President’s Letter

CHRISTMAS IS COMING…!

“Christmas means a spirit of love, a time when the love of our fellow men should prevail over all hatred and bitterness.”

George McDougal

Christmas has its glamour wherever one goes. It carries with it a special passion for home, family and friends. It has become a tradition for the Women’s League to hold a Christmas lunch every year to gather all its members and friends, to celebrate this occasion and share memories and exchange wishes for the New Year.

What makes our Christmas lunch this year of special flavor is that it comes after Eid Al Adha El Moubarak in the Moslem world, and Thanksgiving Day in America. May God shower us, our families, and the entire human being with his blessings and mercy, and may He continue to give us the strength to fight for human dignity, peace, justice, freedom, and democracy for all.

It happened that I spent some days before this occasion in Dublin the capital of Ireland, where I noticed that Christmas festivals were in full swing and a reminder that it remains the most observed and most popular occasion. Of course, much of that popularity, especially in the West, is due to the commercial promotion of the holiday. Still, the Christmas story captures the heart in a way that transcends all the commercial hype.

The story of Christmas with all the images of angels and a young mother and a baby, shepherds and a stable, wise men and royal intrigue, colorful tree and the Santa Clause make the season captivating.

I always recall at this time of the year when I was at school we used to celebrate Christmas before the vacation. Each class prepared a song for Christmas and we all together sang some Christmas carols. At the end of the celebration, we all used to look at the Christmas tree decorated with fresh oranges and the principal used to give the sparkling lights at the Christmas tree. I will never forget this celebration.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2011 to you all.

Leila Ghantous
Merry Christmas
And
A Happy New Year

Christmas and New Year are two great holidays that come and go just like any other holiday. However, there is something different about Christmas and New Year’s Eve. Perhaps it is the spiritual aspect, perhaps it is the overall atmosphere of loved ones getting together, and perhaps it is the rush and festivities... Perhaps it is a combination of all of the above. I really don’t know. All what I know is that the Christmas spirit and New Year’s Eve deposits something in us like no other holiday does.

If only everyday is Christmas and every night is New Year’s Eve. If only we could visit The Church of ANNUNCIATION - [AL-BISHARAH-CHURCH] in Nazareth, The Church of NATIVITY - [AI-MAHD CHURCH] in Bethlehem and The Church OF THE HOLY SEPULCHER [AI-QIYAMAHQ CHURCH] in Jerusalem. If only we made resolutions when need be and not only on New Year’s Eve. If only we are grateful for all that we have.

Happy Thanksgiving

On the last Thursday of November of each year, Americans sit down together with their loved ones and friends to a laden table with turkey, sweet potatoes, gravy and pumpkin pie and possibly many more family dishes to celebrate the first harvest the pilgrims had many years ago.

To me, it is a beautiful celebration as it is not commercial. It is a true family gathering in which we thank God for all that he has provided us with.

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving for this year and the years to come.

AUB and WL Cooperation

Two letters from AUB both dated Nov. 11, 2010 have been received from AUB Acting President Mr. Ahmad Dallal and the other from the Assistant Vice President of Development Mr. Imad Baalbaki who expressed their thanks and appreciation for the Scholarship Fund for the handicapped students at AUB provided by us.
Trip to Batroun Province – North Lebanon in Nov. 10, 2010

The seventy trip participants were cordially received by Al-Batroun President of the Red Cross Mrs. Claude Darzi who was kind enough to guide us comprehensively in Al-Batroun.

In North Lebanon, our visits were made to several important sites and locations such as the Olive Press in Kfifan and Ibrine Monastery which includes the tomb of Bishop Hwayek who participated in the struggle for the Lebanese Independence.

In his struggle, Bishop Hwayek addressed the French mandate and always asserted in the name of the Lebanese people that he did not believe in discrimination among people of different religions and doctrines.

The last location visited by the league was the Roman Amphitheater which in time was used by Al-Batroons to hold wedding ceremonies and receptions.

In short, Al-Batroun is really a very important and remarkable landmark of our beautiful country...our Lebanon.

WL members wish to express their thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Claude Darzi for her efforts and cooperation in guiding us during our unforgettable visit to Al Batroun and its vicinities.
Pioneer woman in politics and in the field of Disability

Munira Al Solh

Passed away Sunday Nov. 28, 2010

With sorrow and sadness, the Women's League is sorry to announce the death of Mrs. Munira Al Solh who was an active member of the Women's League and who became the vice president of the league in 1970.

Late Munira was born in 1911 in Lebanon. In 1959 she founded Al-Amal institute for the Disabled. It was the first humanitarian care center in Lebanon and the Arab world. She was the first woman candidate to Lebanese election in 1960. Mrs. Solh is known for her title “The Lady of the nineteen Medals and Awards” from 1971 to 2002.

Mrs. Solh was granted the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation Award as the best mother of the disabled child in the world for the year 2000 during a ceremony in Seattle, WA...May God bless her soul.

The Importance of Water and the Special time to drink it

Drinking water at the correct time maximizes its effectiveness on the Human body:

2 glasses of water after waking up - helps activate internal organs
1 glass of water 30 minutes before a meal - helps digestion
1 glass of water before taking a bath - helps lower blood pressure
1 glass of water before going to bed - avoids stroke or heart attack

Editor of the Bulletin
WL Liaison
Rihab Ouri