



Newsletter



March-April 2020

Issue 2

Message of the President

Dear Members,

I hope you have enjoyed the lovely coffee mornings we had in January and February.

Thanks to the success of our Bazaar, we were able to fund projects submitted by our Members.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mrs Raji Sundaram, Vice-President, Projects, for the tireless work she did in preparing the projects submitted for the EC.

Many thanks also to our EC Members for their dedication and hard work on evaluating the projects.

We have also managed to continue our different gym classes even though it was impossible to continue at ITU. Thanks to Niloufar Rafi-Kian Bouabid, Vice-President, Activities, we were able to resume our classes at the UN.

Now we are in preparation for our Annual Lunch which will be held on Friday, 13 March 2020. I hope you will all be attending this event.

Last but not least, I would like to remind you of the 2020 Annual General Assembly which will take place in the United Nations on Friday, 8 May 2020.

Wishing you all enjoyable spring season.

Senait Mengistu Gebreselassie
President, UNWG

Inside this issue:

- Events to note
- Feature article
- Timetable of activities and language classes



Special thanks

Coffee morning on Thursday, 15 January 2020 was hosted by the UNWG.

Mrs Senait Gebreselassie, President, UNWG spoke to the group, as well as Mrs Niloufar Rafi-Kian Bouabid, Vice-President and Mrs Bilqueece Alimohamed.

Representatives from the Embassy of Columbia, Libya, Nigeria, Paraguay, Tunisia, Ukraine, Paraguay, USA and Venezuela were present.

There were 84 people present and music entertainment was provided by the two musicians featured. Food was provided by members of the Guild.

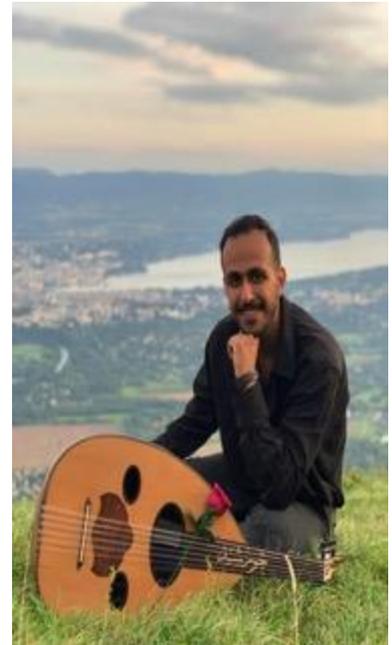


Gilles Remy Jazzband Duo Jazz New-Orleans & Swing

A “jazz” that celebrates an universal musical language.

Un cocktail of jazz from New-Orleans which brings together the lyrical style of Sydney Bechet, the rythm of Django Reinhardt and Stéphane Grappelli, the Blues of

Satchmo’ and the modernity of playing from John Coltrane, all with the energy of rock.



Ahmed Khorshid Egyptian musician

He studied at the Arab Music Institute in Egypt and the Faculty of Commerce, Ain Shams University.

Professional teacher of guitar and oud. He has many musical compositions in oriental music and symphony. He has participated in many TV and radio interviews in both Egypt and France.

Special thanks

Coffee morning on Tuesday, 4 February 2020 was hosted by the Missions of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and Poland.

Mrs Senait Gebreselassie, President UNWG spoke to the group, as well as Mrs Niloufar Rafi-Kian Bouabid, Vice-President, UNWG. Mrs Anna Czech, wife of Ambassador of Poland, Mrs Terhi Hakala, Ambassador of Finland, Mrs Katrin Saarsalu, Ambassador of Estonia and Mrs Veronique Bard, Ambassador of Sweden spoke on the subject of 'Nature-friendly countries'.

Also present were Mrs Yolanta Wazniakde, Mission of Poland; Mrs Ruta Kriviene and Mrs Vikte Dziangyte from the Mission of Latvia.

The Ambassador of Ukraine, and several other representatives were present from the Missions of Egypt, Iran, Pakistan and Venezuela.

Mrs Catherine d'Arcangues also spoke on behalf of the Nominating Committee for UNWG candidates.

There were approximately 94 people present. Many delicious typical dishes from the Nordic countries were offered to the participants.



Left to right. Mrs Anna Czech, wife of Ambassador of Poland; Mrs Ruta Kriviene, wife of Ambassador of Lithuania; Ambassador Mrs Katrin Saarsalu, Estonia; Mrs Ásthildur Jónsdóttir, wife of Ambassador of Iceland.



Artistic project. Each person had made a design of their hand and wrote what inspires them.

Coffee Mornings



March Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning will be held on Tuesday, 3 March 2020 sponsored by Mission of Iran.

Place: Hall 14, Palais des Nations

Time: 9:30-11:30

Bus: No. 20: stop Appia

April Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning will be held on Tuesday, 7 April 2020 sponsored by the Missions of Africa.

Place: Hall 14, Palais des Nations

Time: 9:30-11:30

Bus: No. 20: stop Appia

Participation: 5 chf members or guests

Contact:

Josefina Tormena, Hospitality

(079 584 44 48),

torcat@bluewin.ch

Book Club

Friday, 27 March 2020, at 14:00 in the Villa, we shall be discussing our book of the month:

The Master Of The Prado by Javier Sierra.

Friday, 24 April 2020, at 14:00 in the Villa, we shall be discussing our book of the month:

The Good Husband Of Zebra Drive by Alexander McCall Smith.

You can read all about the books we have previously reviewed and discussed at our monthly meetings of the UNWG Book Club and see the list of books we will be reading and discussing in the coming months, at my website:

<http://www.1stbookreview.com>

Chouhrette Bunzl.

Sharing Circle

A new format is suggested to the Monthly Meetings. It would be for anyone interested to present an experience that may be of benefit to others. It could be the name of a doctor, your favourite restaurant, a bakery, a cruise or tour you have taken, or even a recipe you would like to share. The purpose is to share with others what worked for you.

Pease contact Bilqueece if you are interested,

Email:

alimohamed@bluewin.ch

Cooking Demonstrations:

Third Friday of the month.

Contact: Leili Kaweh: leilikaweh@gmail.com

Our Projects Throughout the World

Today: Strengthening a girls' school in Dibai, Uttar Pradesh, India
Report by Raji Sundaram, Vice-President Projects

Rampyari Kanya Pathashala is the first and oldest girls' school in Dibai, Uttar Pradesh, India. The school situated in a semi-urban environment is provided for with basic necessities but lacks many other resources. The parents of the students come from poor backgrounds.

The UNWG project aimed at helping 450 girls who are students of this school by establishing a computer lab and in the provision of safe drinking water. With the funds given by UNWG, a computer with 7 screens were installed and students from Grade 7 to Grade 10 are tutored in IT skills. The students of Grade 10 are even encouraged to take an exam to obtain a certificate. In addition, an underground water pump has been installed along with a water purifier providing safe drinking water to the students in all three floors of the school.



Our Projects Throughout the World

Today: Helping children with physical and learning disabilities in the Philippines
Report by Raji Sundaram, Vice-President Projects

Reyes 3KEL Foundation established in 2010 supports environmental and educational projects to support impoverished communities.

Funds from UNWG were requested for the development and support of a class dedicated to 24 children with disabilities in Ramos Central Elementary School. The funds were used for diagnoses of specific disorders (autism spectrum, cerebral palsy, behavioural disorders) and to provide the appropriate follow-up therapies (Individual Education Plans, Occupational therapy).

In addition, the school was provided with a TV, wheel chair, specially adapted furniture, and learning aids to help the children with their day-to-day learning. The children are also followed by medical professionals.



Dear UNWG Members,

In view of the forthcoming AGA, which will be held on 8 May 2020, we, the UNWG Nominating Committee, are making a special appeal to ALL of our members in our search for candidates to fill the vacant positions on the Executive Committee (please see the attached list of vacancies).

Whilst a few members have expressed interest in some of the vacant posts, we would request that they make application in writing to the Nominating Committee, together with a CV and a letter of motivation. Only then can their candidacy be accepted.

The Executive Committee is the mechanism which runs the Guild and its many and varied functions. Participating in the EC work ensures that the UNWG evolves with the times, meets the needs of its members and continues to be a success. It is also a unique opportunity to strengthen friendships by working for a common goal. We feel sure that many of our members and associate members will be encouraged to contribute by applying to one of these posts.

Please give this message your full attention and if you, or someone you know, qualifies for any of the available posts, please contact the Nominating Committee 2020 at nc.unwg@gmail.com.

Thank you.

Catherine d'Arcangues
Nourane Doyen
Zeinab Farag
Rosaleen Nassif
Jeannie Taylor

The Nominating Committee 2020

List of vacancies for positions on the UNWG Executive Committee

All members elected must participate in the monthly meetings of the Executive Committee and submit a report at the request of the President and for the following AGA:

1 President (2 years: 2020-2022)

Acts as the UNWG Geneva representative at all activities pertaining to the Guild within the UN community and the wider Geneva community.

Presides at all meetings, shall chair the Executive Committee (EC), and be member ex-officio of all Standing Committees with the right to vote.

Presents a report on the year's activities at the Annual General Assembly.

Signs all minutes of meetings of the EC after adoption, and must initial any alterations made.

Signs occasional letters of congratulations and condolence.

Signs all letters of acceptance and refusal of assistance which are presented to her by the Vice-President - Projects. Signs the final letters when sending the donation.

Prepares annual reports (2 years: 2020-2021 and 2021-2022) and summaries of Geneva activities for the UNWG – New York for subsequent publication by them.

2 Vice President - Projects (1 year: 2020-2021)

Collects the project and scholarship proposals submitted by members.

Ensures projects and scholarships meet UNWG requirements for funding "to help disadvantaged children around the world" before submitting them for consideration by the Executive Committee for approval/rejection

Ensures transfer of funds and implementation of projects or scholarships.

Fluency in French and English is a requirement.

3 Vice President – Activities (2 years: 2020-2022)

In the absence of the President, the Vice-President must act on her behalf and assist the President in all her duties.

4 Co-Treasurer (2 years: 2020-2022)

Assists the Treasurer and acts on her behalf if necessary.

Collects annual fees and all funds of UNWG.

Pays the bills according to the instructions of the Executive Committee.

Transfers the amounts destined for projects.

Ensures the bookkeeping of revenues and expenditures and prepares an annual financial report for the AGA.

Knowledge of accounting and/or finance highly desirable.

Should have good IT skills especially Microsoft Excel.

5 Membership Secretary (2 years: 2020-2022)

Keeps up to date the membership list, including Associate-Members list.

Prepares labels for different mailings to members.

Prepares statistics of membership information for the Executive Committee.

Prepares membership cards.

Cooperates with the Treasurers for the compilation of the telephone directory.

Good computer literacy required.

6 Recording Secretary - English (1 year: 2020-2021)

Attends meetings of the Executive Committee and takes minutes.

Sets the agenda for all meetings of the Executive Committee.

Ensures the preparation of the annual report for the AGA.

7 Recording Secretary – French (2 years: 2020-2022)

Attends meetings of the EC and takes minutes.

Sets the agenda for all meetings of the EC.

Ensures the preparation of the Annual Report for the AGA.

8 Newsletter Editor - English (2 years: 2020-2022)

Gathers information from activity leaders.

Works in close cooperation with the French Newsletter Editor.

Prepares the Newsletter every 2 months as well a list of events.

Coordinates with the team/person responsible for uploading the Newsletter on the UNWG website and the mailing of the "Listing of Events".

Must be English mother tongue with good knowledge of French.

Must have excellent computer skills.

Associate Members may apply for this post

9 Newsletter Editor - French (1 year: 2020-2021)

Gathers information from activity leaders.

Works in close cooperation with the English Newsletter Editor.

Prepares the Newsletter every 2 months as well a list of events.

Coordinates with the team/person responsible for uploading the Newsletter on the UNWG website and the mailing of the "Listing of Events".

Must be French mother tongue with good knowledge of English.

Must have excellent computer skills.

Associate Members may apply for this post

10 Education (2 years: 2020-2022)

Responsible for organizing and coordinating the activities of the Guild including the language classes, which start from September.

Works in close cooperation with the Vice President – Activities.

Informs the Newsletter Editors (English and French) of the Activities program.

Must have knowledge of English and French.

11 Public Relations (2 years: 2020-2022)

Develops the UNWG image through the creation and distribution of general information. Coordinates activities of the Guild with international organisations in Geneva.

Maintains contacts with the media.

Provides new activities to publicize the UNWG. Coordinates the management of the Kiosk.

Associate Members may apply for this post.

12 Welcoming (2 years: 2020-2022)

Works closely with the Hospitality team to prepare the coffee morning.

Welcomes new members and organizes the New Members Coffee mornings to introduce the members of the Executive Committee and the leaders of Activities.

Responsible for the collection of attendance fees at Coffee Mornings.

Associate Members may apply for this post.

13 Visits and Culture (2 years: 2020-2022)

Prepares every month a meeting or a cultural visit of interest to members.

Must obtain the approval of the President and/or the EC before launching a monthly meeting.

Associate Members may apply for this post.

Do not hesitate to contact us:

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2020 : nc.unwg@gmail.com

Catherine d'Arcangues (Chairwoman)

Nourane Doyen

Zeinab Farag

Rosaleen Nassif

Jeannie Taylor

Members who have applied for the vacant posts:

Post of President (2 years: 2020-2022) Candidates: Niloufar Rafi-Kian Bouabid, Sibyl de Peic

Post of Vice President - Projects (1 year: 2020-2021) Candidate: Mateja Prosek Grima

Post of Vice-President – Activities (2 years: 2020-2022) Candidate: Imane El Hachimi

Post of Membership Secretary (2 years: 2020-2022) Candidate: Christine Barron

Post of Newsletter Editor - English (2 years: 2020-2022) Candidate: Caroline Scudamore

Post of Newsletter Editor - French (1 year: 2020-2021) Candidate: Patricia Bell

Post of Education (2 years: 2020-2022) Candidate: Helgard Adams

Post of Public Relations (2 years: 2020-2022) Candidate: Juliana Barrios

Post of Visits and Culture (2 years: 2020-2022) Candidate: Carmen Queisser de Stockalper

Information to note

Dear Members and friends,

I hope you have had an enjoyable start to your new year.

Everyone at the EC worked hard through the end of the last year and our new working term began off to a flying start, under Senait's leadership.

Towards the end of 2019, we heard from UNOG that in essence they could no longer host us for the Coffee Mornings due to construction related issues at the UN and early 2020 we learnt that there will be no more gym classes at the ITU in the short term. I was able to solve the Coffee Morning issue and we, thanks to UNOG's generosity at a very busy time for them, are able to continue holding our Coffee Mornings at UNOG. We are currently working on the ITU issue.

In the meanwhile, the UNOG has generously accepted to allow us the use of their gym facility. Thus, currently our gym teachers will be happy to host you at UNOG on the following days:

Mondays:	Pilates with JinHee	-> 10:30 - 11:30
Tuesdays:	Yoga with Mala	-> 9:30 - 10:20 (beginners) -> 10:30 - 11:30 (advanced)
Wednesdays:	Pilates/Bodytoning with Sibyl & Claudia	-> 10:00 - 11:00
Fridays:	Zumba with Andrea	-> 9:30 - 10:30

We are also working on the Annual Luncheon 2020 which has been delayed due to the busy schedule of our keynote speaker, the DG of UNOG. It is currently scheduled to take place at the Intercontinental Hotel on Friday, 13 March 2020. More detailed information will follow. We hope that you will join us around a nice meal with our UNWG friends.

I wish you all an enjoyable time!

Niloufar Rafi-Kian Bouabid
Vice-President, Activities

Feature

In this Newsletter Bilqueece Alimohamed, Sybil De Peic and Nadia Medhi are featured.

Bilqueece Alimohamed

Q. *When did you first join the UNWG?*

A. I joined the UNWG when we moved to Geneva from London in the early part of 2000.

Q. *What roles have you been involved in?*

A. I have enjoyed teaching English from the very start of becoming a member and still continue to do that. Then I was encouraged to take a position in the EC as responsible for Education. This was followed by VP Activities and recently I am enjoying being responsible for the Monthly Meetings. In the past I have managed the Kiosk and have been asked to do so again. I also love the Bric-a-Brac stand in the Bazaar which I have done for the last four years.

Q. *What do you like most about the UNWG?*

A. What I like the most is the feeling of the UNWG being my second home and I come to the Villa with a feeling of joy and happiness. I love the diversity of the Guild and what it offers all of us. I get to meet people from everywhere and learn so much through this experience.



Sybil De Peic

Q. *When did you first join the UNWG?*

A. I first joined in 2011 soon after retirement. One of the Members (Connie Verastegui) told me about the Guild and invited me to a coffee morning. I loved the concept and was convinced to join, which I did right away.

Q. *What roles have you been involved in?*

A. I started giving Pilates lessons when Doris Murillo, who at the time was in charge of education, convinced me to do so. The main problem was finding a suitable room to do it. Having worked at ITU for about 30 years and knowing it had a great fitness room, I requested to use it for our fitness activities - which was granted.

I was also convinced to join the Executive Committee and hold the post of Membership Secretary, which I did for 4 years.

Q. *What do you like most about the UNWG?*

A. The Guild is a fantastic place to meet great ladies from so many different countries and cultures. We not only help and sponsor projects around the world with the Bazaar and the Children's walk, but we help each other so much with the diversity of lessons we provide and the different activities that bring us close to each other.

I was also responsible for the restaurant stalls of the Bazaar for a few years.



Nadia Mehdi

Q. *When did you first join the UNWG?*

A. I became a member of the UNWG in 1999 on the advice of committed friends who quickly convinced me of the merits of their actions. I was immediately won over by this noble goal: "Helping disadvantaged children around the world". So for two decades I have been trying to make my modest contribution to the various activities of the Guild such as giving French language courses which I provide with great pleasure and complicity to my friends who are members of the Guild.

Q. *What roles have you been involved in?*

A. Each year, I also get involved, with a lot of enthusiasm, with the lottery and the Bazaar which bring in substantial and appreciable returns which allows us to honor our different projects. I have taken part in the various children's walks and provided assistance at the kiosk, etc.

Q. *What do you like most about the UNWG?*

A. What I would very much like is the sustainability of our Guild, with the firm hope of continuing all our activities in a friendly, healthy, convivial atmosphere marked by mutual respect and a dose of humility and tolerance. I remain convinced that all our combined efforts will allow us to give a smile to the children of our future. This is the real message of hope and optimism that we want to convey. So, despite of our differences (which are our wealth), let's continue this great adventure together by creating a synergy between our determination and our heart.



Languages and Activities Timetables

March/April 2020

Day	Time	Language	Teacher	Venue
Monday	10:00 – 12:00	French A2	Nadia Mehdi	Room 3
	11:15 – 13:00	Spanish Conversation (advanced)	Beatriz Velo	Room 1
	13:00 – 14:00	French A1 (Group 1- 2nd year)	Diana De Peic	Room 2
	14:00 – 15:00	French A1 (Group 2- 2nd year)	Diana De Peic	Room 2
	14:00 – 15:30	French B1	Annick Aude Buisson/ Mina Ravinder	Room 1
	13:00 – 15:00	French A2	Nadia Mehdi	Room 3
Tuesday	10:30 – 12:00	English A2	Karen Ransome	Room 1
	10:00 – 11:30	French-Conversation	Maryse Nicora	Room 3
	12:30 - 14:00	German	Uta Hornischer	Room 1
	14:00 – 15:30	Spanish B1	Doris Murillo	Room 1
Wednesday	10:00-11:30	French A1	Kavita Sookun Mina Ravinder	Room 1
	12:30-14:00	Spanish A1.2	Aura Lucia Altamirano	Room 2
Thursday	09:30-11:00	English Conversation	Ghazala Syeddah Nayyar	Room 3
	13:30 – 15:30	English B1/B2	Bilqueece Alimohamed	Room 3
Friday	10:00-11:00	Persian A.2	Shaghayegh Yasamy Gerrard	Room 2
	11:00-12:00	Persian A.1	Shaghayegh Yasamy Gerrard	Room 2

Languages and Activities Timetables

March/April 2020

Day	Time	Activity	Activity Leader	Venue
Monday	10:30-11:30	Pilates	Sibyl De Peic/ Jin Hee Lou	UN Gym
Tuesday	09:30-10:20	Yoga (Beginner)	Mala Singh	UN Gym
	10:30-11:30	Yoga (Advanced)	Mala Singh	UN Gym
	13:15-16:30	Open Bridge at ILO	Zofia Eda Bankowski/ Padma Srivastava	ILO
	14:00-16:00	Handicrafts	Manila Paktian	Room 3
Wednesday	10:30-11:30	Pilates/Full body workout	Sibyl De Peic/ Claudia Nonninger	UN Gym
	First Wednesday of the month 09:30 - 12:00	Jewellery Making	Manila Paktian	Room 3
	Different meeting times and venues	Hiking	Mahrooghe Mary Kazazi Denise Maertens Edith Mayer Wallin	Outdoors
	12:30 - 15:30	Mah Jong	Sonia Woolcock	Room 1
Thursday	09:30 – 13:30	Social Bridge	Rosaleen Nassif	Room 1
Friday	3rd Fridays of the month 13:30 - 15:00	Cooking	Leili Kaweh	Different venues
	14:00 - 16:00 (Except last Friday of the month)	Arts and Creations	Caroline Scudamore	Room 2
	14:00-16:00 (First or Second Friday of the month)	Monthly Meetings	Bilqueece Alimohamed	Room 3
	Last Friday of the month 14:00 - 16:00	Book Club	Chouhrette Bunzl	Room 1
	09:30-10:30	Zumba	Andrea de Silva	UN Gym

*Registrations for the language classes will be made by the teachers in the first class. All participants must present their 2020 Membership cards to the teachers/activity leaders for registering and participating the courses

*For joining the sports classes in UN, members should hold a special badge provided by UN security.

*Please note that there might be changes in the schedule. Members are requested to get in contact with the teachers to verify.

Membership

Please note that In order to have the right to vote in the Annual General Assembly (AGA) and to sponsor a project, members are kindly requested to pay the annual membership fee **before 1 April 2020**.

The annual subscription fee is (CHF 85.00) payable by e-banking or directly at the UBS Bank to the following bank account: UNWG, **IBAN: (CH 87 0027 9279 HU11 9293 0)**. No payment at the Post Office will be accepted.

The membership office hours: Monday (14:30 – 16:30) and (Thursday: 10:00 – 12:00). You may collect your membership card at the Villa upon presentation of your payment receipt at:

Villa les Feuillantines, 8-14, Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Genève 10.
Bus: No. 5, 8, 28, F, 20 stop Appia, Tram: 15 stop: Nations.

Email: membership@unwg.ch

Membership Secretary: Taroub El Bedour, (Tel. 078 796 48 30).

Co-Membership Secretary: Radhia Ben Helal, (Tel. 078 658 45 98, +33 613 65 72 54).

Newsletter

The deadline to receive information for the next Newsletter is:

15 April 2020. Please ensure that all information is sent to the Newsletter

Email: newsletter@unwg.ch.

The Executive Committee Team, wishes you an excellent spring!

UNITED NATIONS WOMEN'S GUILD

Villa les Feuillantines, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix, 1211. Genève 10

Tel: 022 917 33 86

Email: cfnu.unwg@bluemail.ch

www.unwg.ch

Opening times:- Monday – Friday 9:30 - 16:00.