



France

In France a Nativity Crib is often used to help decorate the house. French cribs often have clay figures in them. The main Christmas meal called Reveillon is eaten on Christmas Eve/early Christmas morning after people have returned from the midnight Church Service. Dishes might include roast turkey with chestnuts or roast goose, oysters, foie gras, lobster, venison and cheeses. For desert, a chocolate sponge cake log called a buche de Noel is normally eaten.

Brazil

Many Brazilian Christmas traditions come from Portugal as Portugal ruled Brazil for many years. Nativity scenes known as Presepio are very popular. They are set up in houses and churches all through December. Most people especially Catholics will go to a Midnight Mass service or Missa de Galo. After the Missa de Galo there are often big firework displays and in big cities and towns there are big Christmas Trees. Favorite Christmas foods in Brazil include pork, turkey, ham, salads, fresh and dried fruits. Everything is served with rice cooked with raisins. Popular Christmas desserts include tropical and ice cream. Christmas in Brazil is in summer as it is in the southern hemisphere.

China

In China only about one percent are Christians so most people only know a few things about Christmas. Because of this, Christmas is only celebrated in major cities. In these big cities there are Christmas Trees, lights and other decorations on streets and in department stores. Santa Claus is called "Shen Dan Lao Ren" and has grottos in shops like in Europe and America.

South Africa

Because South Africa is in the Southern Hemisphere, Christmas comes in the summer, so there is lots of sun and beautiful flowers in full bloom. The schools are closed and some people like to go camping. Going carol singing on Christmas Eve is very popular in towns and cities. Carols by candlelight services are also popular on Christmas Eve. Many people go to Christmas morning Church Service. Traditional "fir" Christmas trees are popular. The Christmas meal is either turkey (or duck) roast beef, mince pies or sucking pig with yellow rice and raisins and vegetables, followed by Christmas Pudding or a traditional South African desert called Malva Pudding. The meal is often eaten outside in summer sun if it's really hot they might even have a barbecue or "braai".

These are very few examples of Christmas traditions observed in different parts of the World.

In December we do not have a trip but it is replaced by our Annual Christmas Lunch which will take place on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at Hotel Kempinski, Janah. Beirut @ 1.00 p.m.

Our next General Meeting will be next year on January 2, 2017. See you all then.

Our sincere condolences and sympathy to Mrs. Marcelle Salibi and her sister, Salwa Damiani, previous President of the Women's League, for the loss of their brother Issa Tabri, who passed away in Germany last week. May God rest his soul in peace.

Wish you all a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.



Lamia Kawar

Vice President/Editor of the bulletin

December 2016

Women's League Bulletin

CHRIST IS THE REASON OF THE SEASON



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 wish is to secure a yearly scholarship fund for a disabled student.

Letter from the President

Hello everyone

Another end of the year, in spite of the happy festive season, it is still the closure of a year in everyone's life. Let us hope that we created valuable memories to look back at. And on a more positive note we look forward to starting a new year with all the good intentions and determination to enjoy a fruitful time. The present has been so called because it is a "present" to everyone to enjoy and be thankful for. Let us make the best of every moment.

In today's day and time, it is easy to loose sight of the true meaning of Christmas, that special night. This meaning often gets lost in the rush of the season, the shopping, the parties, the baking, the wrapping of presents....

But the essence of the season is the greatest gift of all times. God gave us Jesus Christ, his Son to bring joy to everyone who receives him. The purpose of Christmas is to share this gift so the whole world will know the love of our Savior.

In a few days too we will celebrate the birth date of Prophet Mohammad who is the central figure of Islam and its founder. Let us rejoice for the festivities ahead.

I wish you all a very festive and blessed season, here or abroad as long as you spend quality time surrounded by your loved ones.

I will miss you in January for I will be in the US with my family. I leave you in the capable hands of my board, and will see you in February.

Keep well

Nina Habayeb

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Lecture of the Month

November 7, 2016

Members old and new gathered to listen to a very ocular and interesting topic OLIVE Oil by our speaker ROLAND ANDARY, who graduated from the Holy Spirit University as an Agricultural Engineer and now he has joined Renee Moawad Foundation.

After a very informative talk we had the chance to learn how to detect good olive.

The color is not a criteria, many substances can be added to change the color and deceive the consumer. The smell is very important, warm the sample in your hands, sniffing twice, if you smell something green like grass, fresh fruits then the oil is good, otherwise you will sniff rancid or nothing. The taste is important, warm the sample, take two sips, swirl in your mouth, if you taste sweet at the tip of your mouth and tongue, it is not a good oil. If you taste hot and spicy, then you have a good oil.

The quality of the oil depends on the types of olives, ripeness, milling type and storage. Recent research indicates that the blessed olive tree spread throughout the Mediterranean 6000 years in our region on the mount of olives are reputed to be 2000 years old.

The olive tree is a symbol of longevity and strength and the olive branch has been a symbol of reconciliation and peace .In the fourth century, St. Augustine perpetual peace is indicated by the olive branch which the dove brought with it when it returned to NOAH'S Ark.



Mini Meetings

The movie night will be an evening from the Beirut Chants. Please call Lamia Kawar for the details @ No. 03-431534.

What to do with stale bread will be with Mona Nassar, please call her for details @ 03-032811.

We are still waiting for more members interested in learning Bridge so we start the lessons. Please call Nada Maktabi for details: 03-979621.

Trip of the Month to Zaharta

On November 19, 2016, and on a fresh fall day, about ninety people decided to get out of the city to enjoy the nice weather and the beautiful nature outside in North Lebanon. So they joined the Women's League trip to Zgharta.

After a short break for breakfast on the way to the North. Our first stop was at Bader Hassoun Eco Village, Khan Al-Saboun in Daher Al-Ain, Al Koura. There we were met by Hanine, an excellent guide from the Establishment who gave us a detailed history of how Dr. Bader Hassoun Started his Establishment in 1990. She said that since 1480, Khan Al-Saboun has been known for its achievements in providing its customers with their needs and accommodating their different tastes. Khan Al Saboun prospered with Mr. Bader Hasoun who in 1990 employed his creativity, expertise and hard work in producing a diversity of soaps, oils, creams and skin care products attracting customers from all over the world. The variety of products in Khan Al-Saboun is a fruit of an assortment of the finest herbs and flowers from Lebanon and the world. The drive of being in harmony with nature is what made Khan Al-Saboun prosper and achieve recognition around the world, it is by building an inherited recipes from his ancestors that made Dr. Hassoun develop new mixtures and made from soap a world of its own. Each product has its own identity and is made of 100% natural ingredients.

After roaming around in the display room astonished with the great variety of soaps, oils and perfumes, not knowing what to select and buy for each product has its own value and we couldn't resist buying knowing its importance to our bodies.

Now it was time to move to our second visit to the RMF, Renee Mowad Foundation in Zgharta. The motto of the Foundation is "تبقى الليتاني بارضو".

We were very warmly met by H.E. Mrs. Nayla Moawad, who was greeting every single one of us and where we had another breakfast of a great variety of Manakish, prepared on the spot along with the sweets, coffees and lemonades.

H.E. Mrs. Nayla Moawad gave us a detailed history of the Foundation which started 25 years ago and who's mission is promoting social, economic and rural development in Lebanon and the MENA region and contributing in building a responsible civil society that promotes democratic values, justice, pluralism and moderation. Empowering the human being both intellectually and financially through education, health and economic development to guarantee their dignity and basic rights, and to build their capacities as responsible citizens.

RMF has been operating for the past 25 years, and has implemented countless development projects across Lebanon, working across its 6 satellite office throughout the country namely in Mejdalaya in the North, Akkar, Tripoli, Jbeil, Achrafieh and South Lebanon. She also showed us along with her assistants from the Foundation a number of documentaries showing the good work they are doing.

Then after visiting these two very important institutions, and bidding Her Excellency Mrs. Moawad farewell, we proceeded to Jisr Rasheen Restaurant, where we had a very delicious Lebanese lunch of Mezzeh and Barbecue.

It was 7,30 p.m. when we reached Beirut after spending a marvelous day. Here we would like to thank Mrs. Rawaa Baltagi for preparing this lovely excursion.

Lamia Kawar

