February 2015

Women’s League Bulletin

IF YOU CANNOT DO GREAT THINGS, DO SMALL THINGS IN A GREAT WAY.

NAPOLEON HILL

WL Mission Statement

The WL is an organization of women from different nationalities. Its purpose is to promote a broad acquaintance, to socialize, learn and support one another, and establish a social network. Its wish is to secure a yearly scholarship fund for a disabled student.

Letter from the President

We are lucky this year to have a real winter weather with plenty of rain and snow engulfing the slopes of the high mountains. Hoping that this white color will reflect on our hearts and gives it serenity.

In February we celebrate “Valentines Day”. St. Valentine is a widely recognized Third Century Roman Saint commemorated on February 14 and associated since the High Middle Ages with a tradition of courtly love. The legend says that this Priest before he was beheaded while in prison, left a farewell note for the jailer’s daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it “From your Valentine”. Accordingly, this feast is observed as a symbol of love.

Another festivity in February is the Chinese New Year which will fall on February 19, 2015 and it is the year 4713. It is an important traditional Chinese holiday celebrated at the turn of the Chinese calendar. In China, it is also known as the Spring Festival. It is the year Goat now according to the Chinese traditions.

I would like to share this prayer by St. Francis of Assisi.

“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change.

The Courage to change the things I can.

And the Wisdom to know the difference.”

Lamia Kawar

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January Trip

On a bright sunny day two buses with around eighty passengers of Women’s League members and friends embarked towards the historic city of Byblos (Jbeil).

Our first stop was at the Wooden Bakery where the ladies had their breakfast of “mana’ish” cookies and coffee. Then we continued towards the Lebanese American University (LAU) Byblos campus. WE were received by Mrs. Caroline Mouawad who guided us in a tour around the premises.

LAU is a beautiful campus at Blat overlooking Byblos. It was officially inaugurated in 1992 and is six times larger than the Beirut campus. It is composed of fourteen buildings so far and hosting seven schools. The most recent of these buildings is the Gilbert & Rose Mary Chaghouri Health Science Center for medicine, pharmacy, and nursing programs.

At LAU cafeteria we had a cup of coffee, thanked Mrs. Mouawad, and continued towards Rihane. There we visited the olive oil and carob molasses press owned by Mr. Ramzi Nazih Mouawad. The ladies bought their need of olive oil and the freshly pressed molasses. It is said that carob molasses contain beneficial nutrients like vitamin A, iron, calcium and 80% protein.

By 2:30pm it was time for lunch at Puncho restaurant in Amchit- a coastal town in mount Lebanon, north of Byblos. Lunch was a variety of Lebanese maze and fresh fried fish which I hope everybody enjoyed.

Last but not least, the ladies were anxious to see the impressive Christmas decorations inside Byblos which were inaugurated in November, 2014 by the Municipality of Byblos under the patronage of Byblos Bank.

The sight was really amazing: The tree was 30- meter high covered with gold-colored iron leaves. There were lighted angels and nativity scenes. Even the surrounding buildings were decorated which gave the city a cheerful Christmas spirit. Byblos decorations were chosen by the Wall Street Journal the best around the world.

The Women’s League would like to congratulate President Ziad Hawat and members of the municipal council for their effort and good work and wish them further development and prosperity for many years to come.

Suad Khoury

Program Chairperson and Board Member
**Lecture of the Month of January 2015**

Our speaker on January 5, 2015 was Mrs. Sarah Beydoun (Founder of Sarah Bags). She was born and raised in Lebanon. After studying Sociology at the American University of Beirut, she earned her Masters Degree from St. Joseph University. Her Thesis was about Prostitution in Lebanon. She got a permission to enter all the women prisons from the Ministry of Justice with help of: دار الأمل “who work with women in prisons. She got the idea of making the prisoners engage themselves in doing some work, so she decided to give them materials such as canvas to do crochet and embroideries to earn money in return which is badly needed. Then she would transform their work into bags. She opened her first Atelier in the quarter of “فيسقس” “Kaskas” in Beirut in a garage in 2000. After three years she opened her Shop in “جميلة”

Now she employs 200 women (50 are still in prison, the others are ex-prisoners who now live in their villages and work in their houses).

Sarah’s Bags, are now a famous brand name with 22 shops around the world, which sell these bags. The first shop was opened in 2009 in Paris. Her bags were worn by several local and international celebrities, such as Queen Rana of Jordan, Catherine Deneuve, Amal Alameddine (on her wedding to George Clooney) and the Lebanese Director and Actress Nadine Labaki. The price of the Bags range from $55 to $650.

Mrs. Sarah Beydoun is one of the 30 ladies in the Arab World.
With deep sorrow, we announce the passing away of Mrs. Salwa Kawar Azzam, a previous member of the Women’s League. She was the sister of our President Ms. Lamia Kawar, and the mother of our Treasurer Mrs. Nina Azzam Habayeb. We convey to them and to their families our deepest condolences.

Our February Trip will be held on February 11, 2015 to Saida. We will visit “جمعية أهلنا” then to “Debbaneh Palace” in the old Souks, then to the “Verre Soufflé Factory in Sarafand. Our lunch will be at “خليزان” (a Fish Restaurant). The fee for the trip is $50.-

Our Mother’s Day Lunch is going to be at “L’Eau de Vie” Restaurant at the Phoenicia Hotel on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 1,00 p.m.

Our March General Meeting will be on March 2nd. Our Speaker is going to be Mrs. Elham Kallab Bsat.

YWCA has a training program and other activities, if you are interested call them at this number 01/ 367750 - ext.: 104

Hope to see all the members and their friends attend all these activities.

Leila Zacco Alameddine

Editor of the Bulletin

In gratitude to all the Board Members for their efforts during 2014, Ms. Kawar presented them with a small favor with the logo of the WL wishing them a Happy New Year.