



IWCP Newsletter

Member: Welcome Clubs International

International
Women's Club of
Philadelphia

March, April, May 2021 Issue 3

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March

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 09 German Speakers' Coffee
 11 Virtual Happy Hour
 15 WCI Education Initiative Event Webinar
 17 Tyler Arboretum Stroll
 18 Caffe Italiano, Virtual Book Club
 24 Hike at Tyler Arboretum
 25 Virtual Happy Hour
 26 French Speaking Bistro

April

08 Virtual Happy Hour
 13 German Speakers' Coffee
 15 Caffe Italiano, Virtual Book Club
 20 Philadelphia Walking Tour
 29 Virtual Happy Hour
 30 French Speaking Bistro

May

06 WCI 35th Anniversary Celebration Webinar
 11 German Speakers' Coffee
 13 Virtual HH, Picnic at Stoneleigh Garden
 20 Caffe Italiano, Virtual Book Club
 27 Virtual Happy Hour
 28 French Speaking Bistro

A letter from our IWCP President

Dear Fellow Members,

Today I am sitting and writing by the coziness of my fireplace, as it has been bitterly cold of late. The older I get I really crave the warmth! I for one, am eagerly awaiting Spring and the warmer weather. I hope that we, as a Club, will be able to bring our members at large together in person at some point in the not-too-distant future.

It has been great to see many of you engaged in our most recent activities which have included: a guided Mural Arts Tour of Philadelphia, which looked fantastic, coordinated by Jacqueline Yates; picnics, and walks at Valley Forge Park, coordinated by Monika Panger; Virtual Book Club hosted by Susan Gatzert-Snyder and our Foreign Language Conversation groups.

These include:

Italian	coordinated by Lynne Brown
German	coordinated by Trudy von der Wense
French	coordinated by Jacqueline Yates and Nicole Lewis
Spanish	coordinated by Aurora Lopez.

Another popular new "online event" is a *Travel in Italy* series coordinated by Erica Plotegher. This is wonderful opportunity to immerse oneself in the beauty and culture of Italy while international travel is still somewhat restricted.

We thank you ladies for all your hard work putting these events together!

Annette Meertz, our Director of Programs, has also been busy organizing a bunch of exciting outings over the next few months, which are included in this Newsletter for you to read about. Please reach out to Annette if you have any suggestions or recommendations, particularly for outdoor locations of interest.

In celebration of International Women's Day, **on March 8**, please join us for a special Welcome Clubs International (WCI) Webinar. This exciting webinar and panel discussion session will feature two distinguished speakers in the field of **Women, Diversity, and Peace**:

- **Dr. Nicola Byok, Diversity Strategist, Hamburg, Germany**
- **Danielle Robertson, Program Officer, the U.S. Institute of Peace**

(RSVP by March 3, and for assistance with registration please contact Jacqueline Yates, WCI Liaison).

Also, continue to look out for invitations to join in events with our Sister Clubs, as this is such a great way to connect with International Women's Clubs both here in the USA and internationally. Several of our IWCP members have enjoyed participating in virtual events hosted by Welcome to Florida International Club and Welcome to Washington International Club.

With the wealth of experiences of all our IWCP members we invite you to "share your stories" and host a virtual event on zoom for our members. Any member of the Board would be more than happy to assist with this.

In closing, please join me in wishing our Chinese members a very peaceful and healthy Chinese Lunar New Year, that was recently celebrated in February, and let's hope the year of the ox brings the world strength in 2021.

Warm Regards,

Kathryn Bessemer



The objective of the IWCP is to welcome women of all cultures to the Philadelphia area and to promote friendship, cooperation and understanding without political agenda and self-promotion of businesses.

International Women's Day : Women, Diversity & Peace Webinar

In Celebration of International Women's Day, we invite you to join us at the upcoming **Welcome Clubs International (WCI) Women, Diversity & Peace Webinar**

Monday, March 8, 2021, 9 am EST

The two guest speakers will include Dr. Nicola Byok, Diversity Strategist, from Hamburg, Germany & Danielle Robertson, Program Officer, at the U.S. Institute of Peace. The topics of discussion will include, How pivotal are women to a sustainable peace process? What are the benefits to society when women are in leadership roles? How has the pandemic impacted women and equality?

WCI cordially invites you to an
International Women's Day
WEBINAR
Women, Diversity, and Peace

Join our guest speakers:
Dr. Nicola Byok, Diversity Strategist, Hamburg, Germany
Danielle Robertson, Program Officer, the U.S. Institute of Peace

How pivotal are women to a sustainable peace process?
What are the benefits to society when women are in leadership roles?
How has the pandemic impacted women and equality?

- To Register, please go to the member site of www.wciclubs.org under "Meetings," then "Virtual Meetings." Fill out the registration form and receive your confirmation e-mail (password: WCIMembers2019).gr
- Register with your WCI Club Liaison.

Deadline for registration is March 3rd, and on a first-come-first-serve basis.

This exciting event is sure to provide some very interesting points for conversation and a great way to get a feel for what WCI is all about and connecting with our sister clubs at a domestic and global level.

***Registration deadline is March 3, on a first come first served basis**

<https://www.members.wciclubs.org/virtual-meetings> (link takes you directly to the WCI website and registration button). Website login: WCIMembers2019. For further information or assistance with registration please contact Jacqueline Yates WCI Liaison jacquelinecyates@gmail.com

March

- 01 Lydia McAuliffe
- 03 Ursula Schaufler
- 07 Maria Sturm
- 09 Tanja Praefcke
- 15 Nell Daniels
- 16 Reshma Munshi
- 21 Cornelia Vieira
- 22 Lucia Huegel
- 24 Andrea Biberger,
Patricia Fernandez
- 26 Helen Philipps



April

- 04 Catia Nadalutti
- 09 Johanna Williams
- 11 Louise McCabe
- 13 Helma Godell

May

- 08 Ingrid Brown
- 10 Wallis Urmenyhazi
- 13 Cindy Spurdle
- 16 Bodil Tuma
- 22 Anette Friedeborn
- 23 Christine Calbry,
Giuliana Pierson
- 25 Mary Treisbach
- 29 Barbara Almstead

Tyler Arboretum Leisure Stroll

March 17 (Wednesday)
(Rain date : March 18, same time)
11 am - 12:30 pm

515 Painter Road, Media, PA 19063
(610) 566-9134

Leisure stroll on paved trail through the arboretum gardens with heritage trees. Our IWCP member Heather Saunders is affiliated with this arboretum and will accompany us on this walk.



Admission: \$15 per person to be paid on arrival. Tyler Members Free.

If you like, please bring our own lunch, beverage, picnic blankets and folding chairs. Masks required.

For more information, contact : Annette Meertz - [annette.meertz@gmail.com/](mailto:annette.meertz@gmail.com)

610-220-2663

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Hike at Tyler Arboretum

March 24 (Wednesday)

(Rain date : March 25, same time)

11 am - 1 pm

515 Painter Road, Media, PA 19063
(610) 566-9134

Sporty hike on natural-surface trails (more challenging than the March 17 outing.) Our member Heather Saunders will accompany us on this walk.



Admission: \$15 per person to be paid at arrival. Entrance for Tyler Members is Free.

Participants can bring their own lunch, beverage, picnic blankets, and folding chairs. Masks required.

For more information, contact :

Annette Meertz -
annette.meertz@gmail.com/
610-220-2663

German-Speakers Coffee

2nd Tuesday of the month
10:30 — 11:30 am, via ZOOM

March 9

April 13

May 11

Register online on the IWCP website.

Coordinator: Trudy von der Wense, tvdwense@gmail.com

Spanish Conversation Group

More information to follow



Caffe Italiano

3rd Thursday of the month
12:30 pm, via ZOOM

March 18

April 15

May 20

June 17

RSVP: Lynne Browne,
lynnelbrown@gmail.com

French-Speakers Bistro

4th Friday of the month
11 am — 12 noon, via ZOOM

March 26

April 30

May 28

RSVP: Jacqueline Yates,
jacquelineyates@gmail.com

Save the Date :WCI Webinars

April 15 - Education Initiative Event

Guest Speaker Ina Ghaznavi-Collins will talk about how education is transforming the global society (more information to follow).

May 6 - WCI 35th Anniversary Celebration

(more information to follow).



Join us on Facebook :
<https://www.facebook.com/IWCP Philly/>

Visit us on the web at www.iwcp.org

Walking Tour : Jewish Immigrant Philadelphia

April 20 (Tuesday) (Rain Date April 22)

11 am - 1 pm

Meet our guide Jerry Silverman (215) 463-4994 outside the Rebecca Gratz Club building at 532 Spruce Street, Philadelphia. Tour ends at 4th and Spruce Street, near where we started.

The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia

Vinni Cheng – Manager, Tours and Events

(215) 546-1146 Ext. 8

1608 Walnut Street, Suite 1702, Phila, PA 19103

Tour cost is \$20 pp.

We need at least five people to sign up for this tour to take place.



PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

1996 **25** 2021

Relive the Philadelphia experience of Eastern European Jews who settled, at the turn of the 20th century, in the area from 2nd to 6th Streets and Spruce Street south to Christian Street. Explore their humble synagogues and homes and learn about their thriving market places that became prominent businesses.

No lunch reservations as of yet – depending on open restaurants. Masks required.

For more information, contact :

Annette Meertz - annette.meertz@gmail.com / 610-220-2663

Virtual Happy Hours Continue

The IWCP will continue to host 'Virtual' Happy Hours via Zoom. We are now offering a Happy Hour every week with different hosts and on perhaps different days. Look out for announcements. Each Happy Hour will start at: 5:00 PM East Coast Time. Our two historic Happy Hour dates will remain unchanged. Each Happy Hour will be announced a week ahead. The **FIRST 15 MEMBERS** to sign up will be accepted and be able to attend from their home. A few days prior to the virtual meeting, all participants will receive a Zoom invitation that will enable them to attend. The IWCP looks forward to continue bringing many of its members virtually together over the next three months.

Happy Hours Dates

2nd Thursday of the Month: 3/11, 4/8, 5/13

Please contact Monika Panger at 215-755-7655 or mmpanger@1919ic.com

Last Thursday of the Month: 3/25, 4/29, 5/27

Please contact Kathryn Bessemer at 610-457-3205 or kathrynbessemer@comcast.net

CANCELED : Potluck Lunches and Expat Dinners

Due to the ongoing risk posed by the Coronavirus pandemic, all potluck lunches and expat dinners stand canceled until further notice. In case the IWCP is able to schedule such an event, a special email will be sent out announcing the same. Members should check in regularly on the website for any new events or just to see what posts of interest there may be from fellow members.

Picnic at Stoneleigh Garden



May 13, Thursday (Rain date May 18)

11 AM

1829 County Line Rd.
Villanova, PA 19085

610 353 5587 x 200

Parking Lot – off County Line Road

Admission: Free of charge. Map of Gardens available on Stoneleighgarden.org

No tours available at this time. No water fountains or restrooms available either. Weather permitting, we can bring our own lunch – there is a picnic table available. Masks required.

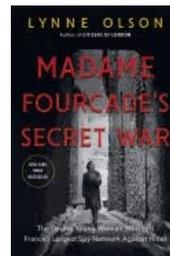
For more information, please contact :

Annette Meertz - annette.meertz@gmail.com/ 610-220-2663

Virtual Book Clubs

Thursday, 03/18, 1 pm, via Zoom

Book: *Madame Fourcade's Secret War* by Lynne Olson



Thursday, 04/15, 1 pm via Zoom

Book: *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett



All interested members should email book club coordinator **Susan Gatzert-Snyder** for the zoom link.

Thursday, 05/20, 1 pm, via Zoom

Book: *Uncanny Valley* by Anna Weiner



RSVP - **Susan Gatzert-Snyder**
sgatzertsnyder@gmail.com/

610-731-1760

International Women’s Club of Philadelphia

Member WELCOME CLUBS INTERNATIONAL (WCI)

Email: iwcpphiladelphia@yahoo.com

www.wciclubs.org

Calling for written submissions for future newsletters!

The pandemic has made us all realize the importance of connecting to and supporting each other, like never before. As our club membership is comprised of a group of talented, highly educated and well-travelled women, we invite you to share your stories with us.

These stories can include but are not limited to: travel, cultural experiences, nature, childhood memories, relocation experiences etc. that will spark interest and inspire others.

Every story shared is an opportunity to connect with each other on a more personal level! Let us share and connect!

Contact: Reshma or Cindy

Share items of Interest with fellow members!

What have you been doing during the pandemic? Have you developed a new passion, found a new hobby? The IWCP invites its members to share pictures of 'Items of Interest', such as photos, dialogue, paintings or drawings they might have done, jewelry they might have made, something they have baked or cooked, and much more.

Contact: Reshma or Cindy



Thank you to all those who participated in our Philadelphia Mural Arts Tour In January

Best wishes to Charlotte Andrews for a speedy recovery

As some of us might be aware, Charlotte Andrews, one of our dear fellow members, was hospitalized recently after suffering a fall. She was at Lankenau Hospital for more than a week but was just transferred to a nursing facility in Ambler to help her with longer term care and recovery. Charlotte and her family want her friends to know that she is in excellent hands at Artman but that her healing will take a fair bit of time given her heart condition. Friends are hence requested to refrain from calling for a while, however, they are welcome to send her cards, letters, flowers, and plants to brighten her days and help speed her recovery. Her address is : **Artman**, 250 N. Bethlehem Pike, Room 26, Ambler PA 19002. IWCP friends who would like further information can email James Savoie at savoie.j@gmail.com.

Newsletter: Please send information to Reshma Munshi, who writes the newsletter and edits the information: reshma.munshi@gmail.com

Newsletters for 3-month periods are published Sept. 1, Dec. 1, March 1, & June 1. To be included, information must be received at least 10 days earlier, i.e., by the **20th of the month preceding the month of publication.**

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