



Worldwide Link



Volume 4, Issue 6

www.welcomeclubs.org

Welcome Clubs International, Inc.

In today's world, we all must develop global cross-cultural communication skills if we are to make any progress toward a meaningful peace. The members of Welcome Clubs International have been practicing this concept for over 45 years - beginning with the formation of Welcome to Washington in 1959 in response to President Eisenhower's People to People initiative. President Eisenhower stated:

"The final battle against intolerance is yet to be fought... it won't come from the chamber of any legislature, but from the hearts of men. If the people will only get together, then so eventually will nations."

As international members of Welcome to Washington returned to their countries of origin, many started Welcome Clubs in their home cities. As these clubs grew in number, WCI was formed in 1986 to serve as an "umbrella" organization to unite our Welcome Clubs around the world. WCI is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year. We have grown to 29 clubs in Europe, Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and the United States. All WCI affiliated clubs are independent, non political, and non-religious. Many clubs engage in charitable work in their communities.

Members of Welcome Clubs educate each other in the diverse cultural heritage and traditions of our respective countries. Sherry Lee Mueller, President of the National Council for International Visitors, called us "Citizen Diplomats." We practice diplomacy one friendship at a time! We foster friendships through understanding ... and gain understanding through our friendships.



*Knowledge and understanding
of other cultures is a vital step in the
progress toward peace*

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Worldwide Link

Summer, 2007
Volume 4, Issue 6

Editor Lise McCartney
Staff Reporters Jocelyn Jones
Welcome to Wessex, UK
Dimitra M. Weber
Int'l Women's Club, Hamburg
Photographer Inga Shebat
Welcome to Washington

The **Worldwide Link** is a publication of
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Summer (August-September)
Winter (January-February)

All contributing articles to the Link should be sent to
editorlink@welcomeclubs.org

Photographs submitted with articles should be accompanied with full identification of place/event and names of persons depicted.

WCI Calendar

2007

1 September
Deadline for payment of 2007-2008 Annual Club Dues

8-13 September
Executive Committee Meeting, Hamburg, Germany

1 October
Response due from clubs about participation in WCI International Tea - A cup of friendship!

October - November
Election of new WCI President for 2008-2011 Term

November
International Conference Packages and Registration Forms sent to clubs

2008

15 January
Deadline for articles to be submitted to Worldwide Link (Winter 2008 Issue)

10 February
Deadline - WCI International Conference 2008 Registration Fees

February
Executive Committee Meeting, Zurich, Switzerland - Dates to be determined

8 March
International Women's Day
WCI International Tea - A Cup of Friendship

15 April
Deadline - Payment for WCI International Conference package

23-24 May
WCI Annual Board of Directors Meeting, San Diego, California

24-29 May
WCI 10th Bi-Annual International Conference, San Diego, California

30 June
Deadline for articles to be submitted to Worldwide Link (Summer 2008 Issue)

WCI Mail

A WARM WELCOME TO SUNNY FLORIDA

Going to Florida during our English winter is always a delightful prospect with the great chance of warmer weather and almost daily sunshine.

Going on one's own for the first time is more daunting. What would I do? Who would I see? Where would I go? These were the thoughts uppermost in my mind as I arranged for a two month stay in Naples for January and February this year.

I need not have worried, because wherever you go in the world you are almost always near a member club of Welcome Clubs International. The club in Florida epitomized all that we hope for in being a member. The President, her Board and members of Welcome To Florida gave me the warmest of welcomes and included me, as a fellow member of Welcome To Wessex UK, in all their social events and activities.

I was without a car but kind members went out of their way to take me to the various functions. The Florida Club has a wide range of activities and events. Whilst I was there I attended a book review, a fashion show, ladies luncheons, viewing art in people's homes, cocktails and dinners with club members as well as personal invitations from many members.

The WTF members attend business meetings where the club's policies and finances are discussed openly in order to keep members informed of club matters. Members are required to attend a number of meetings each year in order to keep their membership active. The meetings take place in different venues around Naples, giving members the chance to see new places.

I met people from many different countries, who were all most interesting and friendly. I was made to feel very much at home and members were always there if I needed anything. Certainly the members of Welcome To Florida truly live up to the ethos and aims of our Welcome Clubs.

I would like to thank the immediate Past President, Lois Lang, her Board and all the members who extended the arm of friendship and understanding to me and who made sure that I left Florida with many happy memories and lots of new friends to add to the old friends I already had made on previous visits. Thank You Welcome To Florida.

*Rosemary Bonham-Smith
Welcome To Wessex*

TURKEY - A LAND OF CONTRASTS

On a recent trip to Turkey, a land of 21st century cities with modern technology to the almost medieval interiors of horse plows and a rugged way of life, my husband and I experienced the warmth and openness of a most gracious people. We had never visited a predominantly Muslim country before and were thrilled to experience firsthand this most beautiful and ancient culture.

To add to our pleasure, we were hosted by members of WCI clubs in both Istanbul and Ankara. Ertugrul and Umran Kumcuoglu, not only had us for a lovely dinner in their beautiful home overlooking the Bosphorus, they sent a car for us, an extremely interesting evening and a rare look into the actual lives of this proud people. In Ankara, Ayse Ceyhan, her husband and Nilgun Ozer took us to lunch, talked of their club and its many activities, including charity work. Ankara, being the capital, their membership is quite diverse, including the wife of the American Ambassador - a fascinating experience. After hurricane Wilma, we received an email wishing us well.

Building bridges of understanding - a mission we experienced across the sea.

*Fran Greenstein
Welcome to Florida*



Message from the President

Dear Friends,

WCI is proud to welcome a new club into our membership, the Welcome to Manila International Women's Club, Manila, Philippines. Welcome to Manila is a newly formed Welcome Club and I know

that all of our members clubs join me in welcoming them to our worldwide network.

This is a big year for WCI. WCI has launched several new initiatives, many of which will become a reality this year. It is also time for WCI's 10th Bi-Annual International Conference and the election of a new WCI president.

Our International Conference will take place in San Diego, California, May 24-29, 2008. Our conference is being hosted by the Women's International Border Club with the assistance of the Welcome to California International Club. Conference planning is well underway and final details and registration forms will be sent to all clubs in November, 2007. We look forward to seeing many of you in San Diego! We are also finalizing plans for the traditional post-conference trip, details of which will be announced and provided with the formal conference package going to the clubs in November.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite the members of WCI clubs and FIWAL clubs to join us at this conference. I know you will find it a rewarding experience. The conference affords a unique opportunity to meet face to face with fellow members from clubs all over world, to discuss your individual clubs, share your experiences and, most importantly, bond in friendship and understanding.

For the first time, WCI will be awarding its new WCI Achievement Award the "Marian" at our International Conference. A few designs for this award have been received, but we hope to see entries from many more of our clubs by the extended deadline of August 30, 2007. Winning entries will be posted on our Web site at www.welcomeclubs.org this fall.

It is also time to elect a new WCI President to serve for the 2008-2011 term. Donna Suddeth, Immediate Past President of WCI will chair the nominating/elections committee for WCI. She and her committee will be contacting each club president in October/November 2007 with a slate of nominees, asking for your vote. This is a very important event, and I express our appreciation in advance for your cooperation and participation in this process.

Our **Worldwide Link** has been very successful and well received in it's new magazine format. Two new features have been added to this issue: Women - Beauty and Fashion as related to national dress and customs; and The Bookshelf - listing book titles recommended by our clubs and their members. This first call for submission of book titles was very successful with over 30 titles listed. We hope you will enjoy sharing these recommended books. However, we need to entice advertising and donations in order to continue as a magazine. WCI has formulated several strategies to achieve these goals which will be implemented over the next few months.

I truly look forward to seeing you in San Diego in May, 2008

*In friendship
Lise McCartney*

WELCOME to WCI's Newest Member . . .

Welcome to Manila International Women's Club, Inc.

The Welcome to Manila Women's International Club was founded by Nena Ratermanis and Vilma Boettcher of the Women's International Border Club, Chula Vista, California. Nena so enjoyed her membership in the WIBC, that she took the concept home with her to Manila. With the help of her many friends and the guidance of the WIBC, she successfully launched the Welcome to Manila Women's International Club on May 10, 2007. The opening Gala Dinner was held at the Alabang Country Club in Manila

A Board of Directors is duly in place and the new club is registered with the Philippines Securities and Exchange Commission (as required under Philippine law) as a non-profit organization. Nena will serve as president and has appointed Elizabeth Palma as WCI Liaison.

While keeping with WCI's philosophy of fostering friendships, understanding, peace and harmony with women of other nations, WMWIC will also engage in charitable activities to alleviate the poverty among women in depressed communities in the Philippines. The club will place a priority on teaching mothers about parenting skills and training them for livelihood opportunities in the belief that poverty can be reduced by helping people to help themselves.



W.M.W.I.C
WELCOME TO MANILA WOMEN'S
INTERNATIONAL CLUB

The WMWIC logo was created by Toym Imago of Manila, using the WIBC logo as a guide. Toym is an artist and sculptor who comes from a family of artists. His father, Abdulmari Imao is a recipient of the National Artist of the Philippines Award. Toym's mother, Gracia de Leon Imao, is equally famous for her oil paintings. Gracia is a member of the new Board of Directors of WMWIC.

The logo represents a vision of a world embraced by love and harmony. The bird of peace brings together the diverse cultures of the world.



WMWIC Opening Gala at the Alabang Country Club

Board of Directors : Domini Torrevillas, Rosario Limcaoco, Nena Ratermanis, Rosario Melchor, and Grace Imao, wearing different Philippina outfits. Nena and Vilma are wearing the "Maria Clara" formal 18th Century Spanish era dresses.

Elections

New WCI President

It is time to elect a new WCI President for the term 2008-2011.

The WCI nominating/elections committee, chaired by Donna Suddeth, will be contacting every club president in October/November and presenting a slate of candidates. You will receive the following information on each nominee:

Photograph of the candidate
A list of the candidate's goals for WCI
Contact information for each candidate

Each club may cast one vote. Please review each nominee carefully and discuss them with your respective board of directors. Although the three members of the nominating committee must ethically refrain from expressing an opinion or promoting any individual candidate, do not hesitate to contact the candidates directly with questions or for further information.

Votes will be cast via email to the nominating committee. Please be assured that your vote is confidential – only the nominating committee and the Founder's Representatives (who oversee the process) will have access to how clubs voted. Members of the executive committee do not vote and will not have access to this information. Results of the election will be announced by the nominating committee to WCI at the Executive meeting in February, 2008 and the new WCI president will be presented at our International Conference in May, 2008.

The term of office for the new president and her executive committee will begin on July 1, 2008. However, in order to assure a smooth turnover from this administration to the new administration, the new president-elect and her executive committee appointees will be invited to actively participate and work with the current administration starting in February, 2008.

Please refer to your 2007-2008 WCI Directory (page 47) for a complete copy of the Policies and Procedures for electing a WCI president.

CAST YOUR VOTE



Standing: Nena Ratermanis, WMWIC President and founder, and Elizabeth Palma, WCI Liaison, attorney at law who devoted untiring hours helping in the development of the new organization, from its inception to its final incorporation, particularly in regard to legal matters.

Seated: Vilma Boettcher, co-founder, and Rosario P. Melchor, Member of Welcome to Washinton in the 60s under the Presi-



WCI 10th Bi-Annual International Conference

May 24 - 29, 2008
San Diego, California



Official WCI Conference Hotel

The Westin Horton Plaza
910 Broadway Circle
San Diego, CA 92101
Tel: (619) 239-2200
Fax: (619) 239-0509
Email: westinhortonplaza@starwoodhotels.com
Web: westin.com/hortonplaza

Special Room Rates For WCI Conference:

The Westin Horton Plaza Hotel is holding a block of rooms for WCI conference attendees at the special rate of \$169/per night. This Special Rate is per room - not per person (exclusive of tax, currently at 10.565%). In order to receive this special rate, you must make your hotel reservations on or before April 15, 2008.

Make your Reservations Now!

You can make your hotel reservations now by contacting the Westin Horton Plaza Hotel. Remember, in order to take advantage of the Special Conference room rates, you must reserve by April 15, 2008. Mention Welcome Clubs International Conference.

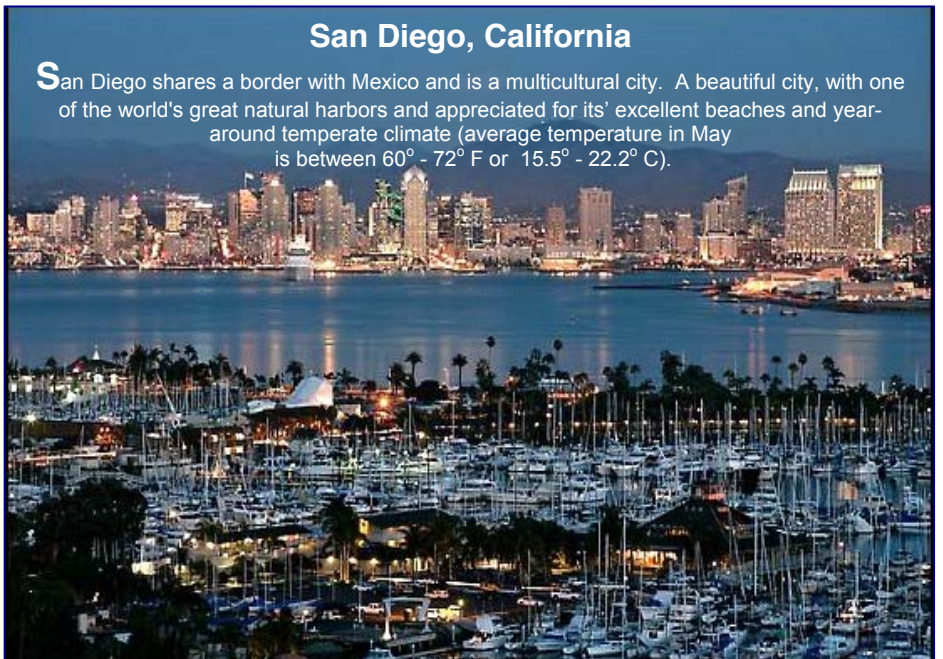
Final Conference Packages, including detailed Schedule of Events, Conference Costs and Registration Forms, will be sent to all clubs in November, 2007. Registration fees are due by February 10, 2008 and final payment of Conference Package is due by April 15, 2008. All registration fees and conference costs can be paid by credit card. All information and instructions will be detailed in the Conference Package emailed to each club in November, 2007.

Post-Conference Trip

A 5-6 day post-conference trip is currently being planned and the details will be available and sent to clubs with the Conference Package in November, 2007. The Post-Conference trip is available only to conference attendees and their guests.

San Diego, California

San Diego shares a border with Mexico and is a multicultural city. A beautiful city, with one of the world's great natural harbors and appreciated for its' excellent beaches and year-around temperate climate (average temperature in May is between 60° - 72° F or 15.5° - 22.2° C).



Preliminary Conference Schedule		
CONFERENCE DELEGATES		GUESTS
Saturday, May 24		
ARRIVALS of Conference Delegates and guests - Conference registration at Hotel		
Sunday, May 25 Breakfast in Hotel		
Morning	Breakfast Workshops	Free time or guests may elect to stay for workshops
Afternoon	Balboa Park – lunch and visit International Cottages and museums	
Evening	Welcoming Dinner at Hotel	
Monday, May 26 Breakfast in Hotel		
All Day	Conference Day	
Evening	University Club – Cocktails & appetizers followed by entertainment	
Tuesday, May 27 Breakfast in Hotel		
All Day	Cultural Excursion in San Diego including lunch	
Evening	Being Planned	
Wednesday, May 28 Breakfast in Hotel		
Morning	Round Table Discussions in Hotel	Tickets for Hop-on, Hop-Off Trolley
Afternoon	Lunch On your own Tickets for Hop-on, Hop-Off Trolley or free time	
Evening	Cocktail Reception & Farewell Dinner in hotel with entertainment	
Thursday, May 29 Breakfast in Hotel		
DEPARTURES		

WCI 10th Bi-Annual International Conference

May 24 - 29, 2008
San Diego, California

Balboa Park and the House of Pacific Relations International Cottages



We kick off our International Conference with a special visit to famous Balboa Park and the International Cottages.

The House of Pacific Relations was founded in 1935 as a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to furthering cooperation and understanding between national groups in the United States and promoting multicultural goodwill and understanding through educational and cultural programs. The House of Pacific Relations consists of 31 national groups, many of which have their own small cottage in San Diego's Balboa Park. These cottages offer visitors a glimpse into each country's culture, history and traditions.

Housed in historic 1935 Exposition cottages, 31 groups showcase the national traditions from many lands every Sunday. Lawn programs: 2:00 p.m. on Sundays from March through October, feature music, dance, traditional costumes, arts, crafts, and ethnic foods. Annual special events: the annual Ethnic Food Fair, and the International Christmas Festival at Balboa Park December Nights



Balboa Park's House of Pacific Relations and its international cottages serve as a meeting place for fellow countrymen and the general public to commune and learn about cultures from around the world.

The Hall of Nations, which is an open meeting space with wall exhibits for those countries without a cottage, also is open Sundays. While in the area, stop in at the United Nations Building gift shop, one of the best in the park.

The international cottages are a delightful and educational Balboa Park attraction.

International Cottages Nations Represented

- House of Argentina
- House of San Diego
- House of China
- House of Colombia
- House of Czech and Slovak Republics
- House of Denmark
- House of England
- House of Finland
- House of France
- House of Germany
- House of Hungary
- House of India
- House of France
- House of Ireland
- House of Israel
- House of Italy
- House of Lithuania
- House of Mexico
- House of Norway
- House of Palestine
- House of Panama
- House of Peru
- House of Philippines
- House of Poland
- House of Puerto Rico
- House of Scotland
- House of Spain
- House of Sweden
- House of Turkey
- House of Ukraine
- House of United States of America

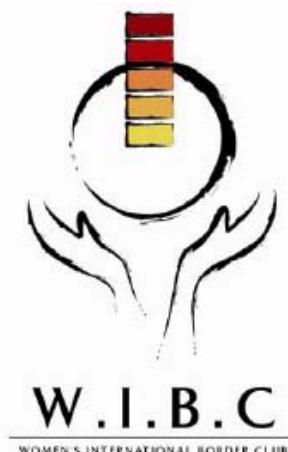
Conference Hosts

WCI's 10th International Conference is being hosted by the **Women's International Border Club** (Chula Vista, California) and assisted by the **Welcome to California International Club** (San Diego, California).

WCI expresses its thanks and appreciation to the members of these clubs for their dedication and hard work in preparing our conference.

Conference Chair • Vilma Boettcher
President, WIBC

Conference Treasurer • Elisabeth Miller
President, WCIC



Being a Member of Welcome Clubs

By :Sydni Ann Shollenberger

Welcome to Washington International Club, Inc.
Welcome to Tampa Bay International Club

In the years I have been a member of Welcome to Washington and most recently, Welcome to Tampa Bay International Club, the experiences I most cherish are the small ones.

Yes, there have been grand events, from anniversary galas to embassy receptions, from gatherings in famous museums and historic buildings to teas in fancy hotels, from lavish dinner parties in castles to potluck dinners in church meeting rooms. Many of those are memorable, too.



enjoyment of one another's foods?

On another occasion, I attended a high school graduation ceremony. I had not been inside a high school for many years, but that day, as I watched the parade of smiling young people march forward, representing many different cultures but wearing identical caps and gowns, and as I looked around me at the audience of parents, grandparents, and family friends, some dressed in celebration garb of their native lands, I saw the richness of woven texture that comes from the woof of our differences and the warp of our likenesses, what makes us sisters and brothers.

But the small events are the places where we connect with—really come to know—one another. These are the conversations and exchanges that begin with subjects common to women of all cultures and end with friendships that demonstrate how alike we are no matter how different our languages, skin colors, ages, religions, forms of government, or ways of dress.

What are these interests we have in common, woman-to-woman, people-to-people? Here are some elements of the level playing field where we meet as equals: health, safety, home, family, children, nourishment, work, creative expression—in literature, art, music, drama, photography—respect for ourselves and others, a peaceful world for our children and theirs. Who among us does not find these among the most important elements in our lives?

Therefore, when in the Welcome Clubs we meet women from other cultures, we have a myriad of safe conversational topics at our disposal—leaving politics, religion, and sexuality out of the list even though they, too, are generic elements we have in common.

In my humble recipe box are many well-worn index cards with recipes that have come from Welcome Club friends over the years. There was a time when I thought it was pretty special to be serving meals featuring dishes from South Africa, Spain, Japan, China, Italy. Then one day I looked around and realized how many small restaurants now dotted the cityscapes offering cuisine from a myriad of countries—India, Peru, Serbia, El Salvador, Afghanistan, Greece, Turkey, Morocco, Lebanon, Ethiopia, to name a few.

Could it be, I thought, that all the recipe exchanging over the years by Welcome Club members had indirectly led to this cornucopia of cuisines from around the world? Did our everyday experience of exchanging recipes lead us to this much

There is a drama by an American playwright, Thornton Wilder, called "Our Town." Written in the 1930's, the play is set in a mythical town in New England called Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, but the town could be "our town" anywhere in the world. In fact, at one point of the action Wilder talks about a letter to Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, United States of America, The World, The Universe, The Hand of God, clearly moving the town into a universal setting.

The scene I want to recall comes after Emily, a young woman who has died, is given a chance to go back in time to a special day in her life. She chooses her 12th birthday. When she returns, no one sees her, but what she sees is that everyone is missing the pleasures brought by the little things, the common, ordinary, everyday things of life.

She retreats from the world again and sadly reports, "I didn't realize all that was going on and we never noticed.... Goodbye, world. Goodbye, Grover's Corners...Mama and Papa. Goodbye to clocks ticking...and Mama's sunflowers. And food and coffee. And new-ironed dresses and hot baths...and sleeping and waking up. Oh earth, you're too wonderful for anybody to realize you."

Welcome Clubs help us see that not only are the common, ordinary, everyday things special in our own lives, but in the lives of people in every region of the globe. Perhaps through the ongoing friendships formed and confidences shared between women of the world, we WILL wake up and realize just how wonderful earth—our world—is while we are in it.

Sydni Schollenberger
January 2007

The Jar and the Two Cups of Coffee

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough; remember the story of the jar and the 2 cups of coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full.

They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full.

They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full.

The students responded with a unanimous "yes."

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand.

The students laughed.

Now, said the professor as the laughter subsided, I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things—God, your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favorite passions—and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job and your home.

The sand is everything else—the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first, he continued, there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness.

Play with your children.
Spend time with your parents.
Visit with grandparents.
Take time to get medical checkups.

Take your spouse out to dinner.
There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal.

Take care of the golf balls first—the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled and said, I'm glad you asked.

The coffee just shows you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend.

Member Spotlight



Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani

Member, Welcome to London
Founder & Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum
(AIWF), aiwfonline.com

1999-2000 President, FIWAL
2000-2003 WCI, Vice Chair, Middle East Region

21 Leaders for the 21st Century

In 2006, Haifa Al Kaylani received recognition as one of 21 Leaders for the 21 Century by Women's eNews in New York. In February 2007 Haifa Al Kaylani was named as one of The Muslim Power 100 Leaders in the United Kingdom and received the Education Excellence Award.

Haifa Al Kaylani is well known in international government and business circles as a high-impact change agent focusing on leadership in cultural and gender issues. A graduate of the American University of Beirut and University of Oxford, she brings a wide range of skills and experience to her personal mission of encouraging greater cultural understanding between Arab and international communities, supporting a strong role for women in that process.

Fluent in five languages, Mrs. Al Kaylani holds senior roles in several organizations in the UK and internationally as well as seats on the boards of charities, cultural institutions and NGOs.

As an economist, Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani has long held the belief that a society cannot truly prosper without utilizing the resources of its women. She has wide international exposure in government and business circles and held senior roles in several organizations in the United Kingdom and internationally. So it was a natural progression that in 2001 Al Kaylani founded the London-based nonprofit Arab International Women's Forum out of her desire to promote Arab women's participation in business, government and society throughout the Arab world and the global community.

"We are there to effect positive growth and development, and with it peace and prosperity by focusing on women's roles in the Arab world and the international community," she says of the forum's purpose. "There is no development in any society without women playing their rightful role. This is very important for the future development of the region as optimizing and fully utilizing all the human resources and is an essential factor in this growth."

Born in Palestine as Haifa Fahoum and raised in Lebanon, Al Kaylani is the eldest of five sisters. She was educated in English-speaking schools, speaks five languages and feels equally at home in the Arab and Western worlds. Al Kaylani studied economics at the American University of Beirut where she later earned a master's degree in economic development. In between, she received a diploma in economic development from Oxford University.

After working as a junior economist for the United Nations for two years, Al Kaylani married her husband, Ambassador Wajih Al Kaylani in 1970. They moved to the United Kingdom permanently in 1976, although they also spend time in Jordan and Lebanon. They have one son, Sirri, a lawyer.

In addition she carries out voluntary work for Arab and British charities in the UK, Europe and the Middle East with a focus on women and children's issues.

Haifa is a past president of the Federation of International Women's Associations (FIWAL). She was also a member of the Department of Trade and Industry Steering Committee of the 'Women in Business in the Arab World' Conferences, 1999 and 2000 and Co-Chaired the June 2000 conference on 'Promoting Arab-British Business Opportunities'.

Since 1999 she has been elected Vice President of the European Union for Women Achievement Awards – British Section and in 2000 she was appointed Vice Chair, Middle East Region of Welcome Clubs International by WCI president Eshrat Demougeot.

In 1999 and 2000 Al Kaylani, as the president of the FIWAL, launched conferences for Arab, British, European, American and international women working in business, government and civil service that inspired the founding of the forum. With the motto "Building Bridges, Building Business," she initiated Arab International Women's Forum, a formal network of Arab and

international businesswomen as well as female community leaders, to expand the growing role of women in the global marketplace and decision-making.

Through the forum, approximately 1,500 associations, individuals, corporations and partnerships from 45 nations on six continents build relationships, exchange ideas, develop business potential and promote their organizations. The bottom line: The forums help Arab women to increasingly become "part and parcel of the international community," Al Kaylani says.

In 2005, the forum launched the program Women as Engines of Economic Growth in the Arab World that produced a report and recommendations to enhance women's roles in the economy. The report stresses the value of education to empower women to succeed in both public and private sectors of society along with the need for more accessible vocational and information technology training. The report also calls upon governments and corporations to create the right constitutional and institutional environment that will remove barriers for women's active participation in business.

In addition to her work with the forum, Al Kaylani is Vice President International *The Women's Leadership Board at Harvard University*; Advisory Board Member *The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement*; Vice President *European Union for Women Achievement Awards*; Member Advisory Board and Past President *The Federation of International Women's Associations* in London; Member Advisory Board *Middle East Institute, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London*; Member International Advisory Board *Khalil Gibran Chair at University of Maryland*; Member of The Board of Trustees of *The British Edutrust Foundation*; Member of the *International Council of the Museum of Arts and Design* in New York.

News From Our Members

Diplomats' Spouses' Association of Armenia

On February 14th We held our 5th Annual Candle Light Dinner on the occasion of St. Valentines Day, a Dinner under the candles and the event included the members of DSA, heads of international organizations, businessmen, etc. Famous singers provided dazzling entertainment.

We have held several farewell parties, bidding sad good-bye's to Mrs. Liu Xiaoping, Chinese Ambassador's Wife; Mrs. Irina Pryaxina, wife of OSCE Representative -Head Of Mission; Mrs. Jackie Hide, wife of the British Consul. We held our farewell parties in several beautiful and interesting places to leave our departing members with good memories of our warm friendship.

We were delighted welcome the new Italian Ambassadors Wife. Mrs. Paola Catanzano to our group.

DSA meets at least 3 times a month. Our annual fund raising event, Bazaar 2007 this year will be on Sunday, September 23rd. We are also organizing a trip to Syria to show the beautiful east to our Foreign ladies!

Secretary -Referent
of the Diplomats Spouses Association
Marianna Bekchian



Nani Oskanian and Armine Melikyan



Candle Light Dinner



RETROSPECTIVE – Asian Ladies Club of Switzerland

17TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

By: Rebecca Bruderer, ALC

ALC was founded on May 22, 1990.

Celebrating the 17th year anniversary of ALC on the 23rd of June, held at Muggenbühl Restaurant in Zurich became a real commemoration of the occasion. The beautiful weather permitted the guests to enjoy the delicious welcome drink of a very fruity punch served in the garden between the restaurant and the Pavilion, reserved for ALC that evening. The elevated location allowed us to enjoy the view of the area.

A very convivial exchange of greetings and lively conversation went on as members and guests continued to arrive. Precisely at 7:00 PM practically all the guests had arrived and the party proceeded to the beautifully set tables inside the Pavilion.

Grace Meier, the president of ALC gave a short welcome address and expressed thanks and appreciation to those who had made this occa-

sion possible. Three former presidents of ALC in attendance were introduced to members and guests, in appreciation of their efforts in serving the club.

The ambiance of the restaurant, the background music and the relaxed atmosphere set us all in a partying mood. A slide show concerning past activities, mission and goals, etcetera of ALC flashed continuously over the screen and gave interesting insights of the club.

The highlights of dining came somewhat as a surprise, when a vocal presentation of the buffet variations, orchestrated by the culinary maestro with a touch of poetry and theatre, followed by opening the curtains to reveal a well decorated stage with a touch of Mediterranean scenery, where dishes like a symphony of culinary delicacies were displayed! Everything was meticulously prepared, with special emphasis on the cold appetizers, delicately served in small gourmet porcelain dishes of different shapes.

Games were introduced after the main meal,

which allowed us to move a bit from our seats. A game of puzzle was played on every table, and finally won by table D. It was followed by a game of animal sounds, like cats, dogs, etcetera. For a moment it sounded like in a zoo! This time the "Aristocats" won.

The dessert buffet came with a vocal presentation once more, when the curtain was drawn open to flash a stage of a dark blue sky background, with the moon and sparkling stars, quite dramatic this time. Choices of fresh fruits, mousses and ice creams of various flavours, cakes and pies etcetera, were composed like a medley of desserts.

There was a very joyous, relaxed atmosphere with lots of dancing in between. Members and guests were able to converse and share the evening with almost everybody present. There was a certain familiarity that gave everyone a feeling of a family affair. I felt that camaraderie, friendship and solidarity were well emphasized on this occasion, let these continue to grow stronger in the heart of ALC.

News From Our Members



WTC Evening Group: 1st Row from left - Maxine Merten, Julia Banks, Marianne Anderson, Colleen Willette; 2nd Row from left - Guli Shariff, Jadvyga McCloskey, Aida Souviron, Nikki Jersin, Nijol Rasmussen, Alvaro Souviron; Rear Ursula Peterson

The members of Welcome to Colorado are living the high life - not only because we live a mile above sea level in the beautiful city of Denver at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, but because our group of 314 ladies is able to enjoy and participate in more than 250 diverse and exciting programs through the year. We can take part in programs that cover arts and crafts, jewelry making, book discussions and reviews, lectures on history and culture, interior design and gardening. We attend opera and theater performances as a group and enjoy hiking in our beautiful mountains. We enjoy delectable foods from diverse cultures prepared by our members as part of our International Cooking program. We get together to play Bridge, Mahjong and other games. We have the opportunities to watch opera, movies and documentaries shown in members' home theaters, and many others get together once a month to learn about and invest in the stock market.

We frequently meet just to get to know each other better, to share our diverse cultures and experiences, tell what brought us to Colorado etc. Twice a year we offer a program called "Autobiography" where one member tells about her whole life, and at least 50 to 60 of us attend these very interesting presentations. Many of our functions involve wonderful coffees, luncheons or dinners. For many evening events - such as opera or theater performances, dinners and lectures of general interest - we invite our husbands to join us as well. If one of these functions takes place in a member's home, those attending are charged a fee to reimburse



WTC Members interrupt their Jewelry Making with Lunch: From left - Pam Bansbach, Ellen Friedman, Leslie Nelson, Elsa Repetto, Edie Hori, Minou Saeed

Welcome to Colorado International Club, Inc.

the hostess for any costs she might incur.

Welcome to Colorado has definitely joined the computer age with a website wholly dedicated to WTC where we publish pictures and even small movies taken at all of the various events. Members can view and download any of the material they find on the website. On the Website we have also started a "Pictorial Who's Who in WTC" with a photograph of each member, her name, nationality and year she joined the club, something our members seem to find quite useful.

With all these wonderful activities available to our members, the Welcome to Colorado International Club is flourishing after it was founded almost thirty years ago. Our international members hail from 40 different countries in Europe, South America, South Africa, the Near East and Asia. Our by-laws require an even split between US-born and International members, and at this time we have actually a waiting list for prospective US-born members. To become a member of our club an applicant must be sponsored by two club members who are encouraged to take the new members under their wing for the first year to help them get acquainted.

Welcome to Colorado's philosophy is based on "The Four P's": No Protocol, no Politics, no sought-after Publicity and no fundraising Project. Our club is truly designed to foster friendship among women from every corner of the world, and we believe in our club's motto: FRIENDSHIP THROUGH UNDERSTANDING AND UNDERSTANDING THROUGH FRIENDSHIP.

Ursula Kafadar
President
Welcome to Colorado International Club
Denver, Colorado, USA



WTC Members at the Opera: Liz Nielsen, Suzanne Sime, Aida Souviron, Ursula Kafadar, Angela & Robert Schulthess, Wayne Gibson, Guli Shariff



WTC Members celebrating a German Christmas: From left - Christine Hamadea, Maxine Merten, Lidwina Steiner, Renate Ozkan



WTC Members Hiking Group: Back Row from left - Anne Loopesko, guest J.J., Liz Nielsen Front Row from left - Otti LeHoy, Marianne Anderson, Rosina Avery, Myke Woods, Guli Shariff, Barb Kangieser



WTC Members enjoying a Movie at a Member's Home Theater

News From Our Members

IWC - Israel



Esther Mor
IWC President

IWC-Israel, Board & Club Members

The IWC-ISRAEL was founded in 1969 by a number of local ladies together with some ambassadors' wives who were stationed in Israel at that time.

The purpose of the Club is to promote friendship and understanding between the women of the foreign community and Israeli women by sharing social, cultural and educational activities. The Club has neither religious nor political

affiliations, or does it raise funds for charitable institutions, but contributes to the local community.

The Club aims at having an equal number of foreign ladies and Israelis and therefore its size depends on the number of foreign ladies stationed in Israel every year (approximately 400 members from 52 countries). The activities take place mostly in the suburbs of Tel Aviv, at homes of members. There are usually 40-50 ladies participating, depending on the venue. Among

our activities: Outings throughout the country, Music, Food and Wine, Health, Walking Tours, Book Club, Bridge Club, Archeology (at the Tel Aviv University), Arts and Crafts, Folk Dancing, conversation in Hebrew, English, French and Spanish.

One of the most successful and most attended activities is: Meet My Country, where each country introduces itself, its culture, customs and food. This activity takes place mostly in an

Ambassador's Residence. A new activity, introduced by the young foreign ladies is: Kids and café.

There is an activity every day of the month, except Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays (for obvious reasons). We publish a newsletter once a month where all the activities are listed with dates and a short description. Volunteers take bookings.

We pay a yearly fee, half of which covers the printing and posting of the newsletters. At some activities we charge a small amount of money to cover special expenses. The big events (end of Year Luncheon, Beginning of the Year Lunch, AGM and Purim-costume party) are partly subsidized by the Club.

A new president is elected every year and alternates between a foreign lady (usually an Ambassador's wife) and an Israeli. A Vice President and Second Vice are also elected at the same time. The Board consists of the Executive (President, Vice, 2nd Vice, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Convener) and the Heads of committees. Board Meetings are held once a month with approx. 25-30 participants. At these meetings future activities are discussed before going into the newsletter and any other issues that need discussion.

We recently created a forum of Past Presidents which meets occasionally to discuss larger issues and to raise ideas and solutions to problems which occur.

Naomi Furman
Club Affiliation Coordinator
IWC-Israel

Visit to Washington, D.C.



Naomi Furman & Lise McCartney
Inn Washington D.C.

I am happy to report on the warm welcome given to me by some members of the Washington Welcome Club and the president of Welcome Clubs International.

On Monday 11 December, I met with Anna Kristina Sawtelle, founder of IWC of

New England and WCI Regional Membership Chair for Israel and Africa, who was on her way to Yemen to visit her daughter who is there with US Aid. We had a long chat over a cup of tea in the Visitors Centre in Washington. Anna told me about the Club she founded in New England.

On Tuesday, Lise McCartney, Board member of the Washington Welcome Club and President of Welcome Clubs International, very

kindly invited me for a lunch meeting with another 3 Executive members: Joan Larson - Director WCI Meetings, Lois Fisher, WCI Budget Committee, Inga Shebat, WCI conference photographer and myself. They were all very enthusiastic to meet me as a representative of our Club.

We told each other about our Clubs and discussed issues which concern us all. Not surprisingly, we found that we face similar issues and that in general, the Clubs are run more or less in the same way. From our conversation I was proud to find out, as on other previous occasions and comparing newsletters from around the world, that our Club is very active and has the greatest number of activities per month. In one of her emails to me, Lise McCartney comments after reading our November Newsletter that our Club is certainly busy and provides interesting activities. Lise liked the insert we had, called A WOMAN and asked for permission to print it in WCI's *Worldwide Link*.

An issue of the Worldwide Link of the WCI is published twice a year. There are 28 Affiliated Clubs plus FIWAL in the United Kingdom, out of which 7 are in America and the rest from

around the world. (Israel is of course one of them). Lise and her international committee are happy to find more clubs who could be affiliated to the WCI.

I also spoke on the phone with Julia Banks who is the Ambassador at Large of the Welcome Clubs International and lives in Colorado.

Naomi Furman,
Club Affiliation Coordinator
IWC - Israel



Inga Shebat, Lise McCartney, Naomi Furman, Lise Fisher and Joan Larson

News From Our Members

Welcome to Taipei

Happy Twentieth Birthday!

By: Elizabeth Lamb, Ph.D.

The Chinese always say: "Time flies like an arrow."

It is true. Welcome to Taipei International Club is already twenty years old! But those twenty years as just like a moment in time.

On day in 1986, my telephone rang. It was Patricia Wen. I first met Patricia in 1972, when my husband Dr. L. J. Lamb and I were in D.C., preparing for his assignment to Taipei as Judge Advocate with the U.S. Military Advice and Assistance Group. Patricia told me that Julie Chien had called her from Washington D.C. As a member of the Welcome to Washington International Club, Julie said that was a very significant women's club, which advocates harmony, love, understanding and help. The President of the Welcome to Washington International Club asked Julie to have a sister club in Taipei, since Taipei is such an international city, and this would be the first Welcome International Club in Asia.

Julie and I have known each other since we were young girls and I have always admired her intelligence, leadership, charm and elegance. I said to Patricia that it was a wonderful idea, "I will whole-heartedly support and help." Patricia started to organize the club and asked me to be

the secretary for both Chinese and English,

After Patricia returned to Taipei for Gen. Wen's new assignment as the Commander in Chief of the Combined Service Forces, we saw each other often. Patricia organized a bowling team, consisting of several old friends from D.C., not only including the wives of Chinese diplomats and military attachés who were assigned in Washington D.C., but also the wives from the foreign diplomat corps, such as Cita Ramos, wife of the Philippine Ambassador; Marie Carmel B. Pérodin, wife of the Haitian Ambassador, and so many others. Can you imagine? Marie Carmel is really evergreen. After twenty years, she is still in Taipei as the wife of the Haitian Ambassador! Of course, her husband held many other important positions in between, but he again returned to Taipei as Ambassador. Only one thing has not changed: Marie Carmel's beauty and youthful appearance.

Patricia, such a gifted leader and organizer, asked a few of the bowling club members to become the founders of Welcome to Taipei International Club. Winifred Shen was the President, so we a good chief. An we, the Indians, all worked hard for our new club; therefore, the club grew larger and larger, stronger and stronger.

We have participated in many international women's conferences and contributed to many charities. We really made our club a bridge between East and West. We paved the road to harmony, love, understanding and assistance, and we harmonized the differences among races, religions and distances.

I dedicate this Chinese poem to describe the twenty years of WTIC:

After twenty years, the sprout has grown into a big tree.

The red flowers and green leaves add to each other's beauty.

The pure spirit and elegant appearance are presented with distinction.

The shining golden knife cuts all the dark clouds.

No one can compete with her devotion.

There will be more blossoms in the future.

As the fabulous bird flies and shakes the universe.

It will reach the highest level of Heaven.

Austrian Gourmet Luncheon

In the golden harvest season of autumn, instead of our usual excursion programme consisting of adventuring into the scenic neighboring northern township, the Board of Directors decided to let our most popular and well-attended Cooking Demonstration Interest Group incorporate a gastronomic event for our members.

We were indeed very fortunate to be able to put forth this plan after being informed that the Austrian Tourism Office was going to host a gourmet festival at the Sheraton Hotel Taipei. We are extremely thankful to Mrs. Brigitte Beidinger for gracious generosity in consenting to co-host yet another activity showcasing her country's land and culture for our members and guests.

The luncheon was held on October 24th at the Sukhothai Restaurant, with about 100 attendees filling the house. The programme began with a welcoming speech by our acting President Mrs. Christi Lan Lin, and then we had Mrs. Beidinger introduce us to the internationally renowned gourmet chef Mr. Sascha Huber, as well as pastry chef Ms. Gertrude Hutter, both of whom later performed step-by-step culinary demonstrations.

We were also awed by an Austrian wine master displaying the authentic bottle-opening ritual by slashing off the cork with a 15-inch long shining knife.

The delicious 4-course gourmet food was excellent and certainly worth at least 2 stars

on the Michelin Scale, not to mention the refreshing sparkling wine and white wine that accompanied the appetizer and main course.

Near the end of the programme, Mr. Harald Katzenschlager from Burgenland Tourism Board guided us through "Burgenland - Pannonian Dream Journeys," a short film introducing the magnificent castle country of Burgenland. He also gave a surprise pop quiz and rewarded correct answers with some nice gifts from Austria.

Everyone enjoyed the luncheon and our Austrian friends topped this cheerful occasion with packages of surprise gifts for everyone to bring home.

The Bookshelf

Recommended as worth reading by WCI Club members

Welcome Club International California
Book Club - Irene Hurlbert

SNOW

Author: Orhan Pamuk (Nobel Prize, literature, 2006)

Publisher: Vintage International, 2005
(paperback)

Fiction

English translation from the Turkish by Maureen Freely

Set in a remote provincial town in Turkey, the novel vividly examines the country's confrontation between the forces of Islamic fundamentalism and secularism. Dealing with love and belief as well as politics, this is a most timely work. Part of its enjoyment is giving us a keen understanding of the critical dilemmas of present day Turkey.

A FINE BALANCE

Author: Rohinton Mistry

Publisher: Vintage Books USA, 2001
(paperback)

Fiction

English

(Also recommended by IWC, Israel)

Taking place in India between 1975 and 1977 when the government has declared a state of emergency, the story is about four unlikely people thrust together to share lodging in the city and an uncertain future. Through the dramatic and shocking turns their lives take, we get an intimate view of India in its cruelty and corruption, dignity and fortitude. This is a rich, haunting tale with vivid characters reflecting the human spirit.

International Women's Club, Israel
Book Club - Maxine Levite

THE NAMESAKE

Author: Jhumpa Lahiri

(Also recommended by BIC, Mass. Below)

THE 13TH TALE

Author: Diane Setterfield

Publisher: Atria Books. 2006

Fiction

A FINE BALANCE

Author: Rohinton Mistry

(See above recommendation by WCI, California)

SOMEONE TO RUN WITH

Author: David Grossman

Publisher: Farrar, Staus and Giroux, 2005

Berkshire International Club
Book Club - Moira Buoni

THE GOOD WOMEN OF CHINA - Hidden Voices

Author: Xinran

Publisher: Anchor Books, 2002

English

Xinran gives an amazing glimpse into China's culture. She was an employee of the state radio system and was given clearance to host a call-in show in the 1980s. She had long wanted to help improve the lives of Chinese women. With the radio show, anonymous women called in with their stories of decades of civil strife. These stories are moving, horrific and heart breaking. I enjoyed it very much.

SARAH

Author: Marek Halter

Publisher: The Rivers Press 2002

English

Sarah is Abraham's wife and gives up an exalted life to join Abram's tribe. This is the first of the Canaan Trilogy, written by a man who shows great insight into the life, emotions, and feelings of women.

A THREAD OF GRACE

Author: Mary Doria Russell

Publisher: Ballantine Books, 2005

English

The author tells the little known story of the vast underground effort by Italian citizens who saved the lives of 43,000 Jews during the final phase of World War II. A well written book I found hard to put down.

THE NAMESAKE

Author: Jhumpa Lahiri

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Books, 2003

(Also recommended by IWC, Israel above)

The story of an Indian couple just married (arranged) and their life when they come to America and how they try to keep up their traditions especially when they have children. This covers 35 years and deals with the son's conflict with the Father over the name his Father gave him. I found it very interesting. It has since been made into a film.

THE PLACES IN BETWEEN

Author: Rory Stewart

Publisher: Hardcourt, 2006

English

Only a Scotsman would walk across Afghanistan alone, immediately after the fall of the Taliban. His encounters with Afghans are tragic, touching, and terrifying. This is a book difficult to put down and gives a great insight to the people of Afghanistan.

SNOW FLOWER AND THE SECRET FAN

Author: Lisa See

English



Publisher: Random House, 2005

Fiction

(Also recommended by Welcome to Florida)

This book is based on a unique language known as 'nu shu' that Chinese women created many years ago in order to communicate in secret, away from the influence of men. Two young girls age eight begin this communication which continues throughout their lives. This is a fascinating story of the life and culture of women in China.

THE PRINCE OF THE MARSHES

Author: Roy Stewart

2006

English

After Rory left Afghanistan he describes his life as Governor for a year in Northern Iraq for the British Government. He deals with the leaders of the tribes and tries to understand their minds. They squabble among themselves and lie all the time, but there are many who appreciate what the British and Americans are trying to do, they want a Democracy. It is funny at times, but also sad and very frustrating. This author has accomplished so much in his life of 33 years.

International Women's Club of New England

TEAM OF RIVALS

Author: Doris Kearns Goodwin

Publisher: Simon and Schuster, 2005

Non-Fiction

English

This book traces the political career of Abraham Lincoln and shows that his greatness lay in his magnanimous character, as well as his political genius. He brought into his cabinet former rivals and men who did not respect him. In time they grew to not only respect him, but to love him.

Submitted by Charline Ludgate

ISHMAEL

Author: Daniel Quinn

Publisher: Bantam/Turner, February 1992

Fiction

English

Ishmael is a unique novel. It is about a teacher seeking a pupil who must have an earnest desire to save the world. This book made me laugh and made me cry but more than anything it deepend

my thoughts about how we behave, treat one another and our planet.

Submitted by Kristine Slater

Submitted by Eshrat Demougeot
WCI Executive Committee

PERSEPOLIS

Author: Marjane Satrapi.

It comes in two volumes - the second is titled

Persepolis II

Publisher: Pantheon, 2005

Boxed Set

It is a very brilliant and unique memoir of her growing up in Iran during the Shah's overthrow, the fundamentalist regime and the Iran/Iraq war. It is a poignant story through a little girls eyes during war and political repression written in comic strip format. The second volume is about her schooling in Vienna and her return to Iran.

Submitted by Aisha Mansouri
International Women's Club of Pennsylvania

-de kooning, AN AMERICAN MASTER

Author: Mark Stevens and Annalyn

Publisher: Alfred A. Knopf. 2004

Biography

English

Easy to read, recent history of contemporary art.

Submitted by Dorothy Chiu
Welcome Club International, Shanghai

TRACING IT HOME

Author: Pan Lynn

Publisher: Kodansha America

February 1995

English

The book is based upon the author's personal experience of her years in Shanghai, before the communist take over. It covers the crucial years when many of the elites of Shanghai left in mass exodus. It is extremely well written. I personally consider her command of English could be compared to the great master Dr. Ling Yu Tang (nominated for Nobel Prize for English Literature in 1935).

Welcome to Florida (Naples)
Book Club

THREE CUPS OF TEA: A man's Mission to fight terrorism and build nations . . . One school at a time

Author: Greg Mortenson

Publisher: Greg Mortenson
Non-Fiction

Greg Mortenson's life has literally and figuratively exemplified our club motto to "build bridges of understanding." Greg, a mountain climber, repays his Sherpa rescuers by returning to build a village school for boys & girls.

SNOW FLOWER AND THE SECRET FAN

Author Lisa See

Publisher: Random House, 2005

Fiction

(See above recommendation by BIC, Mass.)

THE ROAD TO COORAIN

Author: Jill Conway

Publisher: Random House, 1989

Non-Fiction, Autobiography

Wonderful descriptions of the Australian outback and how it affected the character and attitudes of the author.

SO MANY ENEMIES, SO LITTLE TIME

Author: Elinor Burkett

Publisher: HarperCollins, 2004

Non-Fiction

Relates author's experience and travels during her Fulbright year in Kyrgyzstan. The Task of teaching 'American Style' journalism presented the challenge of reshaping attitudes formed by the Stalinist culture.

THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL

Author: Philippa Gregory

Publisher: Simon & Schuster, 2001

Fiction

English

Depicts the atmosphere of court life under Henry VIII. Our English members say some of the characters portraits were not historically accurate.

THE HEMINGWAY BOOK CLUB OF KOSOVO

Author: Paula Huntley

Publisher: Penguin Group, 2004

Memoir

Huntley shows that she could make a difference in the lives of her Albanian students by providing them with love and encouragement.

Asian Ladies Club of Switzerland
Book Club

REBECCA

Author: Daphne du Maurier

Publisher: Virago Press Ltd.

New Edition, 2003

Fiction

Rebecca chronicles the nameless narrator's marriage to Maxim de Winter, a marriage which is overshadowed by the memory of Maxim's first wife, Rebecca, who was killed in a mysterious sailing accident. As Maxim's second wife learns more about Rebecca, she becomes more intimidated and jealous, until Maxim reveals the intriguing details of the marriage.

The reader, along with the narrator, slowly unravels the events that had previously taken place at Manderley, the de Winter residence. As the novel progresses, Rebecca's underlying evil and the previous events at Manderley become more and more apparent. The obsessive nature of both Maxim and Mrs. Danvers begin to overpower the central love story. With peripheral characters supplying minor details of the past, the narrator starts to piece together past events, and this knowledge changes her life.

THE COLOR OF WATER

Author: James McBride

Publisher: Riverhead Trade

10 Anniversary Edition, 2006

Memoir

The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother is the autobiography of musician James McBride. It is also a memoir for his mother. The chapters alternate between James McBride's descriptions of his early life, and first-person accounts of his mother's childhood. The novel depicts the conflicting emotions that James endures as he struggles to discover who he truly is, as his mother narrates the hardships that she had to overcome to educate her children.

AN EQUAL MUSIC

Author: Vikram Seth

Publisher: Vintage, 2000

Fiction

An Equal Music is a love story, the tale of Michael, a professional violinist who has never recovered from the loss of his only true love, a pianist, whom he knew as a student in Vienna. Ten years after their affair has ended, they meet again, and despite the fact that she is now married and has a child, she agrees to accompany Michael and his quartet back to Vienna where their passion is rekindled and secrets are revealed. Seth masterfully conveys the inner life of a musician and deftly articulates the joy and pain of creating music.

Continued, page 27

Read a good book lately?

Books listed here are recommended reading by book clubs and/or individual members of WCI clubs. This list can also be found on our web site for your convenience. If you have a recommendation to share, please submit to editorlink@welcomeclubs.org



WCI International Tea



A cup of friend-

To celebrate our spirit of global friendship and understanding, the WCI Board of Directors have proposed a WCI International Tea in which all clubs would participate simultaneously. This event will be celebrated on International Women's Day, March 8, 2008.

All club presidents and liaisons have been contacted via email to discuss this concept with their respective administrative boards/committees for approval to participate. Because many clubs are on summer break, they will be proposing this concept to their clubs when they resume activities in September. However we have already heard from three of our members who have endorsed this event with enthusiasm: International Women's Club of Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil; Welcome to Wessex, United Kingdom; and Welcome to Colorado, Denver, Colorado USA.

Each independent club will plan their own event and Faye Rokni, WCI's Director of Research and Development, is available to help clubs coordinate this program (researchdevelopment@welcomeclubs.org or fayerokni@aol.com).

We ask clubs respond to Faye by October 1, 2007 so that we may formulate and launch our public relations plans about our global tea party.

Supporting WCI

It was also proposed that the international tea could be used to help support WCI's **Worldwide Link** magazine. The transformation from newsletter to a more comprehensive magazine format is expensive and one that WCI cannot continue without additional revenue. We are launching an advertising campaign to help offset the costs. But we also need the support of our member clubs. The suggestion to add a small surcharge to the per/person cost for the international tea for donation to WCI for the **Link** was endorsed at the WCI Board meeting. The added charge and the amount is at the discretion of the clubs participating in this event.

Celebrate your way . . .

with the knowledge that you are participating in

A cup of friendship

with fellow members of all our clubs around the world!



Many board members made suggestions about the formats for the individual international tea party.

Angel Wu of Welcome to Taipei told us about a tea she had undertaken in which the representatives of the many different nations in Taiwan were asked to participate, each one hosting a tea table in the custom of their various countries. It was a huge success and showcased many different cultures and their approach to the universal and age-old tea ritual.

Other suggestions included:

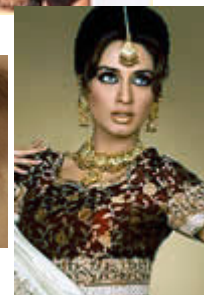
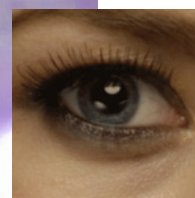
- Introduce membership to WCI and its member clubs – WCI can provide a short program about sister clubs worldwide which can be presented by the club president or liaison
- Invite outsiders to introduce them to your club and its goals – a recruitment tool
- Involve embassies to help host
- Give each table the name of a country
- Fun event – hat contest – craziest hat, largest hat, most elegant hat, etc.
- For those clubs involved with charities – could be a fundraiser



**Celebrating women around the world with
A cup of friendship!**



Women & Beauty



Being a woman is great! In asking a friend from India for help in researching the cosmetics used by our sisters in India I realized again how much more we have in common than that which divides us. I realized that beauty unites, not only culturally but historically.

Most of us are familiar with Henna and Kohl in beauty products. Henna is a popular hair colouring today and Kohl is the forerunner of the eyeliners many of us use.

However, some of the oldest and widespread Henna applications are those for fingernails where it is known to strengthen nails and cuticles. This custom was important to women doing hard agricultural work in soggy irrigated fields, grinding grain and other tasks yet needing to keep their fingertips smooth for weaving and sewing as well as wanting to look good and not suffer from split nails and cuticles. Even today, henna is used to cool the body with often the soles of the feet painted with henna.

There is a great deal of historical evidence showing that this desire to look good is not new. We are all familiar with pictures of the ancient queens of Egypt wearing elaborate eye make up and coiffured hair styles while the wall paintings excavated at Akrotiri dating prior to the eruption of Thera in 1680 BCE show women with markings consistent with henna on their nails, palms and soles.

Anyone who has been to an Indian wedding will remember the fantastic designs painted on the hands and feet of the bride as well as on the groom, while new technical innovations in grinding, sifting, temperature control and the packaging of henna has led to new techniques using glitter, gilding and fine line work.

Interestingly, women living in countries where women are discouraged from working outside the home can find socially acceptable, lucrative work doing Henna while many

women work as a team for a large wedding where hundreds of guests will be hennaed as well as the bride and groom.

Kohl, a mixture of soot and other ingredients is used predominately by Middle Eastern, North African, Sub Saharan African and Asian women to darken the eyelids and as mascara. Kohl too has been used as far back as the Bronze ages and was originally used as a protection against the glare of the sun.

Kajal is the Hindi word for kohl and is used by women in India as an eyeliner. In Southern rural India, especially in Kerala, Kajal is still made at home by the women of the household., local tradition considers it to be a very good coolant for the eyes and is even used for infants.

The method used is worth remembering next time you buy an eyeliner from your local beautician ! A clean white muslin cloth about four inches square is dipped in sandalwood paste or juice of *Alstonia scholaris*, taken from the bark of the *Alstonia* tree, then dried in the shade. This dip and dry process continues all day. After sunset, a wick is made of the cloth which is lit and set under a brass vessel and left burning all night. Next morning, one or two drops of ghee or castor oil is added to the soot created, then stored in a clean dry box. All the ingredients used are believed to have medicinal properties and are still used in therapies such as Ayurveda and Siddha medicines.

In our search for awareness and understanding of the culture of others it is useful as well as fascinating, to discover the many things we have in common. An interest in looking good is not only universal but has been the norm for centuries.

Jocelyn Jones
Staff Reporter



Henna Shrub
lawsonia inesma



leaves
yeild the
henna dye

Walking through one of the London parks one dull spring day I chanced upon a group of Indian ladies dressed in their traditional dress, the Sari. I was struck by the beauty and jewel like colours of these robes and felt envy that I was only dressed in a rather dull coloured European style trouser suit.

This chance encounter reminded me that the world of fashion does not end in Paris, London, New York and Milan. Throughout the world, women enjoy choosing fabrics and styles unique to their own culture.

As a WCI member, I realized there was a great deal I didn't know about my sisters around the world and their life styles so I researched a little more about the sari, how it was worn, the material used, and it's origins.

The word Sari (also Saree) evolved from the Prakrit 'sattika' as mentioned in earliest Buddhist Jain literature and is traced back to the Indus Valley civilization which flourished in 2800-1800 BCE (Before Current Era). It is generally accepted that wrapped, Sari-like garments, shawls and veils in their current form have been worn by Indian women for thousands of years.

There are many legends about how the sari was created. One such story goes ... saree was born on the looms of a weaver, he dreamt about women - the shimmer of the tears, the drape of the tumbling long hair, the colors of the many moods, the soft touch and

he kept weaving yards of fabric. As he finished he smiled and smiled and smiled ... Indian civilization has placed a tremendous importance on unstitched fabric. The belief is unstitched fabric is pure.



Sexy choli style

The Sari is woven in various lengths according to the requirements of the regions, some as long as eight feet. Today, ladies wear an underskirt or petticoat and an upper garment called a choli around which the sari is draped according to the style of the region. The long

Sari A Fashion Statement

piece over the shoulder is called the pallu. One point of particular controversy is the history of the Choli and the petticoat. Some researchers state that these garments were unknown before the arrival of the British with their Victorian values of modesty. Previously, women wore one draped cloth casually exposing upper body and breasts. Other historians claim evidence of textual and artistic evidence for various forms of breast-bands and upper body shawls worn.

The most common style of draping the Sari is by wrapping it around the waist, arranging several pleats which tuck into the waistband of the petticoat, then continuing the wrap ending in the long pallu draped over the shoulder. However, I discovered that there are different ways of wearing a sari with each region having their own unique style, with further differences within these regions. In the northern region there are eight different styles with variants in the Eastern, Central, Southern and Bangladeshi regions. In Pakistan, the Shalwar Kameeze has largely replaced the sari although it remains a popular dress for formal functions.

In the same way that we, in the west, can usually guess from which country someone may originate according to the way they dress, Indian ladies too would be able to 'read' from where someone originated by the style of their Sari.

In modern times saris are woven on mechanical looms using artificial fibres which require no starching or ironing which has lead to the plummeting of the market for hand weaving although hand woven garments remain as the popular choice for weddings and grand social occasions.

The more expensive garments are made of silk, fine enough to pass through a ring embroidered with coloured silk thread as in Resham work while the Zardozi embroidery uses gold and silver thread, sometimes with pearls and other precious stones.

No wonder I was envious of my Indian friends!

This article can only give a glimpse of the exquisite artistry and history of the Sari as worn by our sisters in India. For more information, do speak to your Indian friends or check for yourself on the internet.

Jocelyn Jones
Staff Reporter

The Sari is the only garment in feminine apparel which has stayed 'In Fashion' for 5000 years. Why? you wonder.. It is after all, only 6 yards of unstitched material, but look what it can do to any woman -- Make her look even better!!!



Saris drying in the sun

Tradition & Trend



Dirndl

Charming femininity combined with tradition.

Once a working dress, now a shooting star.

~ pure glamour ~

If

you are going to be traveling in Europe this year, you can expect to see the venerable dirndl being worn as a fashionable dress and taking the place of honor in designer window displays all over the Continent. You might want to get one for yourself while you are there; dirndls are now very IN for the fashion conscious.

Originally, the dirndl was the working dress of female servants (Austrian "dirn": maid, maidservant); hence the term "dirndl" as an abbreviation of "Dirndlgewand" (maid's dress). Around 1870/1880, after Kaiser Franz Joseph made it fashionable to wear Lederhosen and Tracht, the upper classes adopted the dirndl as a modern dress and wore it on their summer holidays. Today the wearing of the dirndl is generally regarded as a sign of national pride; in material, color and shape it is increasingly subject to modern influences. Wearing a dirndl has a most feminine allure, and the décolleté a very important part of the glamorous view of these dresses. Wearing a dirndl means: you are never walking alone.

The most popular dirndls are coming from Munich and Austrian dirndl dress designers. New styles combined with old traditional shapes makes the dress so very attractive. Precious textures, embroidered, and/or laces, silver buttons and fine chains, big ribbons - a perfect combination for a grand performance.

At the Munich October Festival dirndls are showcased each year. All magazines publish the Lady-VIP's dressed in a wonderful dirndl - from the most famous dirndl designers. It would be a big faux-pas not to be dressed with a new unique dirndl in one of the beer tents.

A **dirndl** is a traditional dress worn in southern Bavaria and Austria, based on the historical costume of Alpine peasants. It has a tight bodice over a blouse and an apron. While appearing to be simple and plain, a properly-made, modern dirndl might be quite expensive. In Bavarian slang, 'dirndl' originally referred to a young woman or a girl. Nowadays, 'dirndl' may equally refer to either a young woman, or to the dress.

Dirndl is loosely based on Tracht, the traditional dress of Bavaria and Austria. Trachten is much older, and is very highly crafted and expensive. It has a different style and crest for each village, along with unusual hats and accessories. Styles worn as national dress or to annual festivals can be highly ornamented with patterns and frills. Accessories may include a long apron tied round the waist (mimicking the original form of a maid or peasant), a waistcoat or a wool shawl. For colder weather there are heavy dirndl coats in the same cut as the dresses, with a high neck and front buttons, thick mittens and wool hats.

The dirndl is generally restricted to Bavaria and Austria, but is also seen in these regions by women in the Folk Music business (which often targets an older conservative audience in Germany). In Bavaria, it may often be seen on women working in tourism-related businesses, and sometimes waitresses in traditional-style restaurants or biertavernen. However, despite being far from an everyday dress, a woman in

southern Bavaria may sometimes wear it at formal occasions (much like a wearing a Kilt) and certain traditional events. Surprisingly, it is hugely popular even among young women at the time of the Oktoberfest in Munich (and similar festivals in southern Germany), although most young women will only wear dirndl-style dresses (called *Landhausmode*), which may deviate by numerous ways and are often much cheaper.

Popular designs are often less plain and much more revealing and provocative (e.g. having a short skirt and/or displaying significant cleavage). A true dirndl at the Oktoberfest is usually a good way of distinguishing between a native Bavarian, and non-native visitors or residents in Bavaria.

The way that the dirndl is worn can signify marital status. If the apron is tied to the right side it means that the woman is in a relationship. If it is tied on the left side it can signify that she is single.



Left - Germany's most renowned Dirndl designer Lola Paltinger and lighting manufacturer Osram adding a special touch to the traditional Bavarian Dirndl: The world's first Light Dirndl shines with the subtle light of 100 LEDs, no bigger than a pinhead and sewed onto the Dirndl by hand. The lights accentuate Lola Paltinger's Dirndl's designs, which stand out through the finest fabrics, feminine and dazzling puff sleeves and airy aprons with elaborate embroidery - a real eye-catcher.



Left - Model Regina Deutinger wears what is supposed to be the world's most expensive Dirndl dress. The Dirndl is gemmed with 150,000 Swarovski jewels and costs 100,000 Euro (US\$127,000)

Right - Paris Hilton knows a fetching outfit when she sees one - even if it's something more likely to be found on Bavarian women, a golden dirndl-inspired creation in the Bavarian city of Munich. "I've found four of them and bought them," she told photographers. For once, Hilton was following a trend instead of setting one.



STATUS OF WOMEN IN INDIA

By: Neena Dugal

Immediate Past President of the Women's India Association
Vice President of FIWAL.



Neena Dugal

Eve, in the Middle Eastern Garden of Eden, was made out of Adam's rib. She was, as a result, subservient to man. But in the Indian mythology, one of the creators of mankind and their life's philosophy was Lia, a woman. In ancient Sanskrit scriptures God is referred to as Tat, Sanskrit for IT and not he – meaning God's gender is undefined. For our ancients, it could very well be a woman we are talking about. No where in the world had so much emphasis been given to the equal partnership of the male and female energies as the real power of the Universe. Women have been the most fearsome, most valiant, and most battle worthy warriors in the fight between good and evil.

In the Hindu religion, of the infinite numbers of Gods and Goddesses, the presiding deity of wealth is a woman, the God of power and strength is a woman, and the God of learning is a woman. Their consorts are Gods too- the Creator, the Keeper and the Destroyer- but then, what is the use of life without wealth, learning and power? So the real backing comes from the female power. Even during the early Vedic times that extended between 6,000 and 3,000 years ago, women in the northern plains of India had status equal to men in almost all matters. In ancient Hindu society, women were polyandrous, could get divorced if they did not find their husbands worthy in any way, widows could remarry, royal women even had the right to arrange for competitions to determine who they would choose to marry. The most liberal of all social accepted norms was Niyog, that a woman had the right to choose another man to have children by, if her husband was incapable of procreation. After 5,000 years of being at par with man, the Indian woman started to lose her importance.

Every mother, until today, sings the stories and glories of these powers and reads the tales of valour from the book of Hindu philosophy, the Bhagwad Gita, to her child in the cradle. But in adulthood, it is the same child who unthinkingly rapes, plunders, kills and exploits the same woman whether it is his unborn daughter in her mother's womb, or any other women on the road. The irony lies in the fact that our culture, that sets aside the most important festivals and religious beliefs for worshipping female power, cannot learn to respect its own women folk.

The medieval period brought down the position of women with customs like Sati, child marriage, ban on widow remarriage and Jauhar practised by the Rajput Women of Rajasthan. Now the religious scriptures represented the ideal woman as obedient and submissive and always needing the care of a male- first father, then husband, then son.

About 2500 years ago social problems started to crop up like land holdings, structure of inheritance and property ownership and social importance of male offspring -thus contributing to the gradual downslide of the status of the women. Almost 1500 years later foreign invasions, military as well as cultural, did not help. Invasions from the west of India time and again looted and plundered and carried away and dishonoured the women. So over the centuries, women were removed from the for line of society and kept in isolated backyards, draped in veils. Muslims ruled India for 700 years followed by the colonization for three centuries by the British.

In spite of all this, there were women who excelled in the field of politics, literature, education and religion. From 1236 to 1240 Razia Sultana ruled Delhi, she was the only woman to have ever done so. The queen of Gond ruled for 15 years before losing her life in a battle against the Mughals in 1564. Chand Bibi defended Ahmadnagar against the mughal forces in 1590. Mughal emperor Jahangir's wife Nur Jehan was recognised as the real power behind the throne. In South India many women administered villages, town divisions and headed social and religious institutions.

Over 500 years ago, Guru Nanak, the first of the ten Sikh Gurus, preached the message of equality between men and women. He advocated that women are allowed to lead religious assemblies, perform and lead congregational hymns singing called Kirtan or Bhajan, be members of religious management committees, lead armies in the battle fields, had equality in marriage and equality in Baptism. The other 9 Sikh Gurus also followed the same preaching.

Now let us talk about these historical practises. Traditions such as Sati, Jauhar, child marriage etc have been banned and are largely defunct. However, there are still some cases found in India.

Sati is an old custom in which the widow was immolated alive on her husband's funeral pyre. Although the act was supposed to be voluntary on the widow's part, they were times when they were forced in to it.

Jauhar refers to the practice of voluntary immolation of all the wives and daughters of defeated warriors, in order to avoid capture and consequent molestation by the enemy. It was a practice followed by the Rajput women of Rajasthan, who are known to place a high premium on honour.

Earlier, child marriages were highly prevalent in India. The young girls would live with their parents until they reached puberty. In the past, the child widows were condemned to a life of great agony, shaving their heads, and living in isolation and shunned by the society. Even though child marriage was outlawed in 1860, it is still a common practice in some under developed areas of the country. There is an excellent film called Water, directed by Deepa Mehta, it is set in the India of 1930s. It shows the plight of widows, young and grown up, if you get a chance, do go and see it.

Purdah is the practice of requiring women to cover their heads and bodies so as to conceal their form. It is now declining in India but still practiced by some Muslims.

The European scholars observed in the 19th century that the Hindu women are "naturally chaste" and "more virtuous". During the British Raj, many reformers fought for the upliftment of women, Sati practice was abolished in 1829 and Widow Remarriage Act was passed in 1856.

Rani Lakshmi Bai, the queen of Jhansi, led the Indian Rebellion in 1857 against the British. Begum Hazrat Mehal, the co-ruler of Awadh, also revolted against the British in the same year. The Begums of Bhopal were a few of the notable female rulers during this period. They did not observe the purdah and were trained in martial arts.

In 1917, the first women's delegation supported by the Indian National Congress, met the Secretary of State to demand political rights for women. The All India Women's Education Conference was held in Pune in 1927. In 1929, the Child Marriage Restraint Act was passed stipulating 14 as the minimum age of marriage for a girl.

Women played an important part in India's independence struggle. The Rani of Jhansi Regiment of Subhash Chandra Bose's Indian National Army consisted entirely of women. Sarojini Naidu, a poet and freedom fighter was the first Indian woman to become President of the Indian National Congress and the first woman to become the Governor of an Indian State.

Women in Independent India participate in all activities such as education, politics, media, art & culture, service sectors, science, technology etc. The Constitution of India guarantees to all Indian women equality (Article 14) No discrimination by the State (Article 15 part one), Equality of opportunity (Article 16), Equal pay for equal work (Article 39 part D). In addition, it allows special provisions to be made by the State in favour of women and children (Article 15 Part 3), renounces practice derogatory to the dignity of women (Article 15 Part AE) and also allows provisions to be made by the State for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief (Article 42).

The feminist activism in India picked up momentum during the later 1970s. One of the first national level issues that brought the women's groups together was the acquittal of police men accused of raping a young girl in a police station. This led to wide scale protests in 1979-80 and was covered by the national media. It forced the Government to amend the Evidence Act, the Criminal Procedure Code and the Indian Penal Code and introduce the category of custodial rape. Female activists united over issues such as female infanticide, gender bias, women's health and female literacy. In 1990s grants from foreign donor agencies enabled the formation of new women-oriented NGOs and self help groups such as Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA). They have played a major role for women's rights in India. The Government of India declared 2001 as the Year of Women's Empowerment or (Swashakti).

Sari & Salwar Kameez are worn by women all over India. Lately, fashions are changing, as European way of dressing is becoming popular. Traditionally, Bindi or red spot on the forehead was worn by only the married Hindu women, but now it has become a part of fashion.

Although gradually rising, the female literacy rate is lower compared to the male literacy rate. Compared to boys, far fewer girls are enrolled in the schools and many of them drop out. It is commonly believed that if a girl is educated too much, she might become "too bold" in her thinking and may not be able to settle down with the ways of her in-laws family. Divorce brings shame to the girl's family and the society mostly blames the woman for the break up. According to the National Sample Survey Data only the States of Kerala and Mizoram have approached universal female literacy rate, thus an improved social and economic status of women there. Currently, in engineering, medical and other colleges 30% of the seats have been reserved for females.

Contrary to common perception, a large percentage of women work. However, there are far fewer women in the paid work force than there are men. In rural India, agriculture and allied industrial sectors employ as much as 89.5% of the total female labour. In overall farm production, women's average contribution is estimated at 55% to 66% of the total labour. According to 1991 World Bank Report, women accounted for 93% of total employment in dairy production in India. Women constitute 51% of the total employed in forest based small scale enterprises. In 2006, Kiran Mazumdar – Shaw, who started BIOCON – one of India's biotech companies, was rated India's richest woman, Lalita Gupte and Kalpana Morparia run India's second largest bank ICICI Bank and made it to the list of FORBES world's most powerful women. Indra Nooyi is heading Pepsi Co.

In most Indian families women did not own any property in their own name, and did not get a share of parental property. In fact, some of the laws discriminated against women when it can to land and property rights. But after the Amendment of Hindu laws of 2005, women have been provided the same status as men.

India is the culture that has the world's most explicit treatise on sex and sexual mores, the Kama Sutra. Yet, today it is a society where a

woman is not safe on the streets of its metros. It has after centuries of awareness, today degenerated in to a society that is morally corrupt and humanly degraded. Police records show that there is a high incidence of crimes against women. Earlier many cases were not registered with the police due to the social stigma attached to rape and molestation. Half of the total number of crimes reported against women relate to molestation and harassment at the work place. In 1997, in a landmark judgement, the Supreme Court of India took a strong stand against this and laid down detailed guidelines for prevention and redress of grievances. The National Commission of Women subsequently elaborated these guide lines in to a Code of Conduct for employers.

Religion operates alongside other cultural and economic factors in lowering the status of women. The concept of dowry as it exists in India, most probably does not exist in any other culture. If the dowry of the women is inadequate in the eyes of her married family, she can be conveniently done to death. It is claimed that at least 5000 women die each year because of this, and at least a dozen die each day in so called "kitchen fire" thought to be intentional. The term for this is "bride burning" and even though dowry is criticized and illegal in India, the legal system has no impact on this practice in a majority of the cases.

The need for a dowry for girls and the ability to demand a dowry for boys exerts considerable economic pressure on families to use any means to avoid having girls, who are seen as a liability. It has been reported that there are posters in Mumbai advertising sex- determination that read, "it is better to a pay Rs500 (£6) now than Rs50,000 (£600) in dowry later.

As a result of selective abortions between 35 and 40 million girls and women are missing from the Indian population. In some parts of the country, the sex ratio of girls has dropped to less than 800: to 1000. The United Nations has expressed serious concerns about this situation. Worryingly, the trend is far stronger in urban rather than rural areas and amongst literate rather than illiterate women, exploding the myth that growing affluence and spread of education alone will result in the erosion of gender bias.

The average female life expectancy in India is low compared to many countries but it has shown gradual improvement over the years. In many families, especially rural ones, the girls and women face nutritional discrimination within the family, and are anaemic and malnourished. The maternal mortality is second highest in the world. Only 42% of the births in the country are supervised by health professionals. The average Indian woman has little control over her own fertility and reproductive health. Women, particularly in rural areas do not have access to safe and self controlled methods of contraception.

Through the Panchayat Raj institutions (a body of 5 elected people in a village making decisions) over a million women have actively entered political life in India. As per 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts, all local elected bodies reserve one-third of their seats for women. Although the percentages of women in various

levels of political activities have risen considerably, women are still under represented in governance and decision making positions. Indira Gandhi was the first women Prime Minister of India and many a times referred to as the only man in the cabinet

In 2005, the Women's Reservation Bill was passed, providing 33% reservation for women in the Parliament and State Assemblies.

Women writers in India are moving forward with their strong and sure strides matching the pace of the world. We see them bursting out in full bloom spreading their own individual fragrances. They are recognised for their originality, versatility and the indigenous flavour of the soul that they bring to their work. They not only sweep you off your feet with their down to earth attitude, but they also have you nodding with wisdom and agreement. Their leading ladies jerk the average Indian reader out of their typical Indian complacency regarding gender issues. They have grappled with complex issues such as sensuality, servility, subjugation and society. They have handled them with a sense of balance, never disregarding the Indian traditions, yet discovering that there is more in the offering. Women writers in India can no longer can be claimed as the exclusive property of India. Their work and their art belong to the world. Some of the Indian women writers are Shashi Deshpande, Arundhati Roy, Anita Desai, Kamala Das, Shobha De and Sudha Murthy, just to name a few of them. Kiran Desai became the youngest recipient of the Bookers Prize in 2006, with her first book " The Inheritance Of Loss"

The Indian women are known for their natural grace and beauty. India has the highest number of Miss Universe and a fair share of Miss Worlds. Lately, Shilpa Shetty won the hearts of the British public after her appearance on the Celebrity Big Brother. The Indian Astronaut Kalpana Chawla made India proud when she went in to space on the space shuttle Columbia in February 2003, but sadly died in the shuttle mishap. Sunita Williams was one of the astronauts of the American Space Shuttle, Discovery, which successfully took off on December 9th 2006.

The women are central to the life of a society, its dreams, its ability for endurance and its desire for freedom as value to be lived by all for all. It is only by a combination of monitoring, education campaigns and effective legal implementation that the deep seated attitudes and practices against women and girls can be eroded.



"My grandfather once told me that there were two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group; there was much less competition."

Indira Gandhi

Project “Speaking Out”

WCI and Communication Skills

Why is it necessary to get together at our local WCI club level to help each other develop our communication skills?

Each of our clubs is affiliated to WCI, Welcome Clubs International. These very three words answer the question we asked ourselves above. “Welcome” demonstrates of friendship, “Clubs” refers to us, and “International” specifies among people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. As Marian Adair, the founder of Welcome to Washington International, our charter club, summed it up: “This club is all about friendship through understanding, and understanding through friendship amongst people from different cultural backgrounds”. Underpinning this statement, which has become WCI’s motto, is indeed communication.

How can we possibly improve our communication with friends from different cultures and linguistic backgrounds, if we do not train with them and get feedback from them? Would your colloquial statement, well understood by your family members, evoke the same understanding in a club member from a different culture? The same speech, which may have earned you applause at the Toastmasters’ Club, may not earn the same success, when delivered to an International audience. WCI helps us go beyond our everyday mode of oral communication. If you prepared this same speech within our club, you would adjust your informal way of speaking, by taking into account the new feedback. You would realize that your idiomatic expressions may evoke different images in members from different cultures. In that sense, the speech you prepare with the feedback from your WCI friends, would gain an additional dimension, making it international.



Nearly thirty years ago, while living on the campus of the University of Chicago, I joined the Cross-Roads International Group, a group that welcomed women from all over the World. We met on a regular basis for conversations. This experience, and the fact that I have married into a family from a different culture than mine, has been enriching. I have been convinced ever since that we need to open ourselves to the world. While living in Denver, I joined Sisters Cities International, the Unesco Friendship Club, and Welcome to Colorado, one of the early WCI affiliate clubs. In Geneva, Switzerland, as well as in Chicago, Denver and here in St. Petersburg, I was teaching Indian Classical Temple dance to girls of non-Indian background. All these additional experiences confirmed my initial conviction about communications and interaction with different cultures.

I was given the opportunity, as a guest at our international meeting in Turkey, to talk about my project to start an affiliate club in the Tampa Bay Area. There I expressed my feelings about the issue on leadership and communication. WCI has also recognized the importance of this same issue and is acting on it. We have had stimulating discussions on this topic ever since. We will present the fruit of these discussions at our International Conference in May, 2008. Indeed, you will be invited to a workshop on how to improve on Communication Skills within your clubs. You will hear more about this exciting project at our International Conference.

Padmini Durr
WCI Director, Special Projects

Worldwide Link

Our new expanded magazine format for the **Worldwide Link** has met with much success and members have expressed their desire to continue with the magazine. However, this publication is expensive and beyond WCI’s budget. In order to continue, the magazine must become self-supporting through advertising and donations.

Advertising strategies are currently being worked on and our advertising campaign will be launched in September 2007 for the February, 2008 Winter issue. We need your help and your ideas! Do you have any contacts into companies who conduct business on a world-wide basis?

We are also exploring other methods of raising money to support the **Link**. Among these is strong support for individual member subscriptions. The WCI Executive Committee will be developing a plan for implementing this concept at it’s meeting in September, 2007.

If you think you can help us in these efforts, please contact Lise McCartney at lise.mccartney@verizon.net.

Overcoming Cultural Barriers:

A Young Person's Point of View



By: Timi Dorgu
Senior 6th,
City of London School
(2005-06)

Part IV - This is the fourth and final speech from our WCI International Conference in London – Monday 15th May 2006

May I start by saying what an honour it is for me to find myself here today? There are few places I would rather have the privilege of being present, especially one week before I hide myself away for my exams! And being able to give my personal opinion on a subject that I believe to be so very important for all of us who live together on this earth...it really is a great honour.

My life, as short as it may seem to some, has been eventful. I was born in the West African country of Nigeria, to parents working as doctors in a Christian missionary hospital in the predominantly Muslim north. My parents themselves had experienced the cross-cultural issues we're discussing today as they were from two different tribes, with different cultures, although both Nigerian. Indeed, if it hadn't been for their fathers being members of the same tennis club in the 1950s, they may not have been allowed to marry, and I may not have been here today! What would we do without sport!

Ten months after I was born, my father brought my mother and I from family and friends, here to England. While he trained to become a priest in the Church of England my mother continued in the medical profession, and I was transferred to numerous schools as we moved all over North London. At the age of ten, I won an academic scholarship to the City of London School, where I have spent the last eight years. For many Nigerian parents, education is always the key to life success and prosperity. For decades, it has been humorously traditional for Nigerian students to study Law, Medicine or Engineering at university – maybe even Dentistry, if your parents were laid-back! The underlying conviction is that education is and always will be a vital part of life and growth. My own personal belief is that this conviction should extend also to non-academic education, most importantly in terms of the cultures of others.

The British education system is certainly still one of the best in the world, despite the inevitable problems. Children are taught Mathematics and

English at least to a level that sees them through life with those skills that are so very necessary. With such skills they are able to go on and work to care for themselves and their families. They are able to live. But I feel that there is a gap in our education system, wherein children need to be enlightened with regards to the innumerable different cultures present in the vibrant cities around them. With this knowledge they are able to live with all those around them. They should be taught the whole story, or none.

When it comes to Africa and African history, it seems as though British children are only really shown one side of the coin. The horrors of slavery and the current crises of famine and AIDS are certainly entire subjects on their own, but what of the many African victories and successes? The downfall of Apartheid and the subsequent ascension of Nelson Mandela's ANC Party speak volumes of the determination of Africans, and their descendants. Few British youth I know would be able to tell you about the literary works of my Nobel Prize-winning countryman, Wole Soyinka. Even the simplest of facts about life in Africa and the West Indies go amiss.

While studying here, my father was once approached by a fellow student. She timidly asked if she could ask him a few questions about where he came from. Her first, and last question was as follows: "Is it true that in Africa people still live in trees?" somewhat taken aback, my father gathered himself to mockingly reply, "Yes, Africans do still live in trees, and the airplanes land on and take off from the very biggest branches!" sensing the sarcasm, she hastily apologised. All she had ever been taught about Africa in school was that people lived in trees. It is crucial to our existence as human beings that we have an understanding of each other's ways of life, no matter how peculiar they may at first appear.

Another, slightly different challenge is for parents of children – such as myself – who live in a social and cultural environment different to that from which they themselves were born into, to maintain the life of their own culture. As I prepare to move out to university, my mother has stepped up her campaign for me to learn how to cook. The recipes in question are not what you might

think, however. As opposed to Toad-in-the-hole or Shepherd's Pie, she wants to teach me to cook jollof rice – rice cooked with tomato puree to add flavour, while also turning the rice orange. She'll teach me to fry plantains, or maybe even to use a big mortar and pestle to pound yams to create a dish not dissimilar to mashed potatoes, but with a wonderful texture that can be dipped in a variety of soups. Delicious! Her valiant efforts, which may yet prove to be in vain, are certainly to ensure I can feed my six-foot frame, but in doing so she can also pass on her tradition, her culture of food, in the hope that I will then pass it on again to the next generation after me. If there is to be any African culture in Britain for others to learn of, it must be nurtured.

Then again, why should cultures only be taught by parents, friends, or those in our community-at-large? In the last century, the media has taken on an enormous role in educating us and directing our thinking. Myra Hunt spoke earlier of how the BBC World Service plays a part in this/ films and music – such as the music we'll hear later – also open our eyes and ears to those around us.

It reminds me of how my family and I once visited St Andrew's University where my grandfather had studied, and the town itself in Scotland. On a visit to a shop, my mother overheard a girl of about five years old whispering about her furiously to her own mother: "Mummy, mummy, *look*. It's Pocahontas' sister!" obviously in reference to the Native American princess made famous by Disney. The only previous experience the little girl had had of someone with my mother's complexion was in an animated feature film. If film and television are such powerful tools, why do we not use them more to show everyone, not just five year-old girls, what the world beyond their horizons is like? I can only praise the consistent work of the BBC, but why not push the boundaries even further?

Multiculturalism is certainly pursued in Britain, but I feel that there is a cost being paid, that perhaps shouldn't be. The press flurry surrounding the enthronement of John Sentamu as Archbishop of York – second-in-command of the Church of

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Welcome to the World of Ethnic Diversity



England – gave him the opportunity to express his opinion on multiculturalism. The Archbishop said, “Multiculturalism has seemed to imply, wrongly for me, ‘Let other cultures be allowed to express themselves but do not let the majority culture (namely British culture) at all tell us its glories, its struggles, its joys, its pains.’” Now, I personally know Bishop John, as we still call him in London. He is a very African man who always wants to express his cultural identity. And yet, he is saddened by the way in which his and so many other cultures in Britain have been encouraged, while that of Britain herself has been virtually ignored. Even though we want to celebrate our own different cultures, we in the UK should take pride in the overall British culture, and indeed its tolerance of other cultures.

My deepest personal fear is that our pursuit of multiculturalism may lead people to then actually stay too much within their own culture, bringing segregation as opposed to the integration we all crave. Trevor Phillips, chairman of the British Commission for Racial Equality, has called for us “to assert that there is a core of Britishness” because at present we seem to be “sleepwalking our way into segregation.” The terrible aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, and the violence in France in 2005 have shown us what we need to avoid in Britain at all costs.

Here, education again becomes key. I would call for Citizenship and some British history lessons for those applying for a passport – similar to the system employed in the United States of America. Your nationality should not merely depend on your ability to complete an application form. Certainly, a basic command of the English language should be some criteria. My mother has told me about her work as a child psychiatrist in east London. On numerous occasions she has had to have an NHS-paid interpreter present when meeting when children’s’ parents who have sometimes lived in this country for 20 years! Of course, their contribution to multiculturalism as a whole has made Britain a far richer place, but we should strive to make the most of British culture and have it as the umbrella under which our numerous other cultures are able to thrive. Those of us living on the British Isles should celebrate our differences, but also celebrate what we’ve got in common as well... being British.

“The young do not know enough to be prudent, and therefore they attempt the impossible -- and achieve it -- generation after generation.”

Pearl S. Buck

Ever since I can remember, my mother was fascinated by traveling. So it was no surprise that very soon, I took over this passion and I am very thankful to my mother because she gave me all the support and possibilities that I needed to discover Europe.

Until the age of 18, I had visited nearly all the countries in Europe, have spent 3 months in France and a whole year in England, the bigger part of my life of course I spent in Greece, as this is the native country of my mother. However, one hears about all those countries or rather continents such as the States, Asia or Australia to which I had never been and the wish of actually experiencing them grew.

In the summer of 2006 I graduated from German High school, after 13 years of, what I considered as hard work. My mother decided to emphasize this important change in my life by letting our dream come true. For several months in advance, and while I was studying for my exams, my mother put all her effort into planning a journey which changed my life into what it is today. In the whole, we traveled 7 weeks, visited 3 continents, lived in 9 different cities and practically flew around the world once.

While I am sitting here I am thinking about the most valuable experience, I took away from this journey. When I came back and people asked me, what my ‘journey around the world’ was like, I was not able to answer in full sentences. There were so many things coming to my mind.

However, the actual stories I had to tell was about the people we met.

I realized on our way that you can see many places, many cities, different buildings, hotels, different kinds of nature and of topography, but in the end, you get out of the plain and it is the people who turn the ground you are standing on into a different universe. I would not ever have thought that people outside of Europe can be so different, especially as already for example the French and Germans differ so much from each other, although our countries’ histories are so closely related.

While driving along the Ocean Road from Melbourne to Adelaide we covered a distance which includes 4 countries in Europe. I had no idea how big our planet is!

Our first stage was Japan, which includes Osaka, Kobe, Kyoto and Tokyo. I suffered from the worst jetlag of my life, as I never had one before. In Osaka we were staying with Hiroko-san and she was calling me the ‘sleeping beauty’ because I fell asleep as soon as I sat down. She, her family

and a good friend of hers, living in Japan but originally from India accompanied us through Osaka and Kobe. In Kyoto, Mr Abe awaited us with a affectionately elaborated plan and showed us in only one day the most magical gardens in Kyoto and took us out into 2 traditional Japanese Restaurants with wonderful, unfamiliar menus. I was surprised when I found out that you can find Starbucks even in Kyoto which undoubtedly is a consequence of Globalization but even if we had a quick Coffee there on our way back from dinner, as I must confess I wonder if we would have seen all those places and tasted the same diversity of dishes we got to know in those few days, if it weren’t for the incredibly hospitable people, who met us as friends, not as strangers and put a lot of effort and their own time into introducing us to their traditions and way of living. In Tokyo we met Masako-san, an acquaintance my mother made at the Washington WCI Meeting.

I remember it was raining all day and we used the Tokyo metro to go to Kamakura, which is a little bit outside of the city. However, armed with a nice pair of shoes and an umbrella, we had the most sensational chance to experience temples and gardens in wet condition, which ruined my clothes but I took wonderful pictures of another world unknown to me.

The relatively short stay in Japan of only eight days could be seen as a summary of how our journey was to be continued. It lived from the people and the stories they had to tell.

In Sydney, we lived with Judy. In San Diego with Angela and John. I spent a wonderful 19th Birthday with them. In New York, were I got seriously ill, it was Benigna, who gave me room to recover and gave us advice about the best exhibitions to see.

In seven weeks I learned more about myself, my mother and about life in general as I could ever put down in words.

I know about other adolescents who did a similar journey by themselves or worked in other countries, I met people who have traveled more places than I can count.

Which ever way one discovers our world, it is very comforting to know that someone awaits and helps you with challenges you have to face.

At this point, I take the opportunity to send a message to all our hosts: You cannot possibly imagine how thankful I am for your hospitality and how much you gave me in showing me your way of living. You treated us as friends with an open mindedness and implicitness which will influence me my whole life and my way of dealing with other cultures. I hope I am going to get the opportunity to give all this back, either to you, or to other people, who come to be introduced to my culture and way of living. I think, I can say, also in behalf of my mother: You are very welcome!

*Elena R.M. Weber
Daughter of Dimitra M. Weber
International Women’s Club of Hamburg*

Our Environment

When phosphates enter our lakes and rivers, plant life thrives and its over-abundance and subsequent decomposition rob fresh water of its oxygen, creating "dead" bodies of water.

Once a week (give or take), we feel duty bound to try to maintain a basic level of hygiene in our domiciles. We assemble all the necessary equipment to accomplish this task – various cleansers, rubber gloves, sponges and mops.

We've been led to believe that cleaning is something we must do to maintain our homes and keep their occupants healthy. So why do we feel unable to breathe while treating the soap scum in the shower? Is it just us or could using these products be doing more harm than good?

It's not just us. It is well-documented that mainstream household cleansers contain many chemicals, such as sodium hydroxide and ammonia, listed as "toxic" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Not only do we breathe them in as we clean but their fumes linger in the air for hours afterward and some fumes, such as those from toilet cleaners, can even escape their closed containers. Imagine what these chemicals do for our indoor air quality and environment.

If we look at dishwasher detergents, for example, they use higher levels of phosphates than those used in laundry detergents. When phosphates enter our lakes and rivers, plant life thrives and its over-abundance and subsequent decomposition rob fresh water of its oxygen, creating "dead" bodies of water.

Those of you who despise this kind of housework may use this information to justify your theories that dirt is not as bad as all that and abolish cleaning altogether. But clean freaks, don't despair. Tucked away in a corner of many grocery stores is an organic or alternative health food section, with a small selection of environmentally friendly household cleansers. Several name brands are readily available. The products are toxin-free, biodegradable and minimally packaged, but they can be a bit more expensive.

Take a quick inventory of your pantry to see if you have a few of the essential items needed for homemade cleansers. If you have vinegar, baking soda and lemon, you are already well on your way. There was time when baking soda was a household cleaning staple, as were vinegar and lemon. These products are just as capable of tackling household cleaning jobs today for a fraction of the cost and none of the multi-syllable chemical formulas of modern-day cleaners.

Sources: theGreencorner.net and iBerkshires.com

non-Toxic cleaning Tips

A safe cleaner may be made by tossing a cup of baking soda into a gallon of very warm water. This mixture is effective for cleaning appliances, ceramic tile, bathtubs, plastic lawn furniture, toys, and more. Always be sure to rinse well.
Measurements of 1/2 to 3/4 cup white vinegar

mixed with hot water creates a degreaser. Adding a 1/2 cup of white vinegar to a washer rinse cycle may brighten colored clothing. A teaspoon of salt added to 1 cup of distilled vinegar may clean hard water deposits from chrome sink fixtures, tea and coffee stains from china dishware, and add shine and sparkle to items made of brass, pewter and copper.

No-wax flooring appears brighter if wiped with 1/2 cup white vinegar mixed with 1/2 gallon very warm water. Olive oil may help restore the lustre to wood paneling. Mix one ounce of

olive oil with two ounces of distilled vinegar and add to one quart very warm water. Use a soft cloth to rub the solution onto the paneling, then wipe the surface with a separate soft, dry, clean cloth.

The cleaning solutions described here are much safer for the environment than most of the chemically-enhanced store-bought products. But they are not particularly gentle to skin. Wear rubber gloves when using these products, and open a window or two, since the smell of vinegar can be quite strong.

Global Warming & Solar Radiation

For millions of years, the earth has been subjected to successive waves of active warming and cooling. Supportive scientific data documenting these episodes have been gathered from many sources, including cores from the Antarctic Ice Cap, from the Sargasso Sea, from stalagmites, from oceans and from the shells of crustaceans trapped in prehistoric rock formations.

These cycles, which are natural and not man-made or influenced, have often reached temperatures much greater than those of the current period. During these warming cycles, carbon dioxide and methane levels ("greenhouse" gasses) surged, and temperatures rose 5 to 7° F higher than global temperatures today. Analysis of ice cores from the Antarctic ice cap have shown that there have been sudden and repetitive surges of greenhouse gases accompanied by rapid melting, only to be followed by re-freezing in long cooling periods. We are now in the latest of these warming peaks.

Rise and Fall of Civilization During Global Warming Cycles

Civilization began in the Tigris, Euphrates and Nile River valleys in 3400 BC, during a great period of global warming as documented by archeological records. Construction of Stonehenge in England also occurred in this time period. Since then, there have been a number of additional 200 to 300 year warming periods, followed by sustained cooling periods.



Until relatively recently, mankind's economic prosperity has been primarily based on agricultural production. Each of the global warming periods has been accompanied by an improved climate for growing food. After each surge, subsequent cooling of the climate and declines in greenhouse gasses resulted in significantly shorter growing seasons, perhaps also contributing to observed social declines.

For example, in the 1,000 B.C. warming cycle (about three thousand years ago), the Babylonian

civilization emerged and flourished, until the climate cooled again.

A second warming cycle and subsequent surge in greenhouse gasses occurred about 500 BC. The rise of Greek civilization took place at this time.

The Roman civilization emerged 400 years later during the next warming cycle, after which there was a 1000 year cooling period that encompassed the Middle Ages, also known as the Dark Ages.

Then in 1000 A.D., a fourth warming cycle produced the Medieval Warming Period, during which much of the ice and snow on Greenland melted. For the following 200 years, the Danes farmed Greenland. Presumably, much of the Antarctic snow and ice must also have melted during this time, but there are no records of massive flooding of coastal cities. This period also saw the collapse of the Mayan civilization as a serious drought covered Mexico and the U. S. Midwest. Massive sand dunes were formed in Nebraska during this period, and the Easter Island culture in the Pacific Ocean collapsed.

A cooling period followed during which Greenland once again froze over. By 1500 AD, another cycle of global warming with an accompanying surge in greenhouse gasses occurred, during which time came the rise of the Renaissance and then the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, but also saw the collapse of the Angkor civilization in Cambodia, when the canals from the Siem Reap River dried up, and the rice economy was devastated.

The 1500 A.D. warming period ended in a "Little Ice Age" (1600-1750), when much of Europe was covered with ice and snow. Growing seasons were very short and starvation was common. Resulting farmer unrest may have triggered the French Revolution.

This was finally followed by the start of the current warming period, about 300 years ago.

Greenhouse Gasses

The current warming cycle and surge in greenhouse gasses has been accompanied by a remarkable increase in methane, a much more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Methane, when initially generated, is about 56 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas. However, it oxidizes to carbon dioxide over about a 12 year period, and conse-

quently, over a 100 year period, its average effect is thought to be about 21 times that of carbon dioxide.

The amount of methane entering the atmosphere has doubled over the last 200 years and has been rising until very recently. The volumes of carbon dioxide and methane entering the atmosphere during these recent warming cycles are enormously greater than those derived from the current burning of fossil fuels

Interestingly, the net rise of both carbon dioxide and methane has abruptly stopped since 1988, despite increased burning of fossil fuels by today's civilization. This has led to the suggestion that greenhouse gases do not cause warming, but are instead the result of increased global temperatures due to other causes. One such cause is solar radiation.

Solar Radiation Cycles and Accompanying Rise in Greenhouse Gasses

Each time solar radiation peaks, there are massive surges of carbon dioxide and methane gasses released into the atmosphere. However, these greenhouse gas surges have been vastly larger than the amounts currently contributed through burning fossil fuels by today's civilization.

Solar radiation has an immense effect on world climate. Without the impact of solar radiation, the temperature on earth would be about the same as the temperature of space, about -454 °F. The impact of solar radiation reaching the earth is currently about 1,368 watts per square meter. About 70% of this solar energy is absorbed and 30% is reflected. However, the amount of solar energy reaching the earth is not constant, but varies in several independent cycles of different degrees of magnitude, which may or may not reinforce each other. These cycles include:

- 100,000 year cycle which results from the elliptical orbit of the earth around the sun;
- 41,000 year cycle which results from the tilt of the earth on its axis;
- 23,000 year cycle which results from "climatic precession" or changes in direction of the earth's axis relative to the sun;
- 11 year sunspot cycle during which solar radiation increases and then subsides.

In addition, there have been six secondary warm-

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Global Warming & Solar Radiation

Continued from page 25

ing periods over the past 3000 years (within the current 100,000 year warming period) each lasting about 200-300 years, and each accompanied by delayed surges of carbon dioxide and methane. These six warming periods were all warmer than today and can not be linked to human activities. Current temperatures are actually *below* the median temperature value for the past 3,000 years.

The most recent sunspot radiation cycle peaked in the year 2000 AD and is currently approaching a minimum. Curiously, both NASA and the Russian Observatory report that total solar radiation has also peaked, including the other cycles which appear to have peaked or may actually be in decline.

Because of the overwhelming power of solar radiation and, until very recently, the absence of human population, the primary forcing agent for these many global warming cycles over millions of years would seem to have been solar radiation. Also, the volume of carbon dioxide and methane entering the earth's atmosphere in these six recent periods of warming were enormously greater than those from the current burning of fossil fuels. The present warming period, although not caused by human activities, would seem to indicate the desirability of further study of the impact of solar radiation and accompanying surge in greenhouse gases on the global warming phenomenon and its ultimate long term effects.

Source: [Coincidence of Solar Irradiation with Global Warming](#)
Dr. D. Bruce Merrifield
Professor Emeritus
Wharton School of Business
University of Pennsylvania
www.americanthinker.com



The Bookshelf

Continued from page 15

FEAR AND TREMBLING: A NOVEL

Author: Amelie Nothomb
Publisher: St. Martin's Griffin, 2004
Fiction

As if we needed more proof that our globe is shrinking, here is a novel set in Japan, translated from French, written by a Belgian who was born in Kobe and now lives in Paris. Our heroine, Amelie, gets a job in the import-export division of the huge Yumimoto Corporation, the only Westerner in sea of Japanese company men. There are also a very few women, the most prominent among them being the stunning and awe-inspiring Miss Mori, Amelie's immediate superior. Amelie-san finds herself falling down a rabbit hole of increasingly meaningless tasks--delivering the mail, photocopying an executive's golf club bylaws, finally cleaning the bathrooms. It is Fubuki Mori who presides over this spiral, bent on humiliation even as Amelie begins to understand and even sympathize with her plight as an unmarried Japanese woman trying to hold her own. (Review by Mary Ellen Quinn, Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved)

THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD

Author: Zora Neale Hurston
Publisher: Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2006
Fiction

This is an American classic, is a luminous and haunting novel about Janie Crawford, a Southern black woman in the 1930s whose journey from a free-spirited girl to a woman of independence and substance has inspired writers and readers for close to 70 years. This poetic, graceful love story, rooted in black folk traditions and steeped in mythic realism, boldly and brilliantly celebrates African-American culture and heritage. And in a powerful, mesmerizing narrative, it pays quiet tribute to a black woman, who—though constricted by the times—still demanded to be heard.

MY SISTER'S KEEPER

Author: Jodi Picoult
Publisher: Washington Square Press, 2005
Fiction

Expect to be kept up all night by Picoult's latest novel, but it's much more than a page-turner; it's a fascinating character study framed by a complex, gripping story. Thirteen-year-old Anna Fitzgerald walks into the office of lawyer Campbell Alexander and announces she wants to sue her parents for the rights to her own body. Anna was conceived after her older sister, Kate, developed a rare form of leukemia at the age of two, and has donated bone marrow and blood to her sister. Now she has been asked to donate a kidney, and she intends to refuse. Campbell is a jaded young man who nevertheless decides to take her case pro bono. Anna's parents are shocked when they learn of her lawsuit, and her mother, a former civil defense attorney, decides to represent them. Anna refuses to budge on her position despite the fact that she clearly loves

her sister and longs for her family's happiness. As the gripping court case builds, the story takes a shocking turn.

ZIWA

(Zurich International Women's Association)

DIE VERMESSUNG DER WELT

Author : Daniel Kehlmann
Publisher : Rohwolt Verlag, September 2005
Fiction
German

At the end of the 18th century 2 Germans start out surveying and measuring the world. One of them, Alexander von Humboldt, traverses jungle and desert, cruises the Orinoco, tastes poison, climbs volcanoes and encounters sea monsters and cannibals. The other, mathematic and astronomer, Carl Friedrich Gauss, who cannot live without women and who hates any kind of motion proves the curvature of the earth behind a desk in his small home town of Göttingen. They meet 5 years later 1828 in Berlin. Great literature!

MOND ÜBER MANHATTAN (MOON PALACE)

Author : David Auster
Publisher : Viking Penguin, 1989
Fiction
English

A contemporary novel which tells the story of Marco Stanley Fogg – orphan, child of the 60's spanning 3 generations. The narrative moves from the early years of the 20th century to the first lunar landings, from Manhattan to the landscapes of the American West.

DER DRACHENLÄUFER (THE KITE RUNNER)

Author : Khaled Hosseini
Publisher : Riverhead, New York, 2003
Fiction
English

Afghanistan 1975 : Amir a 12-year-old boy of Kabul wants to become the winner of a kite competition with the help of his best friend Hassan. Hassan's father is a servant in Amir's home but despite these social differences these 2 boys foster a very close friendship. At the end of the successful competition Amir betrays his friend and their friendship. This changes the lives of the 2 boys dramatically. Many year later Amir returns to Kabul to "pay off his debts".

"The power of a book lies in its power to turn a solitary act into a shared vision. As long as we have books, we are not alone."

First Lady Laura Bush

Judaism is the third article in this series on five major religions. In his recently published book "Religious Literacy" (Harper San-Francisco, 2007), Dr. Stephen Prothero states, "In today's world it is irresponsible to use the word 'educated' to describe high school or college graduates who are ignorant of the ancient stories that continue to motivate the beliefs and behavior of the overwhelming majority of the world's population. In a world as robustly religious as ours, it is foolish to imagine that such graduates are equipped to participate fully in the politics of the nation or the affairs of the world." Dr. Prothero is Chairman of the Religion Department at Boston University.

Introduction to Judaism

Around 2,000 years ago a non-Jew told Hillel, a famous Jewish teacher, that he would convert to Judaism if Hillel could teach him the whole of the Torah in the time he could balance on one leg. Hillel replied... "What is hateful to yourself, do not do to your neighbour. That is the whole Torah; the rest is just commentary. Go and study it."

The Bare Essentials of Judaism

- 3500 years old
- Began in the Middle East
- Founded by Abraham and Moses
- Parent faith of Christianity
- Jews believe that there is only one God
- Jews believe that the Jewish People are specially chosen by God
- Jews worship in Synagogues, their spiritual leaders are called Rabbis
- The Jewish Holy book is the Hebrew Bible, or Tanakh, especially the first 5 books, called The Torah
- 12 million followers

Holy Days

The Jewish calendar is a combined moon and sun calendar, unlike the conventional Western (or Gregorian) calendar. The result is that Jewish festivals move about the Western calendar from year to year. The Jewish calendar also starts each day in the evening. This is because when God was creating the world he started each day in the evening. The dates in the Hebrew calendar are 1 Tishri-10 Tishri. Because Hebrew dates begin at sunset, the events begin on the evening before the festival day.

Sabbath—The Holy Day

One day each week is set aside as the Sabbath, (in Jewish circles it's usually called Shabbat). The Sabbath begins at sunset on Friday and lasts until sunset on Saturday. The traditional Sabbath greetings are *Shabbat Shalom* (Hebrew), or *Gut Shabbos* (Yiddish).

The High Holy Days

The High Holy Days come in Autumn, at the start of the month of Tishri. This is the most spiritual period of the year for Jews, a time for looking back on the year just passed, and for taking action to get right with God and with other people. It runs from Rosh Hashanah for ten days until Yom Kippur.

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year festival and commemorates the creation of the world.

Days of Repentance (Days of Awe) are the 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur during which everyone gets a chance to repent.

Yom Kippur – The Day of Atonement is the the most sacred and solemn day of the Jewish year and brings the Days of Repentance to a close.

The Pilgrimage Festivals

These commemorate the journey of the Jewish People from Egypt to the Holy Land.

Passover is a spring festival that marks the escape from captivity in Egypt.

Shavout marks the time that the Jews received God's laws at Mount Sinai.

Sukkot or The Feast of Tabernacles, commemorates the years that the Jews spent in the desert on their way to the Promised Land, and celebrates the way in which God took special care of them under impossible conditions.

Other Festivals

Purim commemorates the time when Jews living in Persia were saved from extermination by Haman, due to the courage of a young Jewish woman called Esther.

Yom Hashoah or Holocaust Memorial Day is a day that has been established to commemorate the lives of millions of Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

Hanukkah or Chanukah is the **Festival of**



Lights and marks the restoration of the temple by the Maccabees in 164 BCE. Hanukkah is celebrated at roughly the same time as Christmas, but there is no connection at all between the festivals.

Tisha B'av is the ninth day of the Jewish month of Av which usually falls in July or August in the western calendar. It is a solemn occasion because it commemorates a series of tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people over the years, many of which have coincidentally happened on

this day.

Tu B'Shevat (Tu Bishvat), the Jewish 'New Year for Trees, is the fifteenth day of the Jewish month of Shevat and usually falls in January or February in the western calendar. It is one of the four Jewish new years.

History of Judaism

The history of the Jewish people begins in Bronze Age times in the Middle East when God promised a nomad leader called Abram that he would be the father of a great people if he did as God told him. Jews regard Abraham (as he was later called) as the first Patriarch of the Jewish people. Abraham was the first person to teach the idea that there was only one God; before then, people believed in many gods. (*Ironically, Abraham's father, Terach, had made his living selling idols of various gods.*)

Over a thousand years later the Jews were living as slaves in Egypt. Their leader was a prophet called Moses. Moses led the Jews out of slavery in Egypt and led them to the Holy Land that God had promised them. The escape of the Jews from Egypt is remembered by Jews every year in the festival of Passover.

When they reached Mount Sinai, in present day Egypt, God spoke to Moses high on the mountain slopes and made a deal (called a covenant) with the Jews that renewed the one he had made with Abraham. At the same time, God gave the Jews a set of rules that they should live by. The most famous of these rules are the Ten Commandments. But there are actually 613 commandments covering every aspect of life including law, family, and personal hygiene and diet.

Most scholars date the beginning of Judaism as an organised and structured religion to this time.

Note: *Abraham and Moses are significant characters in other religions, not only Christianity but Islam too. Muslims know Abraham as Ibrahim, and regard him as an important prophet of their faith. Ibrahim's first son Isma'il is regarded as the father of the Arab people. Moses is also an important prophet for Muslims, who call him Mussa.*

In the year 1: CE, what is nowadays called the 'Current Era' traditionally, begins with the birth of a Jewish teacher called Jesus. His followers came to believe he was the promised Messiah and later split away from Judaism to found Christianity, a faith whose roots are firmly in Judaism.

In 63 B.C.E. The priests or Sadducees were allied to the Roman rulers and lost favour with the people, who turned increasingly to the Pharisees or Scribes. These were also known as Rabbis, meaning teachers. The Rabbis encouraged

the Jewish people to observe ethical laws in all aspects of life, and observe a cycle of prayer and festivals in the home and at synagogues. Great teaching academies were founded in the first century BCE with scholars discussing and debating God's laws. The most well known of the early teachers were Hillel, and his contemporary Shammai.

Around 200 CE, scholars compiled the Mishna, the collection of teachings, sayings and interpretations of the early Rabbis.

The academies continued their work and several generations of Rabbis followed. Their teachings were compiled in the Talmud which expands on the interpretations of the Mishna and established an all-encompassing guide to life. The Talmud exists in two forms. The first was finalised around the 3rd century CE in Palestine, and the second and superior version was completed during the 5th century CE in Babylon.

First Covenant

The covenant between God and the Jewish people is a thread running throughout the early parts of the Bible, and one of the vital pillars of Judaism. God asks Abraham to do certain things, in return for which he will take special care of them. The covenant between God and Jews is the basis for the idea of the Jews as the chosen people.

The Second Covenant

The covenant that God gave at Mount Sinai reinforced the covenant that God had given to Abraham, and told the Jews what they would have to do as their side of the covenant. God told the Jewish People, that for their part, they must dedicate themselves to serving God for ever, and to making the world a better and holier place by obeying God's laws. The covenant at Sinai sets out in great detail the relationship between God and the Jews.

Customs

Shabbat is very much a time when families come together in the presence of God in their own home. Singles, or others with no family around may form a group to celebrate Shabbat together.

In order to ensure that the Sabbath is special, all chores like shopping, cleaning, and cooking for the Sabbath must be finished before sunset on Friday. Sabbath candles are lit at sunset on a Friday. The woman of the house usually performs this ritual. It is an integral part of Jewish custom and ceremony. They mark the beginning of each Sabbath and represent the two commandments *Zachor* (to remember the Sabbath) and *Shamor* (to observe the Sabbath).

After the candles are lit, Jewish families will drink wine from a special goblet known as the *Kiddush Cup*. The drinking of wine on the Sabbath symbolises joy and celebration. It is also traditional to eat *challah*, a soft rich eggy bread in the shape of a braid. Challah is eaten on the Sabbath and Jewish holidays except for the Passover when leavened bread is not permitted. Under Jewish law, every Jew must eat three meals on the Sabbath. One of the meals must include bread.

Before the *challah* is eaten, the following prayer is recited: "Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech

ha'olam, hamotzi lechem min ha'aretz". This means: "Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth". Other blessings, prayers, songs and readings may also be used.

It is traditional for parents to bless their children on Shabbat. The blessing for daughters asks that they become like the four matriarchs, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, while sons are blessed to grow up like Ephraim and Menasheh, two brothers who lived in harmony.

B'nai Mitzvah

Ceremony held to mark a child's coming of age when they are considered adults in Judaism – age 13 for boys and age 12 for girls. (Bar Mitzvah means son of the commandment, Bat Mitzvah means daughter of the commandment and B'nai Mitzvah is the plural.)

Worship

Jews are supposed to pray three times a day; morning, afternoon, and evening. The Jewish prayer book (called a siddur) has special services set down for this.

There are three different sorts of prayer, and Jewish people use all of them. These are prayers of thanksgiving, prayers of praise, and prayers that ask for things. Much of Jewish prayer consists of reciting the written services aloud in synagogue. Praying in public affirms that a person is a member of a community, and when they do so, an individual puts themselves into the context of other Jews, and to some extent puts their own particular situation aside to put the community first. It's also an act of togetherness with Jewish people who are doing the same all around the world.

The prayer book

The Jewish prayer book is drawn from the writings of the Jewish people across the ages. It contains the wisdom of great thinkers, and some of the most beautiful Hebrew poetry.

Blessings

Observant Jews will say a blessing over everything they eat or drink, and in the face of many natural events. Doing so acknowledges that God is involved in everything.

The Synagogue

The synagogue is the Jewish place of worship, but is also used as a place to study, and often as a community centre as well. Orthodox Jews often use the Yiddish word *shul* (pronounced shool) to refer to their synagogue. In the USA, synagogues are often called temples.

In Orthodox synagogues men and women sit separately, In a Reform synagogue men and women can sit together.

Everyone except unmarried women wears a hat in synagogue in order to show reverence to God. Jewish men always wear hats when they are saying prayers which mention God's name. Observant Jewish men wear a hat almost all the time. The most common hat for men in the synagogue is a small round cap called a yarmulke (Yiddish) or a *kippah* (Hebrew), but an ordinary homburg or street hat will be accepted.

Adult men (i.e. those over the age of 13) often wear a *Tallit* or prayer shawl for morning prayer. A Tallit has fringes (called *tzitzit*) on the edges to remind the wearer to observe God's commandments.

The Layout of a Synagogue consists of the ark, where the Torah scrolls are kept when not in use, the bimah, and a platform where the cantor stands to sing the service. The Bimah is also used for readings, and may be used for a sermon. *Bimah* (pronounced *beemair*) is a Hebrew word that means a raised place. In Orthodox synagogues the Bimah is always in the middle of the hall, but in a progressive synagogue it is often directly in front of the Ark. At the front of the Bimah is a lectern where the Torah is placed for readings.

The Service

Synagogue services can be led by a rabbi, a cantor or a member of the congregation. Traditional Jewish worship requires a *minyan* (a quorum of ten adult males) to take place. In an Orthodox synagogue the service will be conducted in ancient Hebrew. In a progressive (Reform, Liberal) synagogue the service will be at least partly in English, there may be a choir and instruments, and men and women can sit together.

The Ark and the Torah

Every synagogue contains an Ark, which is a cupboard where the Torah Scrolls, which contain the text of the Hebrew Bible, are kept, and a desk from which to read the Torah.

The Ark is named after the wooden chest which held the stone tablets of the Covenant that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai.



Torah Scrolls

The Eternal Light

An Eternal Light (called *Ner Tamid*) hangs above the Ark. This light is always burning, as a symbol of God's presence. It also represents the pillar of fire that guided the Jewish people on their early journey.

Subdivisions of Judaism

Haredi

The preferred name for 'ultra-Orthodox' Jews, a strict subdivision. The plural is haredim.

Hassidic Judaism - A Jewish movement teaching that worship should be enjoyed and including a large amount of mysticism.

Liberal Judaism - A modern subdivision of Judaism that teaches the Torah was written by fallible human beings.

Orthodox Judaism - A conservative subdivision of Judaism that values tradition.

Reconstructionist Judaism - A subdivision of Judaism that concentrates on Jewish community and civilization instead of religion.

Reform Judaism - A subdivision of Judaism that respects the Torah but does not view it as immutable.

Source

BBC – Religion and Ethics

WCI Annual Board of Directors Meeting

Shanghai, China

WCI wishes to thank Welcome Club International, Shanghai for their incredible hospitality while hosting our 2007 Annual Board of Directors meeting. We were greeted, feted, fed, and thoroughly spoiled during our stay in this fascinating city. We saw how pearls were extracted from the oyster, watched silk being spun from cocoons, visited museums, cruised on the river, and shopped - and shopped - and shopped. However we also worked as hard as we played, and the following are highlights from our Board meetings:



WCI Board of Directors

WCI's new Orientation for club presidents and liaisons was introduced for the first time at our Board of Directors meeting in Shanghai. Julia Banks, Ambassador-at-Large, designed this interactive program to better acquaint the clubs with WCI – how it is structured, how it works and their role in the success of our organization. The feedback from participants was very favorable and their input will be incorporated into the program. The Orientation program will be repeated at the beginning of our next Board meeting in May, 2008 (immediately preceding the International Conference) in San Diego.

This year is Election Year for a new WCI president for the 2008-2011 term. Donna Suddeth will be announcing the additional two members of her nominating committee in September and the voting process will be taking place during October and November of 2007. WCI Policies and Procedures for Electing a WCI President are included in the 2007-2008 WCI Directory (page 47). We urge all clubs to participate in this very important process.

A new Conference Guidelines Manual has been completed and is available upon request from Joan Larson (wtwgroup6@aol.com) or Lise McCartney (lise.mccartney@verizon.net). The manual contains guidelines for clubs hosting WCI meetings – WCI Bi-Annual International Conference, Annual Board of Directors, and WCI Executive Committee meetings.



Roza Hyduck (WIBC), Faye Rokni (W/Washington), Eshrat Demougeot (W/Florida), and Kirsten Ivancevic (IWCNE)

The WCI International Achievement Award, "The Marian" will be awarded for the first time at our coming International Conference in San Diego. Clubs are reminded to send in their trophy designs by August 30, 2007.

Worldwide Link – The Summer 2007 issue of the **Link** Magazine will be out at the end of August 2007. If we cannot raise funds through advertising and donations, WCI cannot afford to continue this publication as a magazine. An advertising campaign and other fund raising strategies will be implemented this fall. As part of the advertising/fund raising campaign, club presidents and liaisons were asked discuss with their respective boards/administrative committees if they would be willing to grant automatic club membership to wives of outside sponsors/advertisers.

It was agreed that WCI clubs would host an international tea "A cup of Friendship" simultaneously on International Women's Day, March 8, 2008. Clubs will discuss their participation in this event with their respective boards and contact Faye Rokni, Director, Research & Development (fayerokni@aol.com).

WCI is gearing up for our 10th Bi-Annual International Conference in San Diego. May 23-29, 2008 and we hope to see many of you there. The next Annual Board of Directors meeting will take place immediately preceding the conference, May 22-23, 2008, in San Diego.



Empress Faye Rokni and Emperor Mike Rokni in Beijing at the Forbidden City



Jenny Habib (W/Wessex), Lise McCartney, Tina Klein, Fay & Mike Rokni (W/Washington) with the Terra Cotta Soldiers in Xi'an

After our meetings, the group dispersed, small groups traveling to many different cities in China.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET Shanghai, China May 13-19, 2007



WCI Board of Directors in our Shanghai T-shirts, gift from Welcome Club Int'l, Shanghai

IWC - Hamburg MEMBERS LIKE TO TRAVEL

After the official WCI Board of Directors Meeting, the following persons went on a 10 day trip through South - Eastern China, visiting Guillin, Yangshou, Longsheng, Xi'an and Beijing.

The group was truly international with women and their partners from: Stella Schuhmann (Hongkong), Elizabeth Baars (Ger./U.S.A.), Kerttu Thieme (Finland), Sima Dastyari, Shahin and her husband Rouhollah Yashari (Iran), Elfi Neis, Brigitte Eichhoff and Ramona Till (Germany), Roza Hayduk (U.S.A./ Macedonia), Vilma (U.S.A./ Brasil) and her husband Scott (U.S.A.).

IWC members like to travel, especially those from the IWC Hamburg, is the impression Lise Mc Cartney got. Thinking of it, I believe she is right.

"Have you already eaten?" Ni chile fan ma? That's the morning greeting in China. That shows, how important good food is at any time of the day for Chinese people. So, it is no wonder that all of us enjoyed the freshly prepared Chinese dishes. Many of us ate with the famous chop sticks.

Our first stop was in Guillin, where we enjoyed the green landscape and the fresh air as a contrast to the busy, noisy and somewhat polluted city of Shanghai. At the first evening, we loved to sit on the huge hotel- terrace with it's calm and relaxing atmosphere tasting Chinese wine, Scott and Elizabeth had bought at a local shop.

The following day, we took a boat- trip on the Li river to watch one of China's natural wonders: the magnificent limestone hills with their towering peaks. Beside these breathtaking vistas, we explored the caves, - some of which are beautifully illuminated.

At the next stop, our group parted. Some went hiking through the ricepaddies in Longsheng and slept for one night in a traditional farm house. Others went back to Guillin and enjoyed the evening at a Chinese show.

Beside sightseeing, shopping was a favorite activity for most women in our group, who could not resist the low price for the various goods. As a consequence, extra money for overweight - luggage had to be paid at Guilin Airport.

Xi'an was an unexpected highlight of our trip. Our guide Anthony spoke an excellent English and had a good knowledge of Chinese history and culture. He compared the influence of Xi'an to China in ancient days with the influence of Rome to Europe. We all were highly impressed by the famous army of terra cotta warriors.

On the first day in Beijing we visited the Great Wall at Mutianyu. We had beautiful weather with fantastic views of the wall stretching

across the hilly countryside. Visiting the Tian'anmen Square and the Forbidden City with thousands of tourists, Kerttu suddenly became a photo star. Japanese tourists were fascinated by her blue eyes and blond hair. Her picture must be found in many Japanese photopicture-books.

During the last days of our stay in Beijing, some members of our group had to leave. "Good by and fare well: Roza, Vilma and Scott. Hope to see you next year in San Diego".

Our last evening in Beijing was spent in a nice restaurant, where we enjoyed the famous Peking Duck dish. While eating Shahin and Rouhollah received a phone-call from their son in Hamburg telling them that they just had become grandparents. To celebrate this, they invited us all to this delicious dinner.

At the end of our tour, we all agreed that China is a fascinating country with a rich culture, a beautiful countryside and modern cities inhabited by friendly and industrious people. We all got a feeling for the dynamic growth of this country.

And some of us want to come back, this time with their husbands and friends.

*Elizabeth Baars
WCI Liaison
IWC, Hamburg*



At the Great Wall, Mulianyu, China



In Guilin - Elephant Trunk Hill

WCI Executive Committee 2005-2008

PRESIDENT

Lise McCartney president@welcomeclubs.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Patricia Abou Habib vicepresident@welcomeclubs.org

SECRETARY/PARLIAMENTARIAN

Kirsten Ivancevic secretary@welcomeclubs.org

TREASURER

Nancy Glenn Hansen treasurer@welcomeclubs.org

DIRECTOR, WCI MEMBERSHIP

Michelle Heuschen-Liegeois WCImembersip@welcomeclubs.org

REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRS

Maria Neighbors chairsouthamerica@welcomeclubs.org

Eva Salmoiraghi chaireasterneurope@welcomeclubs.org

Stella Schumann chairwesterneurope@welcomeclubs.org

Anna Kristina Sawtelle chairisraelafrika@welcomeclubs.org

AMBASSADOR AT LARGE

Julia Banks ambassadoratlarge@welcomeclubs.org

DIRECTOR, PUBLIC RELATIONS

Aurorita Hunziker publicrelations@welcomeclubs.org

EDITOR, WORLDWIDE LINK

Gudrun Emig editorlink@welcomeclubs.org

Co-editor, Reporters and Photographer names and emails
indented under Editor

WEBMASTER

Elisabeth Miller webmaster@welcomeclubs.org

DIRECTOR, WCI MEETINGS

Joan Larson directorofmeetings@welcomeclubs.org

DIRECTOR, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Faye Rokni researchdevelopment@welcomeclubs.org

DIRECTOR, SPECIAL PROJECTS

Padmini Durr specialprojects@welcomeclubs.org

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT (Ex-Officio)

Donna Suddeth immediatepastpresident@welcomeclubs.org

FOUNDER'S REPRESENTATIVES (Ex-Officio)

Caroline Adair Dimmers foundersrep@welcomeclubs.org

Eshrat Demougeot foundersrep2@welcomeclubs.org

Faye Wickersham foundersrep2@welcomeclubs.org

HISTORIAN/ARCHIVIST

To be named

WCI-FIWAL LIAISON (Ex-Officio)

Patricia Abou Habib penzance27@hotmail.com

www.welcomeclubs.org

WCI MEMBER CLUBS

ARMENIA

Diplomats' Spouses
Association of Armenia

BRAZIL

Int'l Women's Club Of Porto Alegre,
Rio Grande do Sul

BULGARIA

Welcome to Sofia

CHINA

Welcome Club Int'l, Shanghai

FRANCE

Women's Int'l Club du
Languedoc-Roussillon

GERMANY

Int'l Women's Club,
Hamburg e.V.

ISRAEL

Int'l Women's Club, Israel

LEBANON

Women's League of Beirut

MADAGASCAR

Association Accueil
Madagascar-A.A.M

PHILIPPINES

Welcome to Manila Int'l Women's Club

SWITZERLAND

Zurich Int'l Women's Assoc., ZIWA
Asian Ladies Club of Switzerland, ALC

TAIWAN

Welcome to Taipei

TURKEY

Int'l Women's Club, Ankara
Int'l Women's Association-Istanbul
Welcome to Turkish Cyprus Club

UNITED KINGDOM

Welcome to London
Welcome to Wessex

UNITED STATES

California

Welcome to California (San Diego)
Women's Int'l Border Club (Chula Vista)

Colorado

Welcome to Colorado

District of Columbia

Welcome to Washington

Florida

Welcome to Florida (Naples)
Welcome to Tampa Bay Int'l Club

Maine

Int'l Women's Club of New England

Massachusetts

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SOS Children's Villages of Paki-
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Te Kauri-Maori Women's Welfare
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The Women's Council

Spanish Ladies Club

Turkish Women's Philanthropic
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Ugandan Women's Assoc.

Welcome to London International

Women's India Assoc. of the UK