



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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"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our soul blossom."

Marcel Proust

A Festive Month for Women

Unlike other months, March seems to be a festive month for women. It embraces a number of significant dates marked for honoring women in most countries of the world. The Mother's Day is celebrated on the 21st of March, which coincides with the beginning of the Spring Season. This Day has turned into a festive event, in which people exchange greeting cards, flowers as well as visits especially to honor and pay respect to mothers.

The International Women's Day is celebrated on the 8th of March. On this occasion, women all over the world try to uphold the role of women in society. In this respect, women endeavor to have their rights recognized, and assume a more influential role in building up the social infrastructure and promoting a more cooperative life for development and growth.

Moreover, in March preparations for the Christian Easter Feast start, and this in itself generates a fever for social activity and religious sermons, where people meet and exchange wishes for this holy occasion. Easter cakes are prepared by ladies at home, and this revives old traditions and brings happiness and enjoyment to all people.

Best wishes to all.

Leila Ghantous

Announcement

1- Mother's Day Lunch is going to be held on Friday, March 18, 2011 at 1: 00 pm in Rotana - Geffinor during which WL is preparing a surprise. Hope to see you there.

2- Our next trip will be Wednesday April, 13 to Tripoli.

WL Educational Trip of February 2011

On a very rainy morning, two buses embarked on a trip that included two universities and an orphanage. The objective of the trip was to visit Hariri Canadian University (HCU) that is located on a beautifully manicured lawn in Meshref. The university is modeled after the Canadian University which is ten years old with branches in Tripoli and Bekaa' serving 8,000 students. The university “strives to offer quality affordable education to all Lebanese” according to Vice-President Dr. Hisham Kobressly who greeted us warmly. Its motto is “Freedom to Excel”. In 1999 HCU pioneered its COOP program in Lebanon in collaboration with Canadian Higher Educational Institutions. The university consists of 3 schools: Business Administration, Engineering, and Technology.

Our second stop was at Beirut Arab University in Dibiyeh where we were welcomed by Pr , Dr. Zina Ariss. The university has 3 schools: Engineering, Architecture and Science. This university along with other branches serve 10,000 students. The university premise occupies a vast green land including hills, and valleys. We visited a huge indoor sports center (Stadium) that can seat around 1000 persons, and plans are underway to build a basketball play-ground as well. We also visited their very modern lab facilities. Our visit at the university ended with a wonderful breakfast buffet that included hot 'sahlab' to warm us up on that cold and wet day.

Our last stop before lunch was at a center for taking care of the orphans in Saida. The center takes care of around 1,000 needy children whether from dysfunctional and/or poor families. We were very impressed with the high organization and efficiency of the center. They offer schooling (elementary and technical), boarding (3 children per room), and training for teachers. They have social workers and specialists for learning disabilities. They are very self sufficient, in the sense that they have workshops for sewing the children's clothes, and a bakery to make their own bread. The centers relies on donations and try to invest their money in rentals.

Like all trips, our final destination was a bountiful lunch of fish and appetizers in Khaizaran, by the sea.

Randa Theodory



The picture above has been taken during the February, 2011 trip made to Meshref and Dibbeyeh .

Tea in Washington DC at the House of the Finish Ambassador

Welcome to Washington International Club History and Culture group of all Nations

Mrs. Laurel Colless, wife of the ambassador from Finland to USA kindly invited us to her residence located at 3001 Woodland Drive, Washington DC 20008 on the 22nd of February, 2011 at 3:00 pm for a program on the art, history and culture of Finland to be followed by a Finish Tea.

Mary Clark, the chairman of the group began the meeting by introducing Mrs. Colless thanking her for her invitation. She then recognized President of W and W Margaret Dudas, former Presidents Kay Wickersham and Joan Chase. She also introduced Mrs. Rihab Ouri, a guest from Beirut who is the editor and Liaison of the Women's League whose president is Mrs. Leila Ghantous.

Mrs. Colless, a charming and most hospitable lady gave us a tour of the history and art collection at her beautiful residence, along with the history and culture of Finland. Following the tour, she invited us to taste the delicious Finish refreshments and deserts; a real gourmet. She spent a long hour socializing and talking to everyone about her experiences, particularly when she meets some of us coming from Lebanon. She said that she had heard so much about beautiful Lebanon and she hopes to visit it when they move to Greece next year.

I was so happy for having Rihab in DC and that I was able to invite her to attend the meeting. She spoke with so many of the members, especially exchanging experiences with the President Margaret Dudas and the Liaison Fay Wickersham who lived with her husband for 3 years in Beirut during late 1970. Speaking with you Rihab, Fay said," brought back so many memories of Beirut. Someday my husband and I hope to return for a long-awaited visit. Having you as a guide would be a joy. Meanwhile, we will content ourselves by seeing you on your visits to see your family in Washington"

Aida Makdisi Armali
WCI Regional Membership Chair
Lebanon & The Middle East



Mrs. Colless embracing Aida Armaly and Rihab Ouri



From right Fay Wickersham, Ullah Sabbagh, Aida Armaly, Margaret Dudas, Rihab Ouri and former president of WL Alice Fakhri

**Mother carries her child in her womb for nine months
and
in her heart for the rest of her life.**



Mother's Day is celebrated in various months in many parts of the world, most commonly in March, April or May.

These few words sum up the meaning and significance of the word Mother. Mother is undoubtedly the most beautiful and lovable word in any language. It shows the importance of mothers in our lives. Mother stands for millions of things she gives to her children; it also stands for sacrifices, pain, grief and sorrows which she has to undergo to keep her children happy and secure. No joy can match the joy of a mother looking at her child, those craving eyes deeper than the ocean. The most important woman in an individual's life is her/his mother.

A mother's presence affects the entire life of her children and she can't be replaced by anyone. Celebrated every year, Mother's Day is an occasion when children express their love and respect to their mother. A mom should be pampered all year round and perhaps a little bit more on mother's day. To be honest, one can never repay a mother.

Congratulations from WL members to Suad Dirani for her newly published book



IYEM KENNA ZGHAR

The book is in Arabic written by Suad Freiji Dirani, a graduate from BUC with a B. A. degree in 1953. It describes the style of life in Baalbeck about 90 years ago. It is a nostalgia for the elderly and history for the young generation. It includes cute short stories exploring what tools and utensils used in those days with 68 pictures. We might call it a document or a reference book.

The book is on sale at Librairie Orientale, Librairie Antoine, and Bissane Library.

Suad Dirani signing her book

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