



April 2010

Women's League Bulletin

Website: www.aub.edu.lb/women_league

"My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am, I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her."

George Washington

Mother's Day

Several thoughts came across my mind, when I sat to write this letter to the *Women's League Bulletin*. We have just celebrated the Mother's Day occasion in our own way, by having the "Mother's Day Lunch", with a view to generate some income for the League purposes. It was a very festive and healthy occasion, where we had the chance of meeting and sharing ideas and views. Above all, it was an occasion to remind ourselves of the essence of the Women's League and its social and cultural objectives. Many members and friends of the League joined us, and we were very happy to have with us former President of the League Mrs. Marianne Heath who was visiting Beirut.

Mother's Day is celebrated across the world, though on varying days of the calendar year. But what is more important than the date of the great event, is the feeling behind this occasion. It is a way of expressing tribute to mothers for the immense love and support they give, and to make them feel honored and give them gratitude for what they have done to their children and families. It has been said that the mother is the truest friend we have and gives peace and assurance to our hearts. Many things have been said about mothers, one of which is that there is no way to be a perfect mother, but a million ways to be a good one. Another is that when you are a mother, you are never really alone in your thoughts, as you have to think twice, once for yourself and once for your child. This is one way of her natural generosity.

Gibran Khalil Gibran, the leading Lebanese and world philosopher, said "Generosity is giving more than you can; pride is taking less than you need." This is really a theme that we try to abide by in the Women's League, in trying to generate some funds to help needy students at the American University of Beirut.

May God help us and bless our efforts.

Leila Ghantous

President

A valuable lecture entitled “Motif Origins in Caucasian Rugs”



Dr. Hadi Maktabi

The lecture given by Dr. Hadi Maktabi covered the origin of Caucasian motifs and designs from an art historical and cultural perspective. The history of famous carpet groups such as Dragon carpets was traced, and an analytical exposition covering the mythical and geographic origins of Caucasian rug types such as the Perepedil and Chelaberd was presented. The presentation was rounded off by a discussion of the famous Karabagh floral carpets which are the most demanded and rarest of Caucasian carpets. The author presented an in-depth historical overview complemented by an exclusive glance at Karabagh highlights from the Hassan Maktabi & Sons private collection of valuable antiques.

The Diversity of Rugs Explored

The rugs from any region of the world are a reflection of the heritage of that area, said Dr. Hadi Maktabi, an expert on rugs and carpets. The Women’s League at AUB organized the lecture, “Angles and Demons: Motif Origins in Caucasian Rugs”, on March 1, 2010, in which Maktabi highlighted the patterns and development of rugs in the Caucasus region. The rugs were distinguished for their straight lines and lack of any curves. The oldest known motif in the rugs is the dragon, a motif that bares Chinese influences. Often paired with a phoenix, the dragon symbolizes the emperor and his empress. Rugs depicting this motif were popular in the 14th and 15th centuries.

Dr. Hadi Maktabi earned his Ph.D. from Oxford University in 2007 in Islamic Arts. He has lectured in international conferences and museums in Washington DC, London, St. Petersburg, and Istanbul. He has published academic papers in several journals. Dr. Hadi Maktabi is a professor of CVSP at AUB.

Warm Welcome for the following New Members:

Alice Zenian	01 – 342 170
Nawal Takla	01 – 364 594 / 70 – 857 311
Huda Rofayin	01 – 740 392
Huda Abdul Baki	03 – 231 263
Siham Chuhaiber Harik	01 – 345 155 / 03 – 433 811
Salwa Shible	01 – 739 099 / 70 – 925 841

H. E. Tammam Salam writes his words about the women of the League in motherhood perspective are “*tamam*” and timely

[It is with pleasure that I contribute a few words to the Women's League Bulletin, especially after addressing the monthly meeting of the League in November 2009 on “Beirut’s cultural role in the Middle East”.

This occasion drew me closer to the very active and dynamic team of women headed by Leila Ghantous. Their commitment to the 90 year old league has certainly enriched its activities in strengthening the ties of AUB women and the rest of society.

The Women's League forum that has been sustained and developed to handle and champion matters of public importance and civic interest, falls directly within the declared mission statement of the American University of Beirut as “an institution of higher learning, founded to provide excellence in education, to participate in the advancement of knowledge through research, and to serve the peoples of the Middle East and beyond.”

I wish the Women's League members and President Leila Ghantous continuous success in promoting social activities that AUB and the Lebanese society will always need.

A common saying that behind every successful man there is a supportive woman has to be developed in our time to: “there is no successful society without the great support of women.”]

Tammam Salam

April’s Recipe: Apple cake

1 ½	Cup of Sugar	2	cups of flour
1	Cup of oil	3	eggs
1	tsp Soda	1	tsp Vanilla
1	tsp Cinnamon	1	tsp (nutmeg) jous alteeb
1/2	tsp (cloves) Kibsh Cronfol	1	cup of choppedwalnut
3	cups of sliced apples	1/4	tsp Vinegar
1	tsp Salt		

Heat oven to 275 degrees. Mix thoroughly oil, sugar , eggs and flavorings. Blend in flour salt, vinegar and sliced apples. Dough should be stiff. Cake red color and crispy.

CELEBRATING *MOTHER'S DAY*

On the 17th of March the WL members performed the celebration of the great day at Bain Militaire where they had their lunch. In this occasion, two of our ladies delivered a speech about the importance of the great day. The speakers were Mrs. Mona Takla and Mrs. Fairouz Baalbaki . Mrs. Mariame Heath past president came from Dubia to join us. There were 200 members and guests and all enjoyed the celebration. Mrs. Leila Ghantous heartedly welcomed all mothers and the guests.

WL members wish to thank Mrs. Jacqueline Kassis for organizing the whole event.



Mariame Heath surrounded with WL presidents



The gathering of the WL Mother's Day Lunch



Mrs. Mona Takla and her poem

It is because of her LOVE to all mothers, she writes articles and poems about mothers doing their best to arrange their conspicuous esthetics manifest within a frame like a portrait... she is MONA TAKLA.

Mona was married...became a wife...became a mother...and became a grandmother, but still refers to her mother when she is confronted with any crises...any menacing and malicious pains prays to the Virgin Mary in a true believer-like manner....in a very loud voice, she addresses her "Oh Mom!" ...in a true believer-like manner.

Mona believes that mothers are the real eternal light of thoughts...that they live and dwell in our hearts and that appears on her great day which commences on the 21st of March of each year.

In celebrating 2010 Mother's Day, Mona misses her mother...her kisses...her hugs...her beautiful face; particularly when her tears of love used to come down from the corners of her eyes to the corners of her mouth. Mona's love to her mother is really innate...it is so genuine.

Make Everyday A Mother's Day



Mrs. Fairouz Ba'albaki

On the occasion of Mother's Day, Mrs. Farouz Ba'aalbaki gave a lecture to the Women's League entitled "Make Everyday a Mother's Day" and following are the most important excerpts:

She wrote:

[I have been asking myself, when was the last time I called my ailing old mother in Amman? When was the last time I told her that I loved her? Even if all these things took place recently, I assert that it was barely enough to claim that I was satisfied with the way I reward my mother nowadays.

From personal experience, I then moved to a number of issues related to the very concept of motherhood. One of these is the linguistic relationship in Arabic mercy (rahma) and the womb (rahem). The same root in Arabic, I observed, is related to two of the ninety-nine Attributes of God, namely the merciful (Rahman) and the compassionate (Rahim). From the Christian faith, I drew on the role of virgin Mary as a mother figure revered by Christians and Moslems alike. Virgin Mary is the only woman mentioned in the holy Qur'an; also is mentioned 19 times and has a whole Chapter in her name where as the other women who were mentioned are referred to indirectly as the wife of so and so, etc.

I strongly suggest that the Mother's Day should be a daily activity which we practice, and not merely an occasion which we celebrate only to be soon submerged by mundane daily activities**]**.

[N. B. The above speeches were delivered in Arabic and later were translated into English by the Bulletin Editor].



April Birthday

- 1- Nadia Alameddine April, 28**
- 2- Maha Mardambey April, 7**

WL - FEBRUARY 2010 TRIP

As planned the destination was El-Jiyeh after the way was paved to pass by St. George Monastery for a short visit.

In El-Jiyeh, the first place to visit was Sayyedat Al-Nejmah Church which was followed by a visit to Makam Al-Nabi Younes. Then Dr. Azzi, the mayor of El-Jiyeh, received us in his office and offered us coffee ,he then kindly led the group to the top of the mountain to show them ancient Porphreon and the newly discovered caves which are not open for the public yet.

The WL members were very jubilant for they had an excellent cultural experience which was ended with an excellent lunch at Jiyeh Marina Resort.

In this occasion, WL-members wish to seize the opportunity to thank both Dr. Azzi and his wife for their hospitality and concern.

WL - SPRING TRIP

In this nice weather, our WL has determined to make a trip to the East of Beka'a Valley On the 14th. of April. All members are kindly asked to make their reservations through Jaqueline Kassis. Tel. No. 03-689357

Obituary

With sorrow and pain, Mrs. Shadia Rifa'ai lost her brother, Ibrahim Zalatimo, who passed away on March 20th in the UAE. May God have mercy on his soul and patience to his family.

From the Bulletin Editor Rihab Ouri wishing all WL members



Email: rouri46@gmail.com

Tel. No.: 71 /426108