



June 2011

international **DATELINE**

FIWAL THE FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS IN LONDON

C/O THE LANSDOWNE CLUB • 9 FITZMAURICE PLACE • BERKELEY SQUARE • LONDON W1X 6JD

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

This is my last message in 'Dateline' as the President of FIWAL. It makes me feel very humble to have had the honour and responsibility of this very prestigious position for the last three years, in fact, one more year than I really expected!

During these years, I have met and come to know very many ladies from different backgrounds. Many of us have become good friends and have shared experiences, understanding and knowledge. No matter how different we may be, we have one thing in common and that is we value harmony. FIWAL has enriched my life and I will not replace this with anything in the world. I have learnt a lot from these ladies who work tirelessly to overcome disease, poverty, injustice and ignorance for someone else, somewhere in the world, without expecting any recognition or returns.



In the last three years quite a few events were organized, but in the tradition of FIWAL, the main event is always during the month of May. In 2009, we had a lunch and a fashion show at the luxurious Indian restaurant, Bombay Brasserie. It was attended by over 200 ladies. We had to stop taking bookings as the restaurant warned us that they had run out of seating! We had to disappoint quite a few ladies when their cheques had to be returned.

May 2010 was the year of our Conference, the subject being 'Women of Vision'. It was held at the May Fair Hotel, starting with breakfast, breaking for a sumptuous buffet lunch and finishing with afternoon tea: a whole day's affair. We had four top speakers, one each from the USA and India and two from the UK. Again, there were over 200 ladies, the maximum that the hotel auditorium could accommodate.

The year 2011 is FIWAL's 25th Anniversary year, so we had to celebrate it in a befitting manner. For this special event, a luncheon was held at the May Fair hotel. We had been cared for so well last year that everyone voted to go back to the same hotel. It was a 'special luncheon' all right. There were about 170 ladies with plenty of champagne flowing, a three-course sit down luncheon finishing with tea and coffee with dark chocolate-covered strawberries. Dr. Kate Williams, a historian, was the guest speaker. She entertained everyone with the stories of the British royal marriages and alliances from the middle ages to the present. In between, there was live music serenading the ladies.

Time goes fast, I thank all the ladies who have helped, guided and encouraged me during my tenure as President. I will now be the Immediate Past President and wish the incoming President the very best.

I salute FIWAL and its super ladies.

With best wishes to you and your loved ones,

Neena Dugal

FIWAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Board Meeting

DATE : Monday 10th October
VENUE: Shelburne Room, The Lansdowne Club
TIME: 10.30am for 11am until approximately
1.30pm.

Presidents' Lunch

DATE : Monday 7th November
VENUE: Shelburne Room, The Lansdowne Club
TIME: 11.30 - 2.30 pm

FIWAL WEBSITE: www.fiwal.org.uk

FIWAL PAST EVENTS

25th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

Monday, 9th May saw the celebration of FIWAL's 25th Anniversary with a splendid event held in the lovely surroundings of the May Fair Hotel's Crystal Room. The festivities began with a champagne reception, followed by a superb lunch which was enjoyed by a large turnout of members from all of FIWAL's affiliated clubs. The grand raffle, with some spectacular prizes, was generously supported and more funds were raised when two return tickets, generously donated by Turkish Airlines, were auctioned and raised a further £500 for FIWAL's funds.



Dr. Kate Williams speaking at Fiwal Anniversary Luncheon

We were entertained by Dr Kate Williams, a charming young academic, author of 'Royal Marriages', who took us for a canter through British Royal marriages from their inception to the present day; very apt given the recent Royal nuptials. She gave us all kinds of interesting tidbits and brought history alive for us.

underpinning the idea, which has been carried on and expanded over 25 years.

We were also privileged to hear from past president and founding member Latifa Kosta and founding member Anita Worrall, the latter having travelled all way from South Africa especially for the occasion. Glasses were then raised in champagne toast to the past and the future.



Jocelyn Jones



Latifa Kosta and Anita Worrall

FIWAL's 25th Birthday party showed that the organization is in very good shape and has grown and continues to grow in stature over the years. We now look forward to the next 25 years and the 50th anniversary; perhaps some of us will still be around to celebrate!

Caroline Muir



Neena Dugal speaking at Fiwal Anniversary Luncheon

In her speech, retiring president Neena Dugal, paid tribute to Fiwal members, thanking them for their support during her 3 year tenure. She was presented with a bouquet and warm thanks from the FIWAL clubs for staying on for an extra year. She was followed by FIWAL founding member, Jocelyn Jones who gave a brief history of the setting-up of FIWAL, outlining the ethos



Fiwal Executive Committee and Past Presidents.

FIWAL—25 YEARS ON

FIWAL was conceived at a very jolly lunch party hosted by the South African Ambassador's wife, Anita Worrall. Attending were several interesting women, among them four presidents of International Women's Associations. The idea was suggested that, as we all shared many common goals we should explore ways of co-operating. Five guests, Pauline MacKinnon of the Canadian Women's Club, Joan Cristofani of the Australian Women's Club, Latifa Kosta of the Arab Women's Council, Jocelyn Jones of Welcome To London International Club and our hostess, Anita Worrall of the South African Women's Club all agreed to research other international clubs in London.

As a result of this research, a letter explaining the suggestion of combining ideas and resources was sent to all interested clubs with an invitation to meet at the Café Royal to discuss sharing experiences, expertise, successes, failures and diaries...

In March, 50 women, representing 27 clubs, came together to discuss the proposal and its aims. All were invited to speak, culminating in a decision requesting that the initiators should return with a written constitution, a financial plan and ideas on how to move forward.

In June, at a second meeting, Pauline MacKinnon presented a constitution; Joan Cristofani outlined a financial plan; and Latifa, Anita and Jocelyn suggested a logistical ways forward. These suggestions were accepted and FIWAL was born at the Café Royal that month. In order to promote the aims of FIWAL it was decided to hold an International Coffee Morning at the historic Banqueting Hall in Whitehall. Each member club was invited to take a table on which to display their own aims and objectives. Four hundred and sixty women attended. Rather an organizational challenge, especially for Ruth Whitehouse who was responsible for allocating spaces and name tags.

The enthusiasm generated for FIWAL resulted in a desire to learn more about each other, discovering what we had in common and where our different

customs and cultures separated us. Through sharing our programmes, we grew to appreciate true friendship and understanding. Our Current Events Committee expanded these ideas in organizing annual conferences. The first such event was seminar entitled 'Women Today, What We Have Gained and What We Have Lost' with Han Su Yin as principal speaker, supported by Professors from Oxford University. From here, bi-annual conferences were held shared by all members. A season of 'Around The World' in Music, Art, Story Telling and Table Decorations were held with each club contributing their own members' expertise to produce some fascinating programmes where we really could appreciate our cultural differences. Londres Accueil, our French club joined forces to introduce 'Women of Europe' in which all the European Embassies participated.

Clubs too invited FIWAL members to their own programmes. One such, organized by Welcome to London International Club, was a programme on China. With the kind co-operation of the Chinese Ambassador's wife and the Embassy this attracted so much interest that the venue had to be moved to the Royal Institute of British Architects whose building was opposite the Chinese Embassy. As a result of this programme, a three week trip to China was organized, again with assistance from the Embassy. 42 FIWAL members representing 14 nationalities enjoyed a memorable trip.

Over the last 25 years, FIWAL has grown into an organization where women from every country, faith and culture can meet, learn from each other and become real friends. The friends I made 25 years ago are still close and what is really important is that their nationality means little; they are friends in the true sense of the word.

All of this has been accomplished through the dedication of our many presidents from all nationalities and their remarkable committees. If invited to join the Executive, or any sub committee please know that here is where the fun begins.

Jocelyn Jones
Founding President

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The next issue of "Dateline" will be published in October 2011.
Please ensure that all club information reaches the "Dateline" editor Ayesha Khan,
email: info@fiwal.org.uk,
no later than 15th September 2011

CLUB ACTIVITIES 2011

Saturday 4th June

American Women of Surrey: Car Boot Sale
12 midday to 4 pm at the Fairmile Pub,
Portsmouth Road, Cobham Surrey KT11 1BW.

Free entry for buyers and an entry fee of £20 per vehicle for sellers.

No food or drinks to be sold please.

For all further enquiries contact us:

president@awsurrey.org or see www.awsurrey.org.

All proceeds to benefit AWS Charity Slate.

Tuesday 14th June

Welcome to London and Welcome Clubs Int.: A presentation by the Swedish Embassy

At the Ahlstromer Hall (at the back of the Embassy), 5, Upper Montagu Street, London W1H from 11.15 am for 11.30 am.

Cost: £6.00 for the Swedish Ambassador's Charity.

Lunch: At a near-by restaurant £25.00.

Contact: Jenny: [REDACTED]

Thursday 16th June

The New Zealand Women's Association: Curry Evening

Fundraiser for victims of the Christchurch Earthquake (New Zealand).

At 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm.

At Penthouse, New Zealand House, Haymarket.

Price £25 per head. Contact Mrs Mary Mahoney at president@nzwa.co.uk

Tuesday 21st June

Welcome to London and Welcome Clubs Int.: Visit to Windsor Castle

Meeting at Paddington Station to view the exhibition of the Duke of Edinburgh's paintings, photographs and memorabilia from his private collection in the Drawings Gallery at Windsor Castle.

Cost: Train £5.95 and castle entrance £20.00.

Contact Helen: [REDACTED]

Tuesday 28th June

American Women's Club of London: June Monthly Meeting and Cooking Demonstration

with food sampling by Chef Neil Armstrong from All Clad

Time: 10 am – 12 noon

Place: Lansdowne Club, 9 Fitzmaurice Place, Mayfair, W1J 5JD Ballroom

Dress: Smart (no denim, no trainers, and no coffee from outside)

Lunch afterwards at Tiger Green Brasserie,

Hilton London Green Park, Half Moon Street, Mayfair W1J 7BN.

No need to make a reservation.

Contact: [REDACTED] awc@awclondon.org

Wednesday 29th June

The London Ladies Club: The Wizard of Oz
At the London Palladium.

A morning reception, tour, talk and luncheon are followed by a performance of the stunning musical, with best seats at specially discounted prices.

Starts at 10.30 am.

Members £90. Guests £105. (All inclusive)

Contact: [REDACTED]

Monday 4th July

The London Ladies Club: Visit The East India Company

Join us for an introduction to the history, a tasting-bar and some splendid shopping offers.

Contact: [REDACTED]

Monday 11th July

The London Ladies Club: Visit to the Banqueting House and Corinthia London Hotel

This impressive Victorian building has just been transformed into one of London's finest hotels and we are privileged to be some of the first invited on a tour of its facilities and exquisite interiors after a two-course luncheon. Members £45 Guests £55.

Meeting at the Banqueting House at 11 am.

Please note that there is a concert in the evening, details on Members' Noticeboard page.

Contact: [REDACTED]

Tuesday 27th September

American Women's Club of London: September Monthly Meeting

10 am – 12 noon at the Ballroom, Lansdowne Club, 9 Fitzmaurice Place, Mayfair, W1J 5JD

Dress: Smart (no denim, no trainers, & no coffee from outside)

Followed by lunch at nearby restaurant.

No need to make prior reservation.

Tuesday 18th October

Welcome to London and Welcome Clubs Int.: Visit to Leighton House Museum

Come and join us at the Leighton House Museum.

This is the former home of Frederic Lord Leighton a very opulent artist in his day. The building has been restored to its former glamorous Victoriana style.

If interested please call.

Contact: Helen: [REDACTED]