



March 2018

Women's League Bulletin

"All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my mother"
Abraham Lincoln

Web site: www.aub.edu.lb/women_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 wish is to secure a yearly scholarship fund for a disabled student at AUB.

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Letter from The President

Dear Members

March 8 is a very important day. It is International Women's day. It is a goodtime to reflect on the conditions of women in the world and most specifically in Lebanon.

Although women in Lebanon enjoy many freedoms and opportunities yet they are at a disadvantage when it comes to their basic rights.

We still have lot of areas to improve on in our society. For example, Lebanese women who are married to foreigners cannot pass their nationality to their husbands and children.

Political representation in decision making positions and in leadership roles is almost non-existent. This is an important prerequisite if we want to have an improvement in women's rights.

Violence is an important issue too which is going up. The number of victims is increasing every year. Unfortunately, our legal system does not protect enough women and their rights from violence.

Marriage of underage girls is also a societal problem. Getting married very young means quitting education and school, being dependent on a man and shutting the doors for a bright future. It is the duty of every one of us to raise our voices and unite in order to change this status quo.

We have to empower women through development programs and education to assert themselves and stand for their rights.

We have happy event on March 21st where we celebrate Mother's Day. This day coincides with the start of spring.

I seize this opportunity to wish you all dear members and friends a happy Mother's day.

Salwa Damiani

"You have the power to achieve greatness and create anything and everything you want in life, but you have to take action".

Jack Canfield

FEBRUARY 5TH GENERAL MEETING

Submitted by Mrs. Yolla Sowan El Jamil

- I. The General Meeting started with a word of welcome from the President Mrs. Salwa Damiani. She then asked each board member to share announcements of importance to the members.
- The board members welcomed everybody with wishes of love as we are approaching Valentine's Day.
 - The next trip was announced to MACAM (Nahr Ibrahim) which will take place on Wednesday February 14th. The meeting point is as usual at Abou Taleb/ Hamra at 8:30 a.m. The fee is USD60 for members and USD70 for non-members.
- II. The Women's League General meeting had the honor of receiving Mrs. Svetlana Jovie, UNIFIL Civil Affairs Team Leader. She has a degree in Law and is intensively engaged in issues pertaining to Human Rights. She was very pleased to join us and to introduce her country Croatia as a touristic destination. She started by pointing at similarities between Lebanon and Croatia. She gave an overview historic background of her homeland and showed the audience Croatia through a beautiful video prepared when it joined The European Union in 2013. The following important aspects of Croatia, the land of 1000 islands, were displayed:
- **The Economy:** Tourism is of great significance to the country's economy. Great accomplishments were made in this regard in terms of the hotels to keep them small and private, away from mass resorts so as not to lose touch with nature. Lighthouses, are beautifully used as touristic locations. Agriculture is also of great importance for the economy.
 - Croatia has pride in many of its accomplishments be it in its human achievements ,industry, inventions or many other achievements such as: Sports (Tennis/ Goran Ivanisevic Wimbeldon, NBA players, National Soccer team as the third best team in the world). They invented the parachute, the pens, homeland of ties, has the smallest town with 25 inhabitants, has the smallest animal called Kuna in addition to Nikola Tesla, the father of alternating current technology who refused to receive the Noble Prize he had to share with Edison. The video also displayed the beautiful Roman Heritage, The Croatian native art, Lace, and UN World Heritage Places that are protected such as The Cathedral in Split, the old city of Dubrovnik, The National Park , Trogin and Basilica of Euphrasins in Porec.
 - Mrs. Jovie ended her capturing lecture and display with "Croatia is a little country with a big heart"

After the meeting, Coffee, Tea and Delicacies were served!!



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

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(03-979621)

Mrs. Rawaa Baltaji
Rep to the Leb Council of Women
(03-241066)

FEBRUARY TRIP

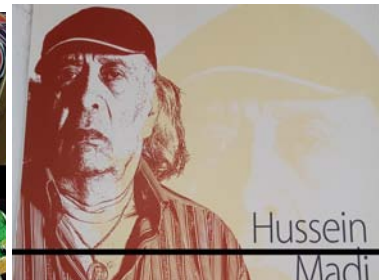
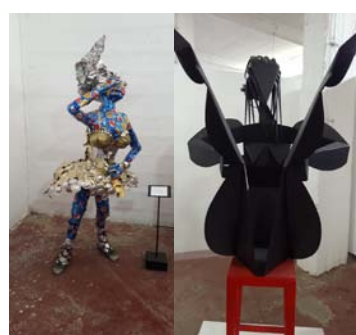
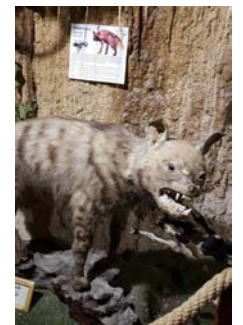
The Women's League monthly trip took place on 14th February i.e. **on Valentine's Day**. After a short stop at the Wooden Bakery, Zouk for breakfast and Coffee, the WL group headed to The Lebanese Marine and Wild Life Museum/Jeita Grotto. The Museum which displays more than 5000 species of Lebanese marine and wild life, was founded by Dr. Jamal Younes who has been collecting and preserving specimens for the last 35 years. We toured the six exhibits of the museum and we got in touch with the following:

- 1) Marine Life: Giant shells, sharks, dolphins, mollusks , echinoderms, soft and hard coral and sponges
- 2) Wildlife: Reptiles, Insects, Birds and mammals.
- 3) Stones and Minerals: 250 kinds of semi-precious stones and fossilized fish.

We continued our trip to MACAM (Modern and Contemporary Art Museum), Alita/Byblos. Before reaching the museum we stopped at the outskirts of Fitri Village and met the Deputy Mayor Mrs. Gladys Daccache who had a plan to take us on a tour to Fitri village but due to the narrow roads which are not convenient to the buses, we skipped this tour, thanked Mrs. Daccache and continued our trip to MACAM.

MACAM is the first Contemporary museum in Lebanon dedicated to preserving, conserving and promoting art in Lebanon. It is a large factory compound on a hilltop overlooking the Mediterranean Sea and the picturesque Adonis Valley in Alita – Byblos. MACAM has been transformed by an independent nonprofit organization into a dynamic museum. The permanent exhibition displays 450 sculptures by 85 renowned artists. The exhibition presents a century of sculpting in Lebanon starting from 1920.

We toured the museum under the guide of its Director Mr. Cesar Nammour who explained to us every detail concerning the Modern Art work which shows large collection of Ceramics work, Stone sculpture, metal sculpture and wooden sculpture in addition to Contemporary Art and Temporary Exhibitions. After finishing the tour, we had lunch prepared by Mr. Nammour and Mrs. Gabriele Schaub in a perfect atmosphere for a Valentine's Day!!!



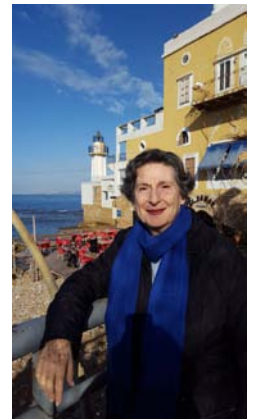
HAPPY WOMEN'S DAY!!

“International Women’s day is celebrated on the 8th of March every year. It commemorates the movement for women’s rights. The first observance of a Women’s day was held on February 28, 1909 in New York. The March 8th day was suggested by the 1910 International Woman’s conference to become an “International Women’s day”. After women gained suffrage in Soviet Russia in 1917, March 8th became a National holiday there. The day was then predominantly celebrated by the socialist movement and communist countries until it were adopted in 1975 by The United Nations”.

In Lebanon, in addition to the 8th of March celebrations, the government agreed in May 2017 to institute 4th November as The “Lebanese Women’s day” because on that date a decree was signed by the government in 1952 giving women the right to vote for the first time. The decision was announced by Minister Jean Ogaspian who said that “Raising awareness about women’s past achievements will promote the acceptance of women’s political and social capabilities and their potential contribution to society in the future”.

WHO’S WHO IN THE WOMEN’S LEAGUE

Mrs. Suad Nassif Shehadi is the wife of Late Me Munir Shehadi. Mrs. Shehadi who was born and grew up in Ras Beirut, has two daughters Maha and Aida both are married and live in Lebanon. Mrs. Shehadi who is a wonderful grandmother to eight grandchildren welcomed me in her house in Ras Beirut on the 25th of January 2018. She is a beautiful lady, well informed and we enjoyed talking about The Women’s League old times. She also gave me old issues of The WL bulletins.



Mrs. Shehadi attended The American School for Girls (ASG), Beirut College for Women (BCW) and graduated in 1957 from AUB with a BA degree in Education and in 1960 she obtained her MA in Counselling and Guidance.

Mrs. Shehadi served on both Alumni boards of ASG and BCW (now LAU). She became the President of The Executive Board of the Women’s League for the years 1971-1973 and 1981-1983. She also served as a Program Chairperson in the late 80’s. Further and in cooperation with The Women’s League Board members and especially the Program Chairperson, she adopted “The WL Calendar” with programs and activities included and worked with a Committee for the revision of The Women’s League Constitution.

Mrs. Shehadi said that in those years The Women’s League used to meet at BCW in Irwin Hall where 240 members from 25 different nationalities kept keen to attend those meetings and get to know about Lebanon. Tea and Cookies were always served before the meetings from 3:15 to 4:00 pm, giving time for the members to arrive and socialize and the program to start on time.

Mrs. Shehadi also served as President of The Beirut YWCA and later as National President of The Lebanon YWCA. Her experiences in the social field have enriched her life and others. She is always ready to help wherever and whenever she can which is not strange to Mrs. Shehadi’s own motto in life “Serving others whenever in need”.

Thank you Mrs. Suad Nassif Shehadi for your friendly reception!

A BOOK RECOMMENDED TO READ

“**TETA, MOTHER and ME**” is an Arab Woman’s Memoir by Mrs. Jean Said Makdessi.

The book talks about the history of three generations of women in Syria, Palestine, Egypt, Lebanon and USA in parallel to the changes that occurred in the region, the loss, the displacement and up rootedness. It also tells about the Education System and the impact of the missionaries’ activities. While reading, you will encounter familiar people who you will relate yourself to them and especially in terms of similar cultural traditions, environment and experiences.

The April General Meeting will be on Monday 16th at Bathish Auditorium, West Hall

There will be No Trip in March as it is replaced by The Mother’s Day Lunch at Coral Beach Hotel

*Ghada Shoujah,
Editor of the Bulletin*

