



October 2011

Women's League Bulletin

Letter from the President of the Women's League

WL Mission Statement

The WL is an organization of women from different nationalities. Its purpose is to promote a broad acquaintance, to socialize, learn and support one another, and establish social network. Its goal is to secure a yearly scholarship fund for a disabled student at AUB.

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"The only way to have a friend is to become a friend yourself!"

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

Dear Fellow Members,

This is my first letter to you as president of the Women's League and it is a good occasion for me to address you all.

In the beginning of our fall season I welcome you all and hope the summer months have given you pleasant moments and relaxation and that now you have come back refreshed and full of energy and ready to go again.

I have an impression that very few ladies know about the history and meaning of the Women's League.

The League was founded in the year 1919 by faculty housewives of the American University of Beirut. Its purpose is to promote a broad acquaintance among women of all nationalities, which I hope will develop later into friendship. We offer programs on educational and cultural subjects as well as recreational events.

We meet the first Monday of the month from October to June and I take this opportunity to thank the President of the American University of Beirut for offering us the premises and facilities of the university for our meetings.

Our objective this year is to increase the number of our present members and we actually need your help to reach this goal. Do try to invite a friend to attend our meetings and talk to others about the League to create more interest and awareness of the League in your community. All women who are interested in the aims of the League and are able to understand English are invited to join it.

I would like to thank here the members of the out-going executive board and their president Mrs. Leila Ghantous for their excellent work in the past two years, and I am depending on the support, cooperation and on the help of the members of the new executive board members for a successful year.

I am confident that the League will continue in the coming years with the same determination but this can only be achieved with the sincere assistance and support of all its members.

Salwa Damiani

President

Executive Board Members for 2011-2013

President	Mrs. Salwa Damiani
Vice President	Mrs. Leila Alamaddine
Secretary	Mrs. Ellen Eid
Treasurer	Mrs. Suad Khoury
Program Chairperson	Mrs. Rihab Ouri
Trip Chairperson	Mrs. Leila Haddad
Editor of the Bulletin	Miss Arminée Choukassizian
Hospitality Chairperson	Mrs. Zeina Arab
Representative to the Lebanese Women's Council	Mrs. Salwa Maasri
Parliamentarian	Mrs. Lilo Maasri

Calendar for General Meetings at Bathish Auditorium, West Hall, AUB during 2011-2022. The general meeting takes place on the first Monday of the month at 3:30 p.m. unless it coincides with a national holiday.

Monday October 03, 2011

Monday November 14, 2011 instead of November 7, 2011 (Eid al Adha)

Monday December 12, 2011 instead of 05, 2011 (Ashoura)

Monday January 02, 2012

Monday February 13, 2012 instead of February 06, 2012

Monday March 04, 2012

Monday April 02, 2012

Monday May 07, 2012

Monday June 04 2012 at 5:30 p.m. June party at Marquand House

Trip to Cana (al-Jalil) on Wednesday 12 October 2011

Meet at 8:00 a.m. near Fuad Khoury Hospital, busses leave at 8:30. First stop on the way to Saida for coffee and then visit the old Orthodox Church, continue to Cana (al-Jalil) to visit the grotto and statue of the Virgin Mary. Lunch which will be at Salha around 1:30 or 2:00 and will consist of fish and Lebanese Mezze. Back in Beirut around 5:30 p.m. Price is 60 000L.L. Registration with Laila Haddad at the following numbers: 01 33 85 59 and 70 40 06 40.

A Word from the Editor

It gives me great pleasure to be appointed editor of the Women's League bulletin. I have been associated with the Women's League since the eighties when I was appointed book review coordinator. The book review group was one of the interest groups of the Women's League. Other interest groups were the flower arrangement group and the cooking group. As the book review coordinator I organized monthly meetings with sometimes the author of the book who would discuss his work and answer questions. However, none of these interest groups was revived after the civil war. However, HHHH I was appointed president of the League from October 1985 to 1988 which means that my term in office was extended for one more year instead of the regular two years. It was quite a challenge for me. The responsibilities of the president then were quite different from those now. For one thing the president was also responsible to have a program for the monthly meeting. These were very difficult times, as Lebanon was suffering the tragedy of inter-factional fighting. The ladies could not have access to AUB campus so for a time we met at LAU, and then LAU too became inaccessible so we met in a room at the NEST, the Near School of Theology. Once I asked Kifah Fakhoury who was at AUB at the time and now is the Director of the Music Conservatory in Amman Orchestra to perform at a monthly general meeting at LAU, and Kifah came with 45 members of his orchestra to an audience of only 5 ladies! It was a miracle that not a single meeting was ever missed, and we still managed to have a quick cup of tepid tea at the end of the meeting. We always hoped and prayed that we would reach our destination and then rush back home safe and sound as at any time some bullets would be flying over our heads or we would hear the sound of some explosion somewhere. Compared to those days being president today is almost a piece of cake. In the nineties I was Program chairperson and tried hard to have guest speakers who were really well-known in their field or had made a contribution in their field.

In less than a decade the Women's League will be celebrating its first centennial and I hope it will hold a significant place in Lebanese society. I wish the Women's League success and long life.

Arminée H. Choukassizian

Editor

Speaker for the general meeting in October 2011

Mrs. Françoise Hobeika, Peace Ambassador at Universal Peace Federation and the author

of Beirut Guided Cultural Visit (both in English and French). The title of her talk is "Lebanon through some renowned and unknown sites, gods and oeuvres". Mrs. Hobeika has a long experience in journalism as she was the delegate of the Lebanese Radio at the Presidential Palace between 1988 and 1990 and wrote between 1990 and 1993 in al-Hayat newspaper. She graduated in archaeology from the Lebanese University, (Fonar) and trained at Stadt-Museum in Linz, Austria.

Joint meeting and lunch of the out-going and in-coming board members of the Women's League

On Friday September 9, 2011 seventeen ladies of the out-going and in-coming executive boards of the Women's League met in the restaurant of Ashghalouna, the Islamic Welfare Association in Fares Nimr Street, in the Zarif area in Beirut, to hold a joint meeting whereby the members of the out-going executive board welcomed the members of the in-coming executive board and delivered to them their files.

The meeting was presided by Mrs. Leila Ghantous, the out-going president, who welcomed everybody and asked the members of the out-going board to give their impressions of the Women's League and what they had achieved when they were on the executive board of the Women's League.

The members of the out-going board presented Mrs. Ghantous an engraved silver plate which said: "To Leila Ghantous in appreciation of her dedicated services as President of the Women's League, 2009-2011." It was very much appreciated by her and then several pictures were taken of both executive boards as illustrated by those printed here below.

Following the meeting and a pleasant exchange of views the ladies had a delicious buffet lunch.

Lamia Kawar



Condolences

It is with deep regret and sorrow that we announce the death of the following:

Miss Bushra el-Hoss, former member of the Women's League.

Mr. Bishara Azzam, husband of Salwa Azzam and father of Nina Azzam Habayeb.

Mr. Gaby Bitar, brother of Laila Haddad our trip chairperson.

Dr. Kamal Salibi, brother-in-law of Wadad Saleeby.

Mr. Hassan Ali Khalil Karaky, father in-law of Khulud Karaky.

Mr. Nawaf el-Khoury, brother in-law of our treasurer Suad el-Khoury.

May their soul rest in peace