



# Women's League Bulletin

## Letter from the 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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*A snow year, a rich year.* -- George Herbert

Our traditional Christmas Lunch was indeed a festive occasion. It embraced a large number of members of the League and their friends. It was a privilege to have among our prominent guests Dr. Peter Dorman, President of the American University of Beirut and Mrs. Dorman, State Minister Mrs. Mona Efeiche, and Mrs. Leila Solh Hamadeh Vice-President of Al-Waleed Ben Talal Humanitarian Foundation, and the Ambassador of Japan Mr. Koichi Kawakami. The Program included speeches that highlighted the importance of this event and the efforts which the Women's League has been exerting this year to expand its activities. All this was with the Christmas melodies performed by Dr. Sami Kawas on his keyboard.

To appreciate their efforts, the members of the Executive Board were each given the emblem of the League specially designed for the occasion. The lottery was an attractive part of the lunch, and included valuable presents offered by a wide range of business companies, which reflects the appreciation that the Women's League has already attained. Last but not least thanks should go to the Executive board, with special thanks to Mrs. Jacqueline Kassis, the Event Organizer, for the exceptional efforts that she had done to make the lunch a success.

It was fortunate that our lunch coincided with the beginning of the snow season, which crowned the Lebanese mountains with a majestic white robe. It is said that a snow year is a rich year. We anticipate that the year 2011 will be rich and more eventful for The Women's League than the previous one, and this calls on all members to join hands and make efforts to achieve further the objectives of the League and enhance its social status.

In closing, I extend to all members, friends and all those supporting the League best wishes for a Happy New Year 2011.

Leila Ghantous,  
President

# *WL Annual Christmas Lunch 2010*

## **A report by the editor**

December is a sacred month and Christmas is a holy feast which bears the meaning of love and joy. These exact feelings were the embodiment of the Christmas annual lunch that took place on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at Le Bristol Hotel in Ras Beirut. Around two hundred and forty ladies were present including both members and their friends. Among them were Dr. Peter Dorman, president of the American University of Beirut, Mrs. Dorman, State Minister, Mrs. Mona Efeiche, Mrs. Leila Solh Hamadeh, vice-president of Al-Waleed Ben Talal Humanitarian Foundation and the ambassador of Japan Mr. Koichi Kawakami. The program included insightful speeches that captured the attention of all those present. Equally important, the ladies were enchanted with Dr. Sami Kawas and the breath taking music he performed on his keyboard.

The ladies enjoyed the Christmas carols and the delightful meal while toasting their old friends, whom they have not seen for a long time.

Then, it was time for the lottery which comprised of exquisite gifts donated by various sponsors. The lottery enabled each lady to win at least one present. To spice things up furthermore, Mrs. Leila Ghantous surprised the board members by awarding each an emblem. On behalf of the board members I would like to thank Mrs. Leila Ghantous for her sincere and genuine feelings and for the emblems. She was most certainly able to draw a smile on all our faces.

The ladies parted on a happy note, wishing each other a merry Christmas, a happy new year and thanking the board members for the lovely time they had.



The board members proudly showing off their emblems



The guests surrounded by WL former

## *November Lecture at The General Assembly at AUB*

### **Alissar Caracalla visits Women's League**

Through dance "You can help the others less fortunate by engaging in foundations and fund raising events," said Alissar Caracalla, founder and director of the Orientalist Dance Company and the Caracalla School of Dance.

A dancer and choreographer, Caracalla was addressing the November 8, 2010 meeting of the American University of Beirut Women's League, one of the monthly meetings designed to provide "exchange of culture [among] ladies of many nationalities," according to Women's League President Leila Ghantous.



*Caracalla considers dance "a shaping part of culture"*

Caracalla, guest speaker of the month, who considers dance "a shaping part of culture," revealed how as a student studying abroad, she came to the conclusion that her place was in Lebanon" with the company her father founded in 1968, the Caracalla Dance Theater.



Caracalla recounted briefly the history of the Caracalla Dance Theater, giving credit to her father, a "pioneer and visionary man," for what the Caracalla Theater has become today; his "genius mind," she said, "created something magical." The first ballet, "Today, Tomorrow, and yesterday, was performed in 1968, after which the Caracalla Dance Theater reached many parts of the world. Every two years Caracalla would create a new masterpiece, and the roles of my

brother Ivan and I (sic) became more important in the company." Alissar Caracalla described the process of putting together a masterpiece as being like "Creating a fear, having a baby falling in love with your creation, breaking up, then making up." Caracalla said she was proud of the effect the company was having on people all around the world.

Her own dance school, *L'art de la danse*, having begun with 50 students, ended up with over two thousand. The students, age five and above, are taught the liberating art of all genres of dance to expose them to various types of dancing in order to enable them to find themselves, she said



## *Thanking All Members and Guests*

I would like to thank all WL members and their guests for making the Christmas lunch a success. To say the least, the Christmas lunch was well worth your time and your presence. On behalf of the board members, I wish to express my thanks and appreciation for your cooperation and effort. Also, special thanks for the ladies who brought valuable gifts for the lottery which in turn made everybody happy.

## *Reminder*

At November and December meetings, one hundred and six (106) ladies registered and became members of the league. Several more will be joining WL this coming January. Registration fees have not changed. A charge of 40,000 L.L. is required in order to join the League. In February bulletin a list of the names of old and new members will be listed as well as their telephone numbers and e-mail addresses.

## *January 2011 Trip*

The monthly trip will be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January, 2011. Our destination will be Amchit . As usual, there will be a bus stop for the ladies to rest, stretch out, and have a snack / coffee. The trip includes a visit to the Patriark place, a Phoenician cave, and a visit to the house of Ernest Renault. Lunch will take place at Faras Al- Bahar, a restaurant well known for its mouth watering seafood dishes.

Make early reservations ladies... An exciting trip awaits you!!!

&  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
To All

Editor of the Bulletin  
Rihab Ouri