)** project has emerged in response to this imminent need and with a grant from the US Department of State is calling for all interested or working in the field to join effort. Work is already underway: The five of six scheduled multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary,



multi-sector private roundtables were held last month around gender and sexuality on education, health and well-being, economic empowerment and opportunity, politics, and legal and civil rights and brought together members from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Ministry of Social Affairs, university professors, activists and civil society members. In its first two months of operation, KIP has also worked to support university-based initiatives in Lebanon: AUB's recently launched Minor in Gender studies; AUB's committee for recognizing women at AUB during the university's 150 year anniversary celebration; and BCBCB network's initiative to strengthen gender studies and curriculum development in the Middle East.

Rihab Ouri
WL Liaison
SCN editor



WELCOME TO FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL CLUB

November 11th was our "Welcome Back Luncheon" where all of our Interest Group, Special Event and Share Your Passion leaders present their schedules for the year. It allows those attending a firsthand opportunity to sign up for all the "season" activities. This luncheon has a higher than normal attendance because we all enjoy the social time of getting re-acquainted after the summer break.

December 9th was our festive holiday luncheon led specially by our Austrian & German members. Our menu for the event featured a delicious Apple Strudel from a special family recipe. Several wore their country's native dress resulting in a fashion show explaining what a dirndl is. Our guest speaker was the Honorary Consul from Austria, Mrs. Gerda Hansen. We were led in the singing of traditional songs by the members of the German Conversation Group. To add to the friendly holiday spirit of the day those in attendance brought a wrapped candle for a gift exchange.

January 13th we welcomed Kellie Burns, a prominent television broadcaster in the SW Florida area who spoke to us about her recent trip to Cuba. We welcomed many guests to this luncheon event as both the topic and the speaker are very popular. Ms. Burns invited Ellie Wheeler, one of our own members to the stage to share her own Cuban story. What a treat to learn about this U.S. neighbor from a local native and see it through the newly opened door today with a journalist eye.

WFIC celebrated her 30th Anniversary at our February luncheon! A reception was held with slide show of photos made over these thirty years for the 144 members in attendance. As a pianist softly played the song dedicated at the first WFIC luncheon in 1986 by our founder, Marian Adair, members wearing their native costumes shared toasts, greetings and smiles with each other. Our President, Libby Cottingham, recognized our two attending active Charter Members, Helen Fox and Nancy Wallace. Eight past presidents were recognized with a rose corsage.



After a delicious lunch, we were treated to a wonderful costume

"Parade of Nations" modeled by members from some of the 31 countries represented within our organization. All agreed it was a lovely event and we took home a small memento to mark the occasion. **(At left, Three of our Greek members in their native**

A Parade of Nations

Luncheons are held monthly for WFIC members from November to April and we have an abundance of other activities to fit into our busy calendars.



Special Events are held monthly during this same time frame. One of the most popular this year was a cooking class with *The Sauce Lady!* We had so many members sign up we just about did not fit in the kitchen. A good time was had by all as we were shown how to make preparing meals for guests easy with many recipes using the Sauce Lady's Sauces. All left with her business card and a full stomach after all the samples.

Share Your Passion occurs when one of our members has an extraordinary collection that they are willing to share with a small group of our members at one time. One, so popular that it demanded a third showing was "The Shoes of the Bound Feet Women". Barbara Easton, our member collector lived and travels throughout Asia to add to her



amazing collection. She designed her home around her worldwide collection of Asian and African items. Our hostess gave a background history of practice and custom of bound feet women so those attending could fully understand what was involved for those affected.

We appreciate the busy members who volunteer their time to chair, host and lead the various programs of Welcome to Florida International Club. It is truly great to have such good Friends!

**Submitted by Pamela Girtman,
WFIC Liaison to WCI
February 2016**

Int'l Women's Club of New England

Our club's founder and Past President, Anna Kristina Sawtelle, became a United States citizen on January 8th! The swearing in ceremony was held at the Homeland Security Office in Portland, Maine. Anna Kristina is also a former Regional Chair for North America on the WCI Executive Committee. Congratulations, Anna Kristina!

At our January meeting, \$9000 in grants derived from our 2015 fundraising efforts were given to four charities: Grahamstastic Connection, which provides free laptops, tablets, robotics (VGo robots) and internet access to seriously ill children for educational purposes. Womenaid of Greater Portsmouth which helps needy cases, Arthope, which promotes health and well-being through arts programs for people living with cancer and for the community, and 68 Hours of Hunger which provides backpacks with food and weekend meals for needy children who depend on weekday school meals for their nourishment.

Pictured below are 68 Hours of Hunger representatives with their backpacks.



**In friendship,
Zoi Diamond, Liaison**

Women's International Border Club

Activity Report 2016

Women's International Border Club celebrated one of its most important activities on August 18, 2015 - the Club's 10th year anniversary! It was a fun gala dinner at one of San Diego's private clubs. The most rewarding issue was the enthusiasm and full participation of WIBC members who joined in and helped in the preparation and organization of the event. We all came together to celebrate WIBC's "milestone" and to strengthen our fine friendship.



Oktoberfest was organized by Marie Luise Szcyrbowski. We savored traditional German dishes prepared by our German members for an authentic flavor and flair. There were 28 of us having a truly good time. Here is a picture of Oktoberfest **The Christmas Dinner at Maria Walker's "chateau", was an affair to remember.**



What a beautiful time of the year -- what a pleasure to visit with our friends and wish each other all the best, said Maria. The weather played a significant role at Maria's Christmas party on December 10th. We had a very good time on the outside porch protected by two powerful gas heaters making the area quite pleasant. The bar was set up on the outside where most of the male guests were hanging out together laughing and sharing good times. Maria's beautiful "château" was decorated with Christmas traditional ornaments and colored lights all around the house. Gracious Maria (charter member) was most attentive and warm with

each one of us. Her friendly attitude contributed to our cozy Christmas party.

Saint Valentine's Day Celebration

To celebrate the day of love and friendship, we got together at Lori's place where a nicely decorated table in red crystal glasses and a large flower arrangement were displayed on the table

**Vilma Boettcher, Founder
Women's International Border Club**



Anglo-German Int'l Women's Assoc. e.V

Our main event of the year is the Christmas luncheon , this year it was at the "Übersee club" in Hamburg. As usual delicious food, we also had for the first time our own choir singing Christmas carols, to put us in the spirit for the holidays. And it is the time were we support a charity, for that we had a nice raffle . The money we collected went to the "Bahnhof mission " here in Hamburg located in the " central railway station" . It is a place where assistance is given to all. Travelers, poor people , and every one in need.

It was a nice day for all of us.

Enclosed are a few pictures from this event.



REPORT OF ACTIVITY MARCH 2016

DEMONSTRATION AGAINST CORRUPTION IN BRAZIL – MARCH 13, 2016

This is the biggest demonstration ever gathered in our country against the President of this country and against corruption. Citizens of twenty two States demonstrated their disapproval, including the States in the Northeast that were supposed to have voted all in favor of the PT Government. There were no arrests and no fighting. All those that came to the demonstration were ordinary law abiding citizens. At least the authorities did not allow the protesters to mix. Each group had their own park where they could demonstrate. This really kept things in order.

We are proud we participated in this march against Corruption and showed that DEMOCRACY does work here with the Brazilians.

Liaison
Zulmira Sommer

