



May 2009

Women's League Bulletin

Website: www.aub.edu.lb/~webleague

“If we can perceive beauty in every thing of God’s doing, we may argue that we have reached the true perception of its universal laws.”

Ruskin

From the President

Dear members,

On reaching the end of the journey, it is timely to look back at the long path we have followed and ask ourselves: **Is the way we have taken, and the work we have accomplished worthwhile and beautiful?**

The thing of beauty is a joy forever, says the poet and it is the beautiful that is seen with the eyes of the soul that concerns us here. Have we shared in the activities of the league? Have we given ourselves to the projects that we truly give and that we truly enjoy ourselves? A glance at the Women’s League a look at its past: points out the wide range of activities the league has sponsored in past years. Now most of these activities have been taken by other groups which are doing wonderful work in these different fields. For they have tried successfully to further develop the ideals set by the league.

The league has still much to do in our community and it is doing so by selecting and cultivating new activities till they blossom and bear fruits.

It is time to say goodbye to each other across this small page. It has been a real pleasure writing to you, meeting you, and getting to know you better and better through this bulletin every month.

For me as a president, it was a great inspiration! Today, in the lovely month of May, I am depending on your support and corporation for the new executive board to have a successful year ahead.

Your president: Christel Bikhazi



Back to Nature

After stopping our trips during the month of March, replacing them by a Mother's Day Lunch indoors, we thought it was time to go back to Nature and so our April trip was to the town of Douma in the Batroun District.

Forty two persons were on board to start our trip at 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday April 22, 2009 heading north along the sea side where we stopped for breakfast. Then we headed up to the mountain to visit Mar Yacoub Convent after passing by Chekka and Balamand University. This Convent dates back to the fifth Century A.D. and overlooks very nice scenery of the area and specially Tripoli. The nuns in this Convent are famous for painting icons. It was destroyed and rebuilt many times over the Centuries.

Then we had to go back down to the town of Batroun and from there to head up again to the town of Douma.

Douma is an old town and used to be of great importance as the third town of Lebanon after Beirut and Tripoli. It has been occupied since before Roman times. In the center of town there is a Greek Pagan Sarcophagus which now serves as the fountain for the Ain El-Tahta source in the market square. There are other Sarcophagi in the town which date back to the 4th and 5th Centuries.

There we visited Mar Youhana Al-Maabadan Convent which also dates back to the fifth Century and was occupied, destroyed and rebuilt, the last of which was in 1990. It is 800 meters above sea level with very nice scenery.

Then we visited the Municipality of Douma where we were met by Mr. Joseph Maalouf, Head of the Municipality, who briefed us about the history of Douma and made us visit one of the antique houses of Douma which belong to the family Kheir, an old style house with lots of antiquities like very old icons and photos of the family and an old collection of all sorts of ancient keys.

After passing through the old souks and going uphill to overlook the town of Douma which looks like a Scorpion, we arrived Esclapio Restaurant to have a delicious lunch of Lebanese mezze and barbecue and from there back to Beirut to arrive it at 7.00 p.m.

By Lamia Kawar



The League member's visiting Mr. Joseph Meatloaf



Enjoying lunch in Douma.....



A Word from Former Women's League President, Mrs. Alice Fakhry

Mrs. Alice Fakhry was the President of the Women's League for the period of two years in the mid-80. Mrs. Fakhry is married to Dr. Majid Fakhry, Emeritus professor of philosophy at The American University of Beirut.

Mrs. Fakhry was an active social worker, working with the Women's League, the AUB Women's Auxiliary, the Y. W. C. A., the Lioness Club of Beirut and the School for the Blind, Baabda, among other social organizations and leagues. She has been devoted to helping the needy and underprivileged and to serving worthy causes.

Further, she still recalls the enjoyable meetings and that working to raise scholarships for A. U. B. students and to raise funds for the needy was a most rewarding. Alice is kept updated on the activities of the league today mainly from her daughter, Rima-Magdalen, who has recently been attending functions and meetings of the league.

Mrs. Fakhry wishes the current WL President Mrs. Christel Bikhazi as well as all members of the League a successful end of the year and all the best in the coming year.

Announcements

- **The Women's League, in collaboration with the ministry of tourism, invite you to its end year program, presenting a Lebanese Folklore dance by Elie Saadeh and his group at Marquand House, A.U.B. on June 1, 2009, at 5:30 p.m.**
- **You are invited at The Garden Show, Beirut Hippodrome, and May 26-30, 2009 from 4:00 to 10:00p.m. Enjoy it!**



Beirut World Capital of the Book 2009

Undoubtedly, Beirut does not only deserve to be called the "World Capital of the book 2009", but also the "Orthocenter of Cultures, a great tolerance and academic achievement.

In spite of Beirut's recent history, it boldly could face so many menacing privations and sinister circumstances that prevailed since the day of independence. In short, it has always been the arena of education and culture in the Middle East.

In April 23 of each year, the winning city begins its term as World Book Capital.

Beirut is the ninth city to be designated as the World Book Capital, after Madrid(2001), Alexandria(2002), New Delhi(2003), Antwerp(2004), Montreal(2005), Turin(2006), Bogota' (2007), and Amsterdam(2008).

Further, the Lebanese and the Arabs at large are proud to see Beirut awarded this honorable Title gained upon the nomination by **UNESCO** of Beirut as World Book Capital for 2009.

Beirut World Book Capital 2009 has three objectives. Publishers and booksellers are keen on the first objective which deals with the strengthening of the book industry in Lebanon, with special focus on youth literature. Schools, for their part, are rallying around the second objective which aims at promoting reading and the taste for reading. Finally, embassies are interested in the third objective, namely, the adoption of a diversified approach to culture, by inviting writers from their countries. German and Mexican poets, French novelists, Italian and Egyptian publishers, Spanish designers, Swiss illustrators, Dutch book professionals, Algerian, Moroccan, Syrian, Tunisian and UAE booksellers are thus expected in Lebanon starting April 23rd, 2009.

Owing to this important and great event, **Mama 2009** [Middle East Medical Assembly] had a great interest and concern about Beirut being nominated by **UNESCO** to the extent that many of AUB professors and professionals participated in writing about this subject matter.

Let us all pray for better LEBANON in economics, agriculture, tourism and scientific research.

By Rihab Ouri

