Women's League Bulletin

All I am or ever hope to be I owe to my Angel Mother
Abraham Lincoln

March 2014

Letter from the President

In March there are two main occasions, the beginning of Spring and Mother's Day. This year our Winter in Lebanon was more a Spring Season and not Winter, we had warm weather, sunny, no rain and no snow. It is bad for we will not have water this summer and all what derives from lack of water. The weather was very pleasant but not for winter.

For Mother's Day on the 21st of March which is observed at the first day of spring, I am going to quote a passage in Arabic, which clearly resembles motherly love.

Qal mamlul hadh tahditha glasses: fa'ad aminy bihafsa an tawab al-jannah fa inadh

... in the garden the teacher and me one of the groceries in front of planting time... teacher... teacher...

Ghazias: Atsikr minha? min in amin... teacher... teacher... teacher...

Hwa tawab min an tawab... semi... then we... teacher... teacher...

I am sorry to put it down in Arabic, for if translated it would lose its effect.

"The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness - Honor de Balzac"

Wish you all a very Happy Mother’s Day.

Lamia Kawai

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Trip to Batroun and Arnaoun Village
on Wednesday February 19, 2014

On a gorgeous sunny day in February, one of the driest in decades, we embarked on another trip to the North; this time to the coastal city of Batroun. The city derives its name from Le Batroun by the Crusaders and "Botrys" by the Greeks (i.e., Bunch of grapes where vineyards widely prevailed). Batroun is also Phoenician for ‘Batr’ (to cut) or the place where the chief resides. An amazing natural sea wall (225 meters long) dominates the landscape as the result of a gigantic quarry protecting the town from tidal waves; one that has endured the test of times!

Batroun is one of the oldest cities in the world. It is situated about 50 km north of Beirut and 30 km south of Tripoli. Besides being a seaside fishing resort, Batroun owes its charm to its old sandstone architecture that is visible in the city's old attractive churches and the recently renovated old souk. Old cobblestone roads cut across town where charming old stone houses with beautiful wooden doors stand.

We visited a number of churches, most notably were the St. Stephan’s Maronite Cathedral and St George’s Greek Orthodox Church; both known for their Roman Byzantine design. The remains of a Roman amphitheater now stand in the garden of a private house. Batroun with its natural circular bay, the outcome of a major earthquake that hit it in 551 AD, has become Lebanon's new ‘rising star’ with its new restaurants, cafés and vibrant nightlife. Citrus groves surrounding Batroun contributed to its famous fresh lemonade that was deliciously sampled by most of us.

The highlight of the trip was a visit to the 300 year old village of Arnaoun, which stands on a hilltop overlooking the historic Mousaylaha Fort (Arabic for fortified) along the Batroun highway. It is privately owned by a family that revived its old buildings and beautified its landscape. Added to the landscape, stands a charming and quaint old house used for lodging, especially for honeymooners. A small pond with a bridge is nestled in the center of the property. It is an ideal place for special events, family outings and a host of activities.

A sumptuous meal with a matching delicious desert was enjoyed by all at the lodge. The generosity and hospitality of the owners was well appreciated by the guests.

Needless to say, the place provided the perfect backdrop for the zealous photographers in the group who competed for the best poses to boast on ‘facebook’!

Written by Randa Theodory

"كم اخطأت فسماحتي وكم غبت فسأت عنني، وكم نمت وهي ساجدة تدعوا الي. اللهم ان كان من
يعشق أن تغفر له قبل أن تأتيها "أمّ""
A short Story

Bob Butler lost his two legs in 1965 by land mine explosion in Vietnam. He returned home a war hero. Twenty years later he proved once again heroism comes from the heart.

Butler was working in his garage in a small town in Arizona on a hot summer day when he heard screams coming from a house nearby. He rolled his wheelchair toward the house, but the dense shrubbery wouldn’t allow him access to the back door. So the Veteran got out of his chair and crawled through the dirt and bushes. When Butler arrived at the house, he connected the screams to the pool, where a three year old girl was lying at the bottom. She had been born without arms, and had fallen in the water and couldn’t swim. Her mother stood over her body screaming frantically. Butler dove to the bottom of the pool and brought little Stephanie up to the deck, her face was blue and no pulse, and she was not breathing. Butlter immediately went to work performing CPR to revive her, while the mother telephoned the fire department. She was told the paramedics were on the way, helplessly she sobbed. As Butler continued with CPR, he calmly reassured Stephanie’s mother: Don’t worry he said, I was her arm to get her out of the pool, I am now her lungs together, we can make it. Seconds later, the little girl coughed, regained consciousness, and began to cry. As they hugged and rejoiced together, the mother asked Butler, how he knew it would be okay? He answered, When my legs were blown off in the war, I was all lone in the field, no on was there to help a little Vietnamese girl, As she struggled to drag me into her village, she in broken English, told me, its okay you can live, I will be your legs, together we can make it. This was my chance, he told Stephanie’s Mother to return the favor.

From Nahiba Younes

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A Poem

**Touch My Heart**

Touch My Heart with Tenderness
And fill my cup with Love
Share my dreams as I share yours
And we’ll reach the stars above
Take my hand as I grow old
And lead me when I’m blind
I’ll show you that I really care
Good friends are hard to find
Touch my life and I’ll touch yours
A little more each day
And we can both find happiness
Somewhere along the way.

(Author unknown)

From Suad Khoury
Recipe of the Month

3 cups of flour - 1 cup of Mazola Oil - 1 cup of Molasses (ديس)
1/4 Cup of sugar - 1/2 cup of water - 1 tablespoon of bicarbonate Soda
1 table spoon of Crushed Anis - 1/2 table spoon of grated lemon - Spray the pan with tahineh - Bake for 25-30 minutes at 350 o C. -Spray the top with Sesame Seed

Miscellaneous News

- On March 19, 2014, we will have our Mother’s Day Lunch at the Coral Beach Hotel at 1.00 p.m. and the fee is $ 60.

- We would like to congratulate our Program Chairperson on becoming a grandmother for the 6th time, now her daughter Ascile has a new baby boy KAYAN - Mabrouk

- Our condolences go to our President Ms. Lamia Kawar for loosing her sister in law and her aunt, in the same week. God Bless their Souls.