



Women's League Bulletin

“For it is in giving that we receive”

Francis of Assisi

Web site: www.aub.edu.lb/webleague

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 at AUB.

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Letter from the President

Dear members,

Christmas is almost here! The spirit of Christmas is everywhere, it's in the mind and heart.

Christmas is the spirit of love, of holiness, of family reunions, warmth and festivity. It brings also friends together, it is an atmosphere of joy and happiness.

Christmas is the season to be merry and think of others who are less fortunate than ourselves and extend a helping hand to them. Love of our fellow men should prevail over all hatred and bitterness. But the true meaning of Christmas is the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

This year Christmas is coming when our country is having political problems due to the resignation of our Prime Minister, which is suspended temporarily. Hoping that a solution will be found soon to give us stability and peace that our country deserves.

Also in few days, we will celebrate the birth date of The Prophet Mohammad. Let me seize this opportunity to wish you from my deepest heart a very Happy New Year. May all your wishes come true and let us hope that there will be peace in Lebanon and in the countries around us.

Merry Christmas and a joyful vacation to you all.

Salwa Damiani

LECTURE OF THE MONTH

Rudyard Kipling once said: "If history were taught in the form of stories, it would never be forgotten" This what exactly happened on 6th November, 2017 during The Women's League General Meeting where Dr. Emad Mrad gave a lecture in Arabic on Emir Fakhr-al-Din II, the founder of Modern Lebanon.

Dr Mrad is a holder of PHD in History from The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK). He is the Professor of History and Political Science at The Lebanese University,(Branch 2) . Dr. Mrad's lecture was very informative and very interesting. He talked to the attendees about Fakhr-al-Din II whose father is Emir Qorqmaz and his mother Sit Nasab of The Tannukhi Family. Fakher-al-Din II,"Man of Lebanon" is considered the founder of Modern Lebanon since about 400 years. He was only 13 years old when his father Qorqmaz was killed. His mother, Sit Nasab, took him with her other children to Al Khazen family in Ballouneh accompanied by her brother. Later, when the Emir took office to rule, he set out to unite the perpetually warring Maronite and Druze Districts of Ottoman Lebanon which was realized after defeating Al Sayfa and Al Freikh. In order to secure his position, The Emir Fakher-el Din II sought an alliance with The Italian Grand Duchy of Tuscany to get rid of the Ottomans and has Independence. The Ottomans were uncomfortable with The Emir's increasing powers, ambitions and his relations with Europe. In 1632 Kuchuk Ahmad Pasha, The Muhafiz of Damascus , being a rival to the Emir and a friend to Sultan Mrad IV attacked Lebanon and deposed The Emir. Fakhr-al-Din II was taken to Constantinople, kept in prison for 2 years and was executed on 13/04/1635.

However, Fakhr-al-Din II rule was marked by Economic and Cultural prosperity. He introduced The Printing Presses, encouraged Foreign Missionaries to open schools, built three ports and built bridges over rivers. The Emir was tolerant and equidistant to all Lebanese so that many could not know if he is a Druze, Moslem or Christian. He built mosques and synagogues. He used to fast Ramadan and had four wives. The Emir also introduced from Europe the red roofing tiles for houses and castles, imported livestock including horses and introduced the growing of Olive trees.

Dr Mrad concluded that whatever is the religion of The Emir or whatever are his political views and strategical plans, Lebanon is in need of a man like him nowadays!

All guests were then invited to The Tea Table to join The Women's League members in cutting the cake for two dear occasions: The Independence day of Lebanon and The Woman's League 98th anniversary.



TRIP OF THE MONTH

The Woman's League monthly trip took place on 15th November, 2017. After a short stop at The Wooden Bakery/Hazmieh, two buses with 70 ladies headed to Anjar or Haoush Mousa where we were warmly welcomed by the Head of the municipality Mr. Vartkes Khochian. Mr. Khochian talked to the group about the history of Anjar and the Armenians. He said that Anjar was a deserted place when The Armenians came in 1939 as refugees from Musa Dagh in Sanjak Iskandarun which Turkey annexed to its territories. Later, The Armenians worked hard to transform the place into a commercial, agricultural and industrial place. We toured some of the beautiful green areas of the town then we went to the Ruins of Anjar which are recognized as a world heritage site. The Omayyad City of Anjar was founded by the Caliph Walid Bin Abdel Malik in the beginning of 8th century . The city sits at the crossroads leading from Homs to Tiberias and from Beirut to Damascus. Finally, we went to a local shop to buy homemade products!! Thanks to Mr. Khochian and to all the members of Anjar municipality for their hospitality!!

Our next stop was in Majdel Anjar (The tower or high place). The town is one of the Bekaa Valley towns that is located at the borders of Lebanon and Syria. We visited the old mosque called " Omar bin Al-Khattab " also known as مسجد وقف الحرمين الشريفين which was built in 920 AH (1514 AD) and rebuilt in 1425 AH (2004 AD) since it was bombarded in year 2000 AD. The mosque was rebuilt same as it was originally been but the area was extended to receive more people. Shiekh Mohammad Abdul Rahman, the Imam of Majdel Anjar and Sheikh Assem welcomed us warmly and thanked us for the visit. Sheikh Abdul Rahman gave a resume on the history of both: Majdel Anjar and the Mosque advising that it was built by the Caliph Walid Bin Abdel Malik as he used to spend the summer in Anjar. He also talked about the importance of the town in terms of its agriculture , trade and location. The town is also famous for its "castle" being an ancient cathedral.

Our final destination was The Cascada Mall at Taanayel. The Cascada Mall presents a unique retail mix of local and international brands, multiple of indoor and outdoor dining options and the largest family entertainment center. After having lunch at the "Diwan Al Atlal" we met Mrs. Faenza Torbay , one of the owners of the Mall, whom we thank for her hospitality not to forget her beautiful daughter Ms Amira Torbay who was our tour guide in the Mall.

In fact, it was pretty amazing to end our day watching the sunset at The Cascada Mall beside the lake beneath the trees...!!!!



JESUS IS THE REASON

Matthew 22.37-40: Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart , and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Christmas Traditions that some countries do it differently!!

Norway: *There is no cleaning on Christmas Eve in Norway - All brooms are safely hidden away, in case they are stolen by witches and evil spirits.*

Germany: *Germans hide a pickle in the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve - the first child to discover it in the morning receives a small gift.*

Czech Republic: *In the Czech Republic, unmarried women stand by a door and throw a shoe over their shoulder - if the toe is pointing towards the door when it lands, they will get married within the next year.*

Estonia: *On Christmas Eve, Estonian families traditionally head to the sauna together.*

Great Britain: *An age-old tradition that each member of the family must stir the Christmas pudding mix in a clockwise direction before it is cooked, making a wish as they do so.*

Slovakia: *In Slovakia, the most senior man of the house takes a spoonful of loksa pudding and throws it at the ceiling-the more that sticks, the better.*

Finland: *Finnish people traditionally mark Christmas with a touching tribute to the dead. Families light Candles at the graves of their departed loved ones, making Finnish graveyards a beautiful sight.*

THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS FOR THE YEARS 2017-2019

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-There will be No trip in December, 2017 as it is replaced by the Annual Christmas Lunch.

- Our next General meeting will be next year on January 8th 2018

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

*Ghada Shoujah,
Editor of the Bulletin*

