



Women's League Bulletin

Letter from the President

COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

***"Education is a debt due from the present to the future generations."
- George Peabody***

Since its inception, the Women's League had a visible bend on education. Undoubtedly, this was influenced by the fact that the League has been associated with a great educational institution, the American University of Beirut. With this solid background, it came with the idea of a fund for needy students at the University, which is annually announced at the Garden Party held at Marquand House to celebrate the end-year program of activities. This is assumed with the understanding that the League is committed to contribute in the present debt to future generations.

The Women's League has developed over the years various income-generating activities to provide financing for the scholarship fund. Amongst these activities, is the monthly trips organized to various historical and cultural sites in Lebanon. This with the purpose of introducing the League members, particularly the non-Lebanese members, to those places and allowing them to gain an idea of their significance and the place they occupy in the regional and international scene. Another source of income which is assuming a growing importance is the lunches organized on special occasions, like the Christmas lunch and the Mother's Day lunch, which serve the purpose of bringing together the members of the League and their friends in a social function that has both special remembrance and a wide appeal. Usually a speaker is invited to address the audience on a relevant theme that relates to the objectives of the League. Of course, this is in addition to the membership fees in the League which are nominal, but remain a symbolic attachment to a social association that is growing in importance and visibility.

We still have a few months to go before celebrating this year's annual Garden Party on the 7th of June, and this should give us the chance to increase our income for 2011 which will go to the educational fund of the League. Already the amount of the scholarship has increased from year to year, depending on the efforts exerted by the League as a whole and its members. It reached a top figure of USD 10,500 in 2010. We feel that this year we will reach a higher target that will bring further prestige and pride to the League, as it is approaching its Centennial.

Wishing you all a happy and prosperous year

Leila Ghantous
President

The 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. Its goal is to secure
a yearly scholarship fund
for a disabled student at AUB.*

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Happy
Valentine's
Day!



Saint Valentine's Day (commonly shortened to Valentine's Day) is an annual commemoration held on February 14 celebrating love and affection between companions. The day is named after one or more early Christian martyrs named Valentine and was established by Pope Gelasius I in 500 AD. It was deleted from the Roman calendar of saints in 1969 by Pope Paul VI, but its religious observance is still permitted. It is traditionally a day on which lovers express their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines"). The day first became associated with romantic love in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished.

Modern Valentine's Day symbols include the heart-shaped Cupid



We have 3 stages of life...

Teen age

Have Time + Energy ... but No Money

Working Age

Have Money + Energy ... but No Time

Old age

Have Time + Money ... but no Energy

Victims of “Honor” and Other Crimes, by Nazik Saba Yared



Mrs. Nazek Yared lecturing the WL

The United Nations Assembly adopted the convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The aim of this convention is to guarantee women’s rights to life, health, and freedom from discrimination, security of person, right to liberty, privacy, information, the right to be free from violence, reproduction rights and the right to freedom of thought and religion.

In her speech, Mrs. Yared concentrated on three rights, namely: a woman’s right to life, right to security and the right to be free from violence. According to Mrs. Yared these rights are related to other rights such as freedom of thought and religion or the right to liberty, among many others.

A Lebanese NGO, KAFA, is specialized in studying, analyzing and helping and protecting women victims of violence and incest. Equally important, Mrs. Yared discussed “honor crimes, in which the life of the woman victim is terminated. The death crimes are committed against adult woman and girls”. In order to erase a shame they were believed to have brought on their male relatives because they did not abide by the laws imposed on them as woman. Unfortunately, the so called honor crimes still exist in Lebanon.

“Honor” crimes are associated to low socio-economic status, however, a minority with a high income also commit “honor” crimes. Mrs. Yared concluded that whether it is ignorance or poverty that instigates the “honor” crimes, these crimes should come to a complete stop.

A big “thank you” to Mrs. Yared for the insightful speech she delivered.

Messages from USA to WL members

A message received from our friends Susan Nicholson and Charlotte Andrews

Quote

“Greetings and Merry Christmas. We would like to convey our thanks to the Women's League for the warmth and hospitality extended to us during our stay in Beirut. Meeting League members soon after we arrived in October made a big difference in our feeling welcomed and at home in Beirut. And special thanks to the interesting and well-organized trips are a highlight of our time in Beirut. Thank you all for your hospitality, and we won't forget meeting any of you.

Susan Nicholson and Charlotte Andrews”

Unquote

Another message received from WCI

Quote

“On behalf of Welcome Clubs International, I want to thank you for renewing your membership for the year 2010-2011. I have received a check for the \$50.00 dues from Julia Nasr.

We are pleased to have Women's League of Beirut as one of our sister clubs. We are looking forward to hearing about your League's activities. We also hope to share some time with your members at our conference in Denver, Colorado in June of 2012. Thank you and I look forward to meeting you.

in Friendship
Nancy Carpenter
WCI Treasurer”

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