



# Women's League Bulletin

## Letter from the President

### *The WL Vision and 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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Praise the bridge that carried you over  
George Colman

### A Word of Thanks and Appreciation

In the last Newsletter, I expressed our thanks and gratitude to AUB for giving the Women's League a very significant and helpful support, of which we are proud and keen to keep and enhance through more creative work and activities. I feel the need, in this last Newsletter for this year, of expressing my thanks and appreciation to all members of the League for their active role in serving the objectives of the League and enriching its social outlook, without which we would not have been able to reach the status that we are in.

I must confess that having worked in the Women's League over the last decade, in various positions, I have gained a lot from this association and this has given me the chance to learn a great deal of how to deal with social problems and serve best other people and be creative and cooperative with them. Of course this could not have been possible without the help of all the members of the League. It is not possible to mention every one of them. They are too many for that, but I can be somewhat selective as there is always some other members behind each one I cooperated with. In terms of functions of the League, I have always leaned to the wisdom and advice of former Presidents of the League, notably those who I could reach, Suad Shehadeh, Elizabeth Yared, Lilo Maasri, Ellen Eid, Nabiha Younis, Nadia Alamuddin, Marianne Heath and Christel Bikhazi. As to cultural and social activities, including general meetings, trips, gatherings and financial matters, I mention with great appreciation the efforts of Suad El Hoss, Lilo Maasri, Salwa Damiani, Dina Solh, Khouloud Karaki, Rajiha Saghir, Lamia Kawar, Jacqueline Kassis, Hasna Barakat, Samia Beydoun, not forgetting Rihab Ouri the editor of the Bulletin for the last three years.

With that, we come to the crowning of our activities, the end-year program which will take place at Marquand House Garden on 6 June 2011.

Leila Ghantous

## WL Grows Concern Towards AUB Handicapped Students

In the past, the Women's League had the tradition of helping certain societies by donating whatever money remaining by the end of each year. WL resources have always been coming only from membership fees, trips, Christmas activities and Mother's Day celebration.

Then, a valuable suggestion was given by the WL President 1997-1999 Mrs. Nabiha Younis. In her term as president coincided with the "Year of the Handicapped". She suggested establishing a fund for the benefit of handicapped students. The suggestion was relayed to Dr. John Waterbury (AUB President at the time) that the League establishes a scholarship fund for the benefit of handicapped students at AUB. He applauded the idea and the League continued to contribute substantially to this fund ever since, thanks to the enthusiastic support of all The WL members.

Below is the amount given to four students with different majors Bus. Adm., Economics, Computer Sc. and Mechanical Engineering list who received the Women's League's scholarship since the fund's inception to date:

Academic year	Total Amount
1999	\$1,500.00
2000	\$2,000.00
2001	\$2,000.00
2002	\$2,500.00
2003	\$2,800.00
2004	\$4,300.00
2005	\$6,000.00
2006	\$5,100.00
2007	\$5,000.00
2008	\$5,000.00
2009	\$5,500.00
2010	\$10,500.00

### *A word from the Editor*

#### **Moving from one activity to another is like moving from a challenge to another.**

My first assignment granted to me by the Women's League board members was by appointing me as the editor of the WL-Bulletin. Such an appointment did not only give me pride and honor but also a responsibility with a vivid vision for a vivid mission for almost three years to end in May 2011.

This issue is my last commitment to the bulletin but my commitment to the league is endless and continuous.

I trust I did my best to render my sincere services. Our bulletin currently appears on the AUB web site, has its own archive in AUB Jafet Library as well as having a location in the web site of the U.S. based "Welcome Club International".

In reality, I am looking forward to meet the new challenge of being the "Program Chairperson" and hoping to perform my future duties professionally to the satisfaction of all WL – members. Being the editor has been a journey and I have enjoyed the ride!!!

Wishing all members a happy Easter...peace...forgiveness...and love.

## **April 2011 Trip to Tripoli**

A trip to the city of Tripoli in northern Lebanon was organized for the members of the League and their friends on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 by Mrs. Jaqueline Kassis, the trip chairperson. This trip aroused great interest in around 90 ladies, which required the presence of two buses.

Upon arrival to Tripoli, the ladies were warmly received and welcomed by Mrs. Jinan Mbayed Skaff of Azm & Saade Association which is located in Bab El Ramel. The founders Taha and Najib Mikati named the association after their parents Azmi Taha Mikati and Souad Abdallah Ghandour honoring them in 1988.

Mrs. Skaff invited the ladies to a rich and fancy breakfast, then took them to a tour in the building where we had the chance to meet the handicapped and the blind who are good at making different shapes of soaps, candles and sewing stuff. All the ladies made it a point to buy their products for encouragement. One of the blinds played violin and sang for Fairuz and his performance was fantastic.

Mrs. Skaff showed us also Al Hammam Al Jadid which is by far the largest bath in the city of Tripoli and which was built between 1722 and 1730 by Ibrahim Pacha, the Ottoman governor of the city, on the remains of a Mamaluke building, and was called the New bath. The dome with pierced glass covered openings, bringing light to the interior. In the Southern wall of Al Hammam, there is a Mamaluke fountain.

The next move was made towards Nawfal Palace (Rachid Karame Cultural Center) which was built in 1898 for the Nawfal family. It became a municipality cultural center in 1970 and now it is used for hosting seminars and some exhibitions. Then we proceeded to Bkeftine Monastery, which took 100 years to build it [1750-1850] which included schools and universities.

- 1- In 1780 the first university in Lebanon the “Bkeftine University for Law,” was founded. It is worth mentioning that Mr. Abdel Hamid Karameh, Mr. Suleiman Freinjeih and Sheikh Rachid Rida and other important personalities graduated from the said university as lawyers.
- 2- A school for the Village
- 3- Wahat Al Farah founded for students with special needs.

In 1978, during the civil war, the whole monastery was stolen and a Polish group will try to renovate it. At the end of the journey the ladies enjoyed their lunch at Al Chate’ al Feddi at Al Mina.

## **May 25<sup>th</sup>. 2011 Trip**

The trip is planned and organized by Mrs. Jaquelin Kassis for the Women’s League and their friends. The destination is Al Beka’ Al- Gharbi passing through Chtoura – German School Schneller to have breakfast.

A stop at AL-BERKEH on AL-LITANI river, one would be able to tour AL-BERKEH by boat. Then, we will visit the monastery of Sayedet AL Jawzeh. Lunch will be served at the Sabeh Al- Ouyun between the green fields. The afternoon coffee will be at Massaya.

NB: The last day for cancelling the reservation for the trip is on Saturday May 21, 2011.

**For reservation please contact Rihab Ouri: 71-426108 .**

# Words of Wisdom

- Free your heart from hate
- Free your mind from worry
  - Live simple
  - Give more
  - Expect less

## Thanks a Million, Mrs. Heath

Mrs. Marianne Heath, former president of The Women's League, visited Beirut for a few days. On that occasion, she invited some of her friends of the League for lunch at Crown Plaza Hotel, in Hamra Ras Beirut. Many memories were shared over lunch, and it was indeed a very friendly and memorable occasion.

We all express our thanks to Mrs. Heath for her sincere attachment to the League and appreciate her thoughtfulness and friendship.



Mrs. Heath surrounded with WL Ladies

### Condolences

With regret WL announces the death of our beloved ones:

- The mother of Christel Bikhazi who died in Germany.
- Samir Hisn, husband of Amal Zakka Hisn. The late Samir is survived by his wife and two sons.
- The brother of Ghareed Sabah. Ghareed will be receiving condolences on Friday May 6, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m.



Happy  
Easter



Editor of the Bulletin  
Rihab Ouri