



November 2010

# Women's League Bulletin

## Letter From The President

“Culture is the habit of being pleased with the best and knowing why.”  
Henry Van Dyke

### **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, in  
establishing social  
network.

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### **TOWARDS THE CENTENNIAL**

The time from now on and until 2019, when the Women's League will celebrate its Centennial, should be a memorable time for all of us. We need to exert special efforts to achieve more on the road to promote social acquaintance among women of various nationalities. The membership body of the League should be enhanced in order to become more representative of women in Lebanon. Already we have grown in number and in the scale of activities performed. But we need to attain a greater involvement of women from various walks of life, including the diplomatic life.

Undoubtedly, the history of the Women's League is entwined to a large extent with that of AUB, both being in the same environment. The League could represent one of the bridges to spread the fame of AUB everywhere possible. You may notice in this Newsletter a passage of an article by the famous German journalist Barbara Schumacher on AUB. It happened that I met Barbara during one of my visits to Berlin, and she was very fond of Lebanon and AUB and wanted to come for a visit. Of course, I encouraged her and promised to help her as much as I can. Finally, she came and I introduced her to some members of the Women's League and she joined in one of the trips organized by the League to the Roman Temple of Niha and Ryak (in Bekaa). She covered the AUB campus and The Women's League very carefully and intelligently in two articles which she published in DAVO, a leading German academic magazine, and in Dubai magazine. Many thanks to her.

Happy 91st anniversary to The Women's League, its members and friends.

Leila Ghantous

## **Barbara Schumacher wrote from Germany**

**Barbara Schumacher, a journalist who visited Lebanon, wrote an article in Davo, a German leading academic magazine about AUB and about our WL. Following is only an excerpt of her article.**

“AUB has a variety of clubs and societies in which current and former members of the university have been involved. One of these Groups is the Women's League (WL) which was established in 1919 among whom is the grandmother of the current president of AUB Dr. Peter F. Dorman.

Since that time, WL has been doing its best to achieve its goals; to gain friendships, join in organized social events, and promote understanding among women of all nationalities without any regard to culture, religion and political differences.

WL organizes monthly trips to most of the Lebanese districts; particularly in areas where culture and civilization manifest. I, myself, was invited by Mrs. Leila Ghantous to join the June trip. The bus with over 50 passengers was heading towards Beka'a plain through Chtaura and Riyak. Riyak, as a matter of fact, is one of the largest and oldest towns in the region where one would witness the "Historical" railway stations with its production equipment. From there we moved towards Deir Taanayel and the Roman Temple of Niha.

I was also invited to the occasion of the WL annual Garden party, held in Marquand House, the Residence of AUB president Dr. Dorman who attended the party and was given the scholarship cheque for the disabled student at AUB. There, in the presence of many ambassadors, including the German Ambassador Birgitta Siefker-Eberle, the First Lady thanked AUB for the support of the women country, by improving their status and rights guarantees.



Barbara Chumacher with the WL members in October Trip



## Women's League Meets in Maryland

### WELCOME CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

Founded 1986

<http://welcomeclubs.squarespace.com/>

Welcome Clubs International is an umbrella organization that unites women's clubs throughout the world. It coordinates and facilitates the exchange of information and activities of all member clubs. WCI does not fund-raise, or promote any charity. It is non-religious and non-political. It is run by volunteers.

A club whose mission is to promote friendship and understanding among women of all nations without regard to political, cultural and religious differences may become a member. Clubs are autonomous. Its purpose is to provide services and a forum for International Women's Clubs where cultural ideas are presented and friendships develop, offering a network for women of cultural differences to communicate with each other.

During my visit to my son in Fairfax, Virginia last June, I met my friends Mrs. Aida Armaly, Mrs. Julia Nasr and Mrs. Alice Fakhri [Previous President of Women's League, WL]. The three Ladies are members of Welcome to Washington International Club over and above Mrs. Aida Armaly is a member of the Executive Board of WCI for the Middle East. It was a pleasure to be with those remarkable ladies.

Further, I was invited by Mrs. Julia Banks, the President of the WCI in Denver to join the brunch that was held by Welcome to Washington International Club, a "Sister Club" in Maryland. The invitation I received gave me the opportunity to learn more about WCI serving the purpose of WCI and WL as well. Mrs. Leilane Mehler, the previous president in Washington Club International was kind enough to pick me up to attend the brunch where all the presidents gathered. Their aim was to exchange news and to strengthen friendship and understanding on a global level. Mrs. Leilane's speech was very realistic and impressive. She said "Like a tree, I started my presidency with strong roots which were given to me by our founders and past presidents. Because we started a new season, the leaves were replaced in each branch, representing each position in our board, a new leaf started to grow". Mrs. Leilane gave every lady a necklace of a leaf with different colors.

Seizing the brunch event, Mrs. Leilane asked me to introduce the WL of Beirut to the attending ladies so that they would be able to know more about our history and development.

Based on my knowledge about our league and considering my speech time parameter, all information conveyed were between synoptic and elaborated message. In short, my speech was about long and proud history in Lebanon, and that our dynamic club has served as a venue for women of all nationalities, backgrounds, and affiliations to meet other women committed to social causes and mutual enlightenment. I, also added that over the years, the activities of the Women's League have ranged always with a strong component of civic service. In the conclusion of my speech, I said that through WL series of monthly educational lectures, cultural excursions, and special events, the Women's League contributes a lot to the vivacity of our community, both on - and off-campus of the American University of Beirut (AUB).

It worth-mentioning that Mrs. Julia Nasr and Mrs. Aida Armaly were cordially received by our WL board member and had the chance to attend our September meeting where ideas were exchanged.

As a conclusion the mother club WCI and all sister clubs believe in :

**" FRIENDSHIP THROUGH UNDERSTANDING And UNDERSTANDING THROUGH FRIENDSHIP "**



The Women's League Cordially invites you For its annual Christmas Lunch on Thursday, December 02, 2010 at 1:00 PM in Bristol Hotel. Lunch would be followed by the following entertainment and activities:

1. Dr. Sami Kawas will be playing the key-board singing the Oldies and Christmas Carols.
2. Tombola.

The league wishes you a merry X-mass and a happy new year full of love, peace and forgiveness.



The evening before, October 31st became known as All Hallow Eve. Over time the name has been shortened to Halloween. As you well know Halloween is the time of disguise, hiding behind masks and pretending to be someone else. It would be fun if we do all these things on Halloween and only on Halloween. For some, every day is Halloween. Some disguise and don't reveal their true selves because they lack confidence... Some hide behind masks because they are afraid they will be rejected... Some pretend to be like others because they don't know who they are anymore... Sad but very true. It is never too late though. Dare be yourself. Be proud of who you are and what you think. Stand up for your principles with pride. You should be loved and accepted for who you are not who you are pretending to be. Life is too short... Take off your disguise, your mask and all the accessories that hide you so well. Be yourself every day of the year and disguise only on Halloween... That's the way it should be and not the other way round.

Editor of the Bulletin and Liaison

Rihab Ouri