



# Women's League Bulletin

## Letter from the President

### The WL Mission Statement

The WL is an organization of women of different Nationalities. Its purpose is to promote a broad acquaintances to socialize learn and support one another. Its goal is to secure a yearly scholarship fund for a disabled student at AUB.

### Inside this Issue

- President's letter.....1
- Women of Pakistan .....2
- Mother's Day Lunch .....3
- Life without GOD .....4

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"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."  
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**John F. Kennedy**

### A Word of Gratitude to AUB

The Women's League is immensely engulfed in the American University of Beirut. It has taken the AUB campus as a base for most of its activities. In this respect two center points ought to be highlighted.

The first is Marquand House built in 1880, by a donation from Frederick Marquand, as a residence for AUB President Dr. Daniel Bliss, and currently it is the residence of President Peter F. Dorman. It was in this historical place that some of the AUB housewives gathered back in 1919 to launch the idea of the Women's League. The Middle East was feeling the effects of World I, and some food items and even clothing were scarce. There was a need for women in the Beirut community to get together and discuss common concerns, and hence came the above meeting. Throughout the years the Women's League has asked for a permission from the President of AUB to allow for the use of the marvelous gardens of Marquand House as a site for its end-year program, where some festive programs are performed, and the scholarship aid resulting from the activities of the League during the year is handed over to the President. Every year a new target is set to attain a larger amount of funds for scholarship, and hopefully this year we will exceed greatly previous targets.

The other center point is the West Hall which was built in 1914 and is the heart of social activities in AUB. It is to be recalled that this magnificent edifice is named in memory of Robert Haldane West, who was for 23 years a devoted teacher of mathematics, philosophy and astronomy, apart from filling administrative positions at AUB. Through the kind courtesy of AUB, the Women's League holds its regular meetings at Bathish Auditorium in West Hall, and the wide upper balcony on the second floor gives space for the Women's League members to enjoy being served coffee and tea after the meetings.

In this sense, the AUB gives a very significant and helpful support to the Women's League. Above all this is a very prestigious relationship of which we are proud and keen to keep and enhance through more creative work and activities.

May God bless AUB, its President and his family.

Leila Ghantous

## Women of Pakistan: Challenges and Aspirations



**H.E. Rahim and Mrs. Ziegler**

Women in Pakistan are able to successfully work in all professions and rally for empowerment, despite the numerous challenges they face in the country, assured H.E. Raana Rahim, Pakistan Ambassador to Lebanon during the March 7 lecture delivered at the American University of Beirut where most of WL activities are performed.

Among the attendees, there were many VIPs with high diplomatic and social standing such as the wife of the Austrian Ambassador Mrs. Eva Maria Ziegler, the

Charged affaires at the embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Adekunbi Sonaike-Ayodeji, Women's League friend and wife of the Brazilian Ambassador, Maria Theresa Tarisse Da Fontoura, the president of many associations, and members and friends of The Women's League.

In a general assessment of the situation of women in Pakistan today, H.E. Rahim pointed out that women make up 51 percent of the country's overall population, they work in all professions and earn equal wages as men. She said that 20 percent of the members of parliament in Pakistan should be women, and they should constitute 27 percent of the National Assembly. Many women hold powerful positions in Pakistan. Those women are usually the daughters, sisters, or wives of prominent figures but they often argue against, and even refute, the laws that are set by their fathers or husbands.

H.E. Rahim shared with the audience a series of pictures of famous and influential women in the history of Pakistan and the present. She also showed pictures of a wedding to explain the culture of Pakistan. Most marriages in Pakistan are arranged, because the family does not want its wealth to go to strangers or other families. Last but not least, Mrs. Rahim noted that the existence of many powerful women who are lawyers, judges and social workers provides effective support to oppressed women.

### Condolences:

With great regret, WL announces the death of three of its members during the month of March 2011 whose names follow:

- 1- Mrs. Dunia Hayek. She is survived by her 3 sons ; Issam, Rami and Mazen.
- 2- Mrs. Naseema Afif Mufarrij. She is survived by her 3 sons; **Walid, Nazih, Ramzi and the family of Amjad Moufarrej.**
- 3- Mrs. Adele Khoury. She is survived by her two sons; **Suleiman and Ramzi**

May God have mercy on their souls and patience to the hearts of their families.  
WL members wish to convey their sincere condolences to those families.

## Mother's Day Lunch



*Mother's day lunch at Rotana Grand Ballroom*



*Virna and Vima Lahoud and Maha Jiha receiving the emblem*

On the 22<sup>th</sup> day of March every year, nations of many countries celebrate the great event to express their love and respect to all mothers of the world. WL board members decided to celebrate this special day by holding a lunch on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March and a Tombola in the presence of 155 members and visitors at Rotana Geffinore Hotel. The speaker of the occasion was Mrs. Fairouz Ba'albaki. Her speech touched us all. Her eloquent words, "WE, mothers of the world, can reflect on where and what we stand for today and what we hope for in the future: Peace, equality, education, service to family and Land and with that, I stretch out my hand in friendship to you and for you to be one link in the chain as the future depends on us."

For entertainment Mrs. Virna and Vilma Lahoud played on the piano brilliantly and Maha Jiha sang a Fairouz favorite beautifully.

### **A Special Thanks To A Special Person**

Many thanks go to Mrs. Khair Aldeen for her generous offering of the buffet for the ladies during the March General Assembly.

### **April 2011 Trip**

The trip is to commence on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April. We will be heading to the North of Lebanon. The first stop will be at The Association of Alazem and Saadeh where the WL members are generously invited for breakfast. Next, we will be visiting the Nawfal Castle and Monastery. Our last stop will be Lunch which will be served at Shate' Alfidi, a restaurant well known for the tasty fish they serve.

**"Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point."**

**The Secret**

One day, one friend asked another,  
'How is it that you are always so happy?  
You have so much energy,  
and you never seem to get down.'  
With her eyes smiling, she said,  
'I know the Secret!'  
'What secret is that?'  
To which she replied,  
'I'll tell you all about it,  
but you have to promise to  
share the Secret with others.'  
'The Secret is this:  
I have learned there is little I can do  
in my life that will make me truly happy.  
I must depend on God to make  
me happy and to meet my needs.  
When a need arises in my life,  
I have to trust God to supply  
according to HIS riches.  
I have learned most of the time  
I don't need half of what I think I do.  
He has never let me down.  
Since I learned that 'Secret', I am happy.'  
The questioner's first thought was,  
'That's too simple!'  
But upon reflecting over her own life  
she recalled how she thought a bigger house  
would make her happy, but it didn't!  
She thought a better paying job  
would make her happy, but it hadn't.  
When did she realize her greatest happiness?  
Sitting on the floor with her children,  
Playing games, eating pizza or reading a story,  
a simple gift from God.  
Now you know it too!  
We can't depend on people to make us happy.  
Only GOD in His infinite wisdom can do that.  
Trust HIM!  
And now I pass the Secret on to you!  
So once you get it, what will you do?  
YOU have to tell someone the Secret, too!  
That GOD in His wisdom will take care of YOU!  
But it's not really a secret...  
We just have to believe it and do it...  
Really trust God!

Pass It On!  
Do your best. Let God do the rest!

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