



# *The Women's League*



Issue 1

*Fall 2008*

[www.aub.edu.lb/~webleague](http://www.aub.edu.lb/~webleague)

## *Women's League Bulletin*

On Monday, October 06, 2008, a general meeting of the Women's League will take place in the West Hall of AUB at 4:00 P.M. All League members are warmly and cordially welcome to attend the said meeting;

Further, the anticipated participation should add a great value to the existence of our league and its continuity. Our faith in the League is growing stronger due to the positive prevailing circumstances at the present and therefore, we are expected to have greater efforts and enthusiasm to render noble services to our society.

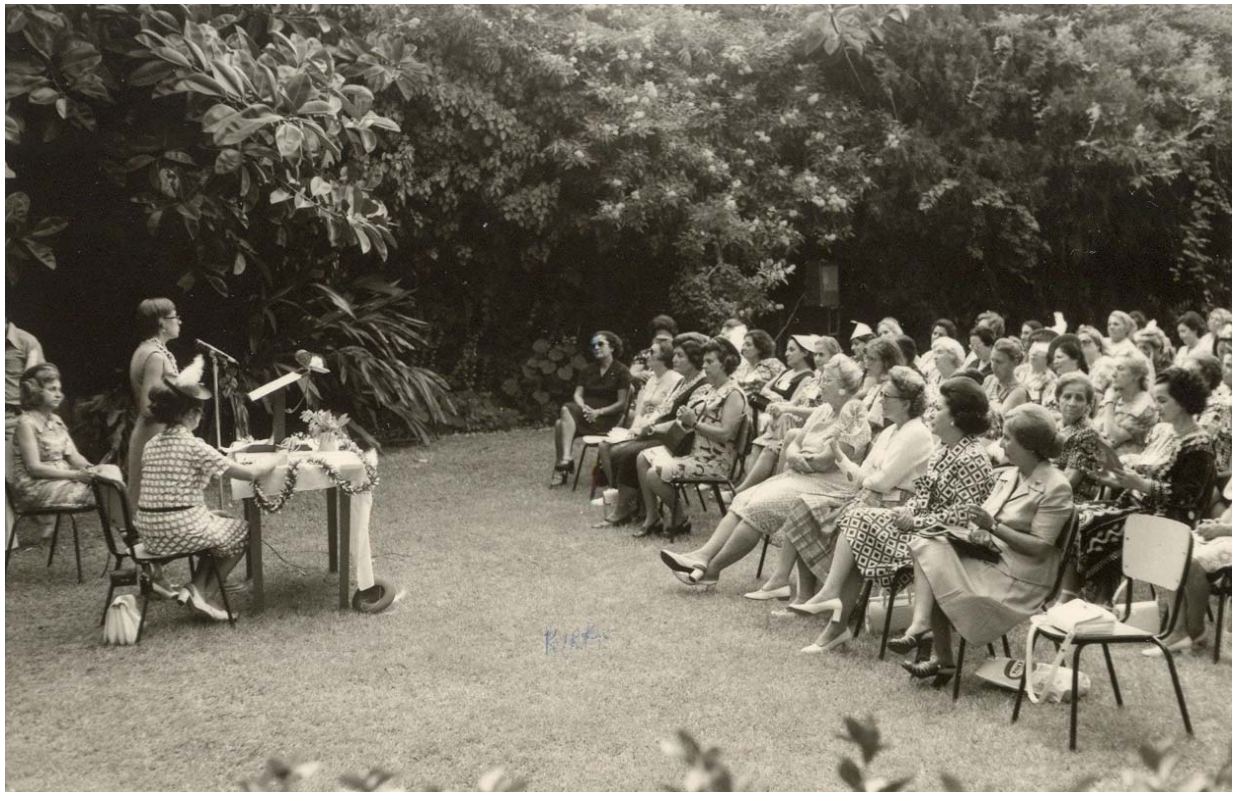
Furthermore, members of the League are always welcome to submit their proposals and recommendations to me using the address below.

***Rihab Ouri***

Editor of the Bulletin

Tel.: +961 (01) 803 854

E-mail: **rouri46@gmail.com**



Marquand House, Oct. 1974

*Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless!*

*Mother Teresa*

### ***From the President***

I would like to welcome back everybody from their summer vacation and I hope that it was a relaxing and a wonderful time. Today I would like to share with you some reality about our life. Have a seat, relax and read this slowly: it is all about believing.

*I believe that just because two people argue, it doesn't mean they don't love each other and just because they don't argue it doesn't mean they do love each other.*

*I believe that we don't have to change friends if we understand that friends change.*

*I believe that no matter how good a friend is they are going to hurt you every once in a while and you must forgive them for that.*

*I believe that true friendship continues to grow even over the longest distance same goes for true love.*

*I believe that you can do something in an instant that will give you heartache for life.*

*I believe that it's taking me a long time to become the person I want to be.*

*I believe that you should always leave loved ones with loving words I t may be the last time you see them.*

*I believe that we are responsible for what we do, no matter how we feel.*

*I believe that money is a lousy way of keeping score.*

*I believe that no matter how bad your heart is broken, the world doesn't stop for your grief.*

*And finally I believe the happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything they just make the most of everything.*

The women's league was founded in 1919 wives of professors at the American University of Beirut. This year we will be celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> jubilation. It is a real milestone. We should be very proud about all the achievements in the past. I am especially proud that our student **Fawzi Yassine** has achieved his goal in life. He graduated in summer 2008 Computer Science from AUB. Mabrouk for a brave man!

In the league we are drawn together by our common interest in the welfare of our city of Lebanon and the near east. Together we hope to reach a deeper sympathy and understanding of one another. Women interested in the aims of the league and able to understand English are invited to join at the end of each year. Kindly be reminded that the money left over from the previous year in the treasury is donated to a worthy cause.

Thank you,  
**Christel Bikhazi**

## *To Mrs. Marianne Heath*



It gives me great honor to write about Mrs. Marianne Heath, President (2003-2005) and Vice-President (2005-2007) of The Women's League.

Mrs. Heath during her term dedicated much of herself and time to The Women's League and enriched it with her varied experience and knowledge . She got discipline in the League and reorganized it in a way giving the feeling of responsibility to each person.

During her term in serving the League, the Colombian and the Brazilian end-year musical programs were presented. The League joined the International Women's Club.

The speakers, the contributors for special events, and the Executive Board enjoyed the dinner at Dr. Peter and Mrs. Marianne Heath residence.

The lunch that Mrs. Heath offered to the Executive Board at Burj Al Hamam restaurant was a memorable event.

She was highly honored by all members including Nadia Alamuddine and Leila Alameddine. To bid farewell to Mrs. Heath, President Chrystele Bikhazi and Leila Ghantous also offered lunches at Gefinor Rotana Hotel and in Dhour Choueir, respectively.

All the ladies of The Women's League including, Ellen Eid, Lilo Maasri, Nabiha Younis, Elizabeth Yared ,Suad Shehadeh, Lamia kawar, Suad Houry, Hasna Barakat, Rajiha Saghir, Randa Theodore, Vilolet Copti, Jaqueline Kassis, Leila Haddad and Mary Al khal, join me in sending their best wishes to Dr. Peter and Mrs. Heath and their family. Miss. Armine Choukassizian is always a great help to the League.

Dr. Heath is the Chancellor of The American University of Sharjah, in the United Arab Emirates.

*Leila Ghantous*

## ***WCI Welcomes Three New Sister Clubs***

The Women's League – Beirut, Lebanon

(WL) was founded in 1919 by a group of eight women from the American University of Beirut (AUB). Their initial concern was to meet Lebanese women and provide a network for women in Beirut to get together and discuss common concerns.

The object of the league was (and is still) to promote broad acquaintances among women of all nationalities and to maintain a forum with leaders in matters of public importance, civic interest, educational concerns and cultural interest.

Women who reside in Lebanon and are interested in the objectives of the League are eligible for membership.

Today the League is an active club which has monthly general meetings on the first Monday of the month from October through May. Every month a speaker is invited to the general meeting to speak about a current issue of interest. Some of our ongoing activities, including yoga, movie club and a monthly educational trip in Lebanon. We are currently adding new interest groups.

We end our season with an annual Garden Party at Marquand House in early June.

At the end of each season the contents of the League's treasury is donated to a needy handicapped students at AUB.

***Marianne Heath***

*President*



Left to right: Mrs. Ragiha Saghir, Mrs. Christel Bikhazi, Mrs. Ellen Eid, Mrs. Nabihah Younis, Mrs. Leila Ghantous, Her Excellency Mrs. Andre Emile Lahoud, Mrs. Hasna Barakat, Mrs. Leila Haddad, Mrs. Lilo Maasri

Dear Friends,

This is a strange time for the women's League of Beirut to be introduced in the WCI newsletter. Presently, I am outside of Lebanon not because I happened to be on vacation in Turkey when the current political situation between Israel and Lebanon developed. Presently, I cannot enter Lebanon and I have very limited contact with my friends in Beirut. On the one hand this is disconcerting; but on the other hand, I am acutely aware of how strong the women in the league are. Since 1919 the Women's League has survived World War, a Civil War and other difficult political events in the area. I am confident that when October, 2006 comes around, members of the Women's League will meet again to partake in society as is needed. I expect to be part of that.

*Sincerely,*

***Marianne Heath***

*President,*

*Women's League of Beirut*

## June Trip to Mab'aaj Cave



The last trip of the season was on June 7, 2008. This is the first time the League makes a trip in June and on a Saturday instead of a Wednesday and this is because of the troubles that took place in May which made us cancel our May trip.

At 8:30 a.m. the bus took off with about 40 persons, all ladies except for one gentleman, on the way to Byblos and then up the mountain to the Mab'aaj Grotto, the marvel of the Lebanese nature. This cave was discovered in 1938. Speleologists walked inside for several kilometers. They confirmed the existence of ponds and lakes in it, that need small boats to cross them. Their present formation was completed during a period from 30 to 40 million years. The length of the cave that could be visited is 220 meters excluding tunnels.

This cave is privately owned and it is not yet registered with the Ministry of Tourism and so it is not well known. When we arrived there, we were met by the owners to sit in the spacious garden set in a primitive way with benches made of tree trunks and wooden tables overlooking a big forest. We had our breakfast of different kinds of Manakish on the Saj along with coffee and tea.

After breakfast, we walked through the cave and our guide was the owner who is one of the excavators, who gave us a very detailed description of it and talked about the new excavations they are going to do for it is not yet finished. The frozen drops of water look like pieces of diamond and in a way it is very much like Jeitta Grotto. It is really marvelous.

After spending a couple of hours enjoying the marvels of this Grotto, we proceeded to the town of Mayfouq to visit St. Elige Convent where we visited a very old church..

At last, it was time for lunch which was in Nabeh El-Joz Restaurant near the church. We had a very delicious lunch of Lebanese mezze and barbecue in a very nice setting.

We left the restaurant at about four O'clock on our way back to Beirut after spending a lovely day.

*By Lamia Kwar*

## **Late Randa Khoury**



***(1944 – 2008)***

The announcement made by the International College “IC” on Friday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>. regarding the death of Late Randa Khoury left many people at both “IC” and “AUB” stunned with sorrow. Some were speechless and some were bereft.

Late Randa was born in Haifa, Palestine in 1944 to continue her education at BUC and AUB, obtaining her BA in Child Development and her MA in Elementary Education in 1966 and 1968 respectively. She was married to Mr. Ibrahim Khoury, director of the office of information at AUB, leaving behind her three daughters, Amal, Rouba and Hala.

Randa was admired by the students of IC for her sincere performance and services that she rendered during her long life at IC. She was a genuine person who lived all her life watching education growing from more to more, but with perseverance and sincere dedication.

Further it is worth mentioning what late Randa used to believe in (the 3 F’s), which stand for Faith, Family and Friendship; these 3 F’s reflect her character and personality

May God bless her soul and provide patience to her family’s hearts.

***By Rihab Ouri***

## **Executive Board Members for the year 2008-2009:**

President	<i>Mrs. Christel Bikahazi</i>
Vice President	<i>Mrs. Lillo Maasry</i>
Recording Secretary	<i>Mrs. Violet</i>
Treasurer	<i>Mrs. Suad Khoury</i>
Public Relation Officer	<i>Mrs. Nabihah Younis</i>
Editor of the Bulletin	<i>Mrs. Rihab Ouri</i>
Trip Chairwoman	<i>Ms. Lamia Kawar</i>
Membership Chairwoman	<i>Mrs. Jacqueline Kassi</i>
Project Activity	<i>Mrs. Leila Alameddine</i>
Program Chairwoman	<i>Mrs. Mary Al-Khal</i>
Representative to the Lebanese Woman's Council	<i>Mrs. Nadia Alameddine</i>
Hospitality Chairwoman	<i>Mrs. Leila Haddad</i>

## **Calendar 2008 – 2009:**

**General meetings** are held at AUB's West Hall in the Bathish Auditorium. Doors open at 3:30 pm, meeting starts at 4:00. Coffee and tea is served after the meeting. All are welcome.

<b>Monday, October 6, 2008</b>	General Meeting
<b>Monday, November 3, 2008</b>	General Meeting
<b>Monday, December 1, 2008</b>	General Meeting
<b>Monday, January 5, 2009</b>	General Meeting
<b>Monday, February 2, 2009</b>	General Meeting
<b>Monday, March 2, 2009</b>	General Meeting
<b>Monday, May 4, 2009</b>	General Meeting