



United Nations Women's Guild - Geneva Newsletter

March-April 2021
Issue 2

EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear Members, Dear Friends,

A new edition to the Newsletter will be a small input from me - the English Newsletter Editor!

I sincerely hope you are all keeping well and happy during these rather stressful and uncertain times.

As many other organizations and entities we have to be creative to be able to continue our activities during this particular situation and to keep the good work and basic cause of the Guild alive. The Executive Committee is working on many different ideas.

Pins were designed and created and given as a gift to the children who participated in the Children's Walk and these are also available to buy as a fun souvenir for 5 CHF each.

We have a Cookery Corner in the Newsletter and this issue is featuring two recipes from India. Please send in your recipes, as in the future a UNWG cookery book is envisaged which also could be sold to support our charity work.

There will be a new Cultural Exchange space and in this regard we would also like to hear from any members that may like to write an article about their heritage or their culture. We have such a diverse membership that I think this would be a very interesting topic and would be very nice to read.

Not least this month of March is when we celebrated International Women's Day on 8 March, and this year the theme was 'Choose to Challenge'. A challenged world is an alert world. Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions - all day, every day. For more information:

#IWD2021

#ChooseToChallenge

Thanks in advance and please contact me if you would like to follow up on any of these ideas in particular.

Keep well everyone!

Caroline

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT NILOUFAR RAFI-KIAN BOUABID

Dear Members, Dear Friends,

Welcome to our renewed Newsletter. You will discover new sections proposed by our Editors; It is also my pleasure to let you discover the interview of the Director-General of UNOG, the first woman to occupy the post. I hope you will be pleased with the little surprise within the interview.

We are blessed to have had very interesting participation from Permanent Missions of USA, Morocco, Libya and Malta and we look forward to the upcoming participation of the Permanent Missions of Pakistan, Ecuador, and India. I would like to personally thank all the participating Spouses of Ambassadors, my dear friends, Maria, Bouchra, Laila, Mateja, Marium, Teresa and Shushma.

Our EC Team continues to innovate with the new Special Events series of 2021. The Spouse of the Ambassador of France, Mrs. Elisabeth Grigorianz Rivasseau, inaugurated the first of our Special Events in January. The Spouse of the Director-General of WIPO, Mrs. Claire Bostock Tang, will be hosting a series of 4 Special Events, that we hope will be your Path to Happiness! Thank you dear Elisabeth and Claire.

I take this opportunity to thank, on behalf of the UNWG-Geneva, our dear Eliane. Thank you dear colleague for all your selfless efforts. You are truly a pillar of the UNWG.

On a more personal note, I would like to wish all my friends who celebrate the several Millennia old Festival of Nowruz, a very happy and healthy New Year! March holds not only the Nowruz celebrations but also the celebration of Women, hence ladies, wishing you a belated happy International Women's Day. I will leave you with the Zoroastrian saying: "Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds", be good to each other and to the world.

Niloufar



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Messages of the VPs	4
Engaging the Diplomatic Community	5
Special Events	6
UNWG Activities.....	6
Fundraising.....	8
Cultural Exchange Space	9
Feature Articles.....	10
More About us	11
Cookery Corner	13

SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST

**Interview of Ms. Tatiana
Valovaya, Director-
General of UNOG..... 2**

INTERVIEW RESPONSES BY MS. TATIANA VALOVAYA
UNITED NATIONS UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

1) The world is going through a deep crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the worst recession in decades. What is the impact of this crisis on the UN action?

The COVID-19 pandemic has proven that the United Nations is able to make transformative changes, almost overnight. Not only are we able to share information and knowledge in real-time, we have also managed to adapt swiftly to a virtual workplace.

Despite the pandemic, our mandates have not lost any of their importance – quite the opposite. In fact, the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) was the first duty station to resume official meetings in June 2020, including multilingual conferences in both hybrid and virtual format. The Human Rights Council, for example, was able to implement its full program of work in 2020, despite the COVID-19 restrictions and the severe liquidity crisis the UN Secretariat is facing. Its 46th session currently being held since 22 February is also proceeding smoothly. 2020 also marked the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, and we successfully held several large-scale virtual dialogues to celebrate this important milestone and to engage a wide range of partners, including the youth.

Virtual collaboration has now become the “new normal” and will likely continue past COVID-19. It has enabled a more inclusive multilateralism, which is one of the Secretary-General’s ten priorities for 2021. As virtual meetings do not require travel, the new way of working has strengthened the voice of small Member States, civil society actors and youth. I also see the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to reorient and position UNOG and International Geneva as a “centre of excellence” in virtual and hybrid conferencing.

The “how to do this” comes with new challenges. Last year, for example, UNOG held a total of 4,274 meetings. This is far less than in previous years, but still an achievement considering that servicing virtual and hybrid conferencing is far more complex and costly. This last point was particularly challenging as virtual and hybrid conferencing was not budgeted as no one could foresee this situation. It also requires special infrastructure, and I am proud to say that UNOG equipped six meeting rooms for this purpose in 2020. The upgrade of an additional four rooms is underway. We are currently testing different multilingual platforms in search of the best fit for the UN. In this context, 2020 was a transition year to strengthen the ground for a new way of work.

2) Across countries, people have been hit hard. The health crisis is having far-reaching economic and social transformations, especially in low-income countries. What effect does this have on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to derail progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Its immediate health impact, coupled with its longer-term social and economic consequences, have cost more than two and a half million lives, destroyed countless livelihoods, curtailed young people’s education, increased violence against women and threatened food security. The pandemic is also expected to reverse decades of progress on poverty reduction and worsen inequalities.

In such turbulent times, the Sustainable Development Goals are more important than ever. Their bedrock principles of international cooperation, universal access to public services and social inclusion are the guideposts in the fight against the pandemic. In other words, the SDGs serve as a framework for COVID-19 recovery, giving us a real opportunity to recover better and to reinvigorate the Decade of Action for the Global Goals.

“Virtual collaboration has now become the “new normal” and will likely continue past COVID-19. It has enabled a more inclusive multilateralism, which is one of the Secretary-General’s ten priorities for 2021”

In order to address the many multi-faceted challenges ahead, the UN Secretary-General outlined ten priorities for the Organization for 2021. Among them, he called for a more networked, inclusive multilateralism, based on the equal representation of women, and the strengthened participation of young people, civil society, business and technology, cities and regions, science and academia.

The Secretary-General also highlighted the power of women's leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. As we emerge from this crisis, women will continue to play an indispensable role in the development and implementation of COVID-19 recovery plans. Women's full and equal participation is also essential to the success of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is a top priority for me. Located in my office, the SDG Lab creates new opportunities for stakeholders to strengthen their commitment and cooperation for the SDGs. Despite the pandemic, the SDG Lab has continued its important work, particularly on SDG financing and partnerships,

"Inspired by your dedication and commitment, it is my honour and pleasure to join the UNWG as Honorary President"

3) Vulnerable populations, in particular women and children, are among the most affected by the crisis. Will they be priority targets of reconstruction efforts within the "Decade of Action"?

Across every sphere, from health to the economy, security to social protection, the impacts of COVID-19 are exacerbated for populations in vulnerable situations, including for women and children. To put this into perspective, for example, women make up over 70% of the global health workforce and are more likely to be front line workers. The pandemic is also deepening pre-existing inequalities as well as increasing exponentially gender-based violence and unpaid care work.

Although children are not the face of this pandemic, they risk being the biggest victims. An estimated one in six children - or 356 million globally - were living in extreme poverty before the pandemic began, and this is set to worsen significantly. More than 1.5 billion students and youth across the planet have been affected by school and university closures, with many in low-income countries not being reached by remote learning.

Women and children have long been a priority for the United Nations. Together with our partners, we have made historic progress in improving the health and well-being of women and children around the world. To recover stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic, women and children must remain a top priority in this Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable.

4) You were to be with us in 2020 for the Annual UNWG luncheon and announce good news for the UNWG. Unfortunately, the event was cancelled due to the health situation. Would you like to do so during this interview?

First of all, I would like to warmly congratulate the United Nations Women's Guild of Geneva (UNWG) on its 50th anniversary. Since the early 70s, UNWG has been active in strengthening the network of women connected to the UN family in Geneva and streamlining the energy and power of this network into targeted projects to assist women and children in need throughout the world. The network now comprises of over 550 women from about 110 different nationalities – a true spirit of the United Nations!

The United Nations Office at Geneva and the UNWG have been working together throughout the past fifty years. Every year, we have been happy to host the International Bazaars and Children's Walks at the Palais des Nations and the Ariana Park. Funds collected through these activities have been used by the UNWG to support concrete projects and actions worldwide that enabled many children in vulnerable situations to have access to food, health, shelter and educational opportunities. This is the Guild's tangible contribution towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its objective of leaving no one behind. A sustainable world for the next generations lies in the education of today's youth, and I warmly thank all the members of the UNWG for their exceptional dedication and continued commitment to this admirable cause to improve the lives of children around the world and the future of the societies they live in.

Inspired by your dedication and commitment, it is my honour and pleasure to join the UNWG as Honorary President. As the first female Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, I believe that by creating equal opportunities for women and men we will be able to achieve our common goals. I warmly thank all the members of the Women's Guild for their trust and look forward to supporting your work.

Questions by : Niloufar Rafi-Kian Bouabid

MESSAGE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT ACTIVITIES

IMANE TAZI-EL HACHIMI

Dear Friends, dear Members,

The UNWG-Geneva is an association of generous volunteers united around similar objectives that focus on advancing the cause of women and children around the world.

Participation, group work, sharing, self-giving and enjoyment are the encouraged values that transpire through the actions of our volunteers. The UNWG was built around such values. The generosity and motivation of its members have allowed them to reach the UNWG's objectives to sustain micro projects benefitting women and scholarships for women.

Concretely, volunteer work contributes to build a more humane and fraternal world, so needed in this period of pandemic which brought out a fragility and a precariousness rarely reached.

Hence, I would like, in this month of March celebrating women, to pay tribute to them and thank all the women of the UNWG for their participation and support, and in particular the event leaders for their time and energy for organizing their activities. I would like to thank them for their sense of flexibility during these times of crises.

I would also like to share my satisfaction in working with an Executive Committee that has been able to adapt and carry the UNWG during this difficult period.

Finally, dear friends, dear members, as women, let's honor women, all women, our mothers, our sisters, our daughters, our friends, our neighbors, colleagues, etc. Continue your beautiful work, remain with us for as long as you continue participating in our work. We are so appreciative of all the help we can get to help us advance in our task.

Imane

MESSAGE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT PROJECTS

MATEJA PROSEK GRIMA

Projects around the world supported by UNWG Geneva : The Kithoka Amani Children's Home (KACH), Kenya

Kithoka Amani Children's Home (KACH), a project of International Peace Initiatives (IPI), opened in 2009 to support orphans with a safe space to enable them to go through their education uninterrupted by the challenges of having no parents. KACH Home offered shelter for 10 children and today, eleven years later, the Home hosts 85 kids and another 20 who are supported from outside of KACH.

The KACH supports children from baby class to university. Up until now KACH helped 30 students obtain their Bachelor's degree and 5 their Master's degree. Many students received high school degrees. Currently, they have 15 students in various post-secondary institutions.

Initially, the UNWG grant was intended to cover school fees for only 32 primary level children attending the Chabuene MCK Academy. However, 2020 was like no other year. Schools opened in January 2020 and by mid-March all schools in Kenya were closed due to Covid-19. For the first three months, the children continued learning at home, hoping to return back to school by June, however the government announced that schools would reopen only in January 2021. Therefore, KACH had to come up with different ideas and projects that would keep all the 63 students engaged on the grounds of KACH. Therefore, they created work at different premises, e.g. at Thau farm children planted 99 bananas after clearing the land and planting a green fence around it. In addition, they fenced the land at Njuruta farm as well as built a camp site and most of the boys' dormitory. The older children volunteered to go and work there and create a place to live and keep goats, some cows and chickens. The younger children too would go to Njuruta once in a while to help with work: harvest beans, thresh beans, sort them for packing and bringing them to KACH.

In addition, the KACH children shared some of their food with children around who had no food. They also made masks and distributed to children who had no masks and created handwashing stations at different KACH locations as well as made their own detergent soap for washing hands and a sanitiser for sanitising hands. Children learnt about Covid-19, why they had to wear masks, keep a distance, and wash hands. Lastly, they also understood why it was important to stay at home to keep safe and healthy.

2020 was a very challenging year, yet also a year of growth. Feeding the children and keeping everyone meaningfully engaged at KACH was a tremendous task. They had to purchase books and plan the school curriculum for all the children so that they would keep up with their studies. Thankfully, one of their university students acted as the "Principal" of the KACH home-school with the other university students supporting him by teaching younger children.

In spite of all the above challenges, there were also many areas of growth. The children learned many new skills - working on a farm; building a dormitory; rearing animals (rabbits, chicken, pigs, goats, cows and goats); they learned how to work in teams; plan their day-to-day routines; and generally bonded as a family. Many developed their leadership skills since they had to run the home and all their activities since there were no staff members at KACH and IPI. The UNWG's funding helped in managing Covid-19 in terms of keeping all 63 kids meaningfully engaged and well fed for the whole of 2020.

Mateja

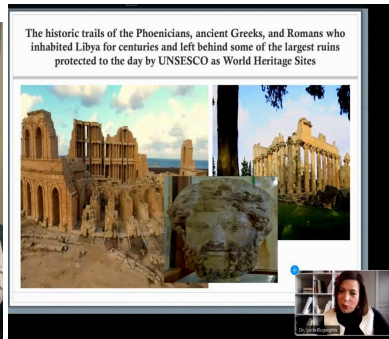


ENGAGING THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY

COFFEE MORNINGS

Mission of Libya: A Virtual Tour Inside the Unique Libyan Culture & Heritage **February 10th**

Our great appreciation to Dr. Laila Bugaighis, spouse of the Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the State of Libya for allowing us to discover the history and traditions of Libya.



Mission permanente de l'Etat de Libye
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève et
des autres organisations internationales en Suisse



البعثة الدائمة لدولة ليبيا
لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة في جنيف
والمؤسسات الدولية الأخرى بموسمرا

N° 47.21

The Permanent Mission of the State of Libya to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the United Nations Women's Guild in Geneva, and has the honour to convey its thanks and appreciation for the invitation extended to Libya to share its history and culture at the Morning Coffee event that was held on Wednesday 10th of February 2021.

The Permanent Mission of the State of Libya avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Women's Guild in Geneva, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 19th of February 2021

United Nations Women's Guild
Geneva
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Mission of Malta: Prehistoric Malta **March 2nd**

Thanks to the initiative of Mrs. Mateja Prosek Grima, spouse of the Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Malta, we were fortunate to discover prehistoric Malta. Indeed, Mrs. Katya Stroud, Senior Curator, of Heritage Malta did an incredible presentation on Neolithic temples.



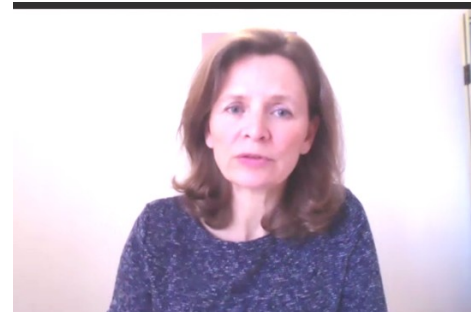
SPECIAL EVENTS



On 21 January, the first session of the entirely new line of activity, UNWG Special Events, was hosted by Mrs. Elisabeth Grigorianz-Rivasseau, the spouse of the Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France, under the title: **Overcome! A natural and holistic approach to recovery, resilience and resistance.**

We are very grateful that we had the opportunity to learn different relaxation techniques

and breathing exercises, especially during these difficult times.



We take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Elisabeth Grigorianz-Rivasseau for hosting and sharing her knowledge with us.

UNWG ACTIVITIES

COOKING CLASS



Niloufar hosted on 22 January a Persian cooking

class where she shared recipes and cooked several Persian dishes. We learnt how to make Salad Shirazi, Kookoo Gol-e-Kalam, Tahdig -which



On February 19th, Juliana demonstrated how to make lace cookies. It was elegant and delicious, recipe based on steel cut oats.



literally means - bottom of the pot! It was an amazing experience where we exchanged tips between several countries of the region with similar dishes.

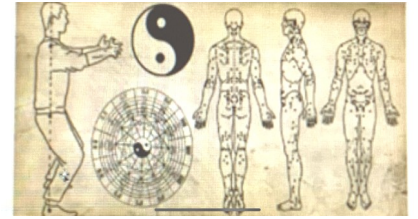
MONTHLY MEETING

Our first Monthly Meetings for this year was held on **5th February** and was hosted by Solange Harcourt, practitioner and teacher of Raja Yoga meditation.

Solange gave a very interesting talk and a short meditation on how a spiritual approach enables us to face and deal with the challenging situations of today's world.



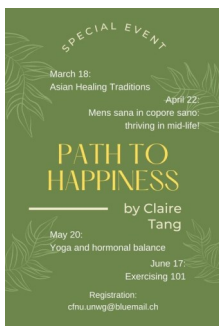
On **12th March** monthly meeting, Fiona Black, Wellbeing Personal Growth Coach & Certified Qi Life Instructor, made a



presentation on the positive effects of Qi Gong therapeutic exercise designed to improve sleep, reduce anxiety, boost immune function, to promote balance of the mind, body and spirit, using breath, flow of movement and mind awareness. Fiona also demonstrated some of the fundamental movements that she uses in her daily practice.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Special Event

Find your Path to Happiness with Claire! This second set of Special Events will be an open window into a renewed outlook on wellbeing. Our first session on March 18th will explore Asian Healing Therapies, such as TCM and Ayurveda healing modalities.

Cooking Class

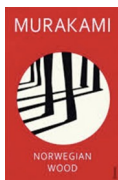


Moroccan cuisine is one of the most remarkable cuisine in the World. It is the way of combining different flavours with savoury spices. We are fortunate to learn a few special recipes on March 19th, at our next cooking class, hosted by our own VPA, Imane at 11:30 am. You will receive a link by joining our cooking class WhatsApp group.



Book Club

On **March 26th** we will be discussing on Skype our book of the month, "Together Tea" by Marjan Kamali.



On **April 30th**, our book club will discuss 'Norwegian Wood' by Haruki Murakami / La ballade de l'impossible.

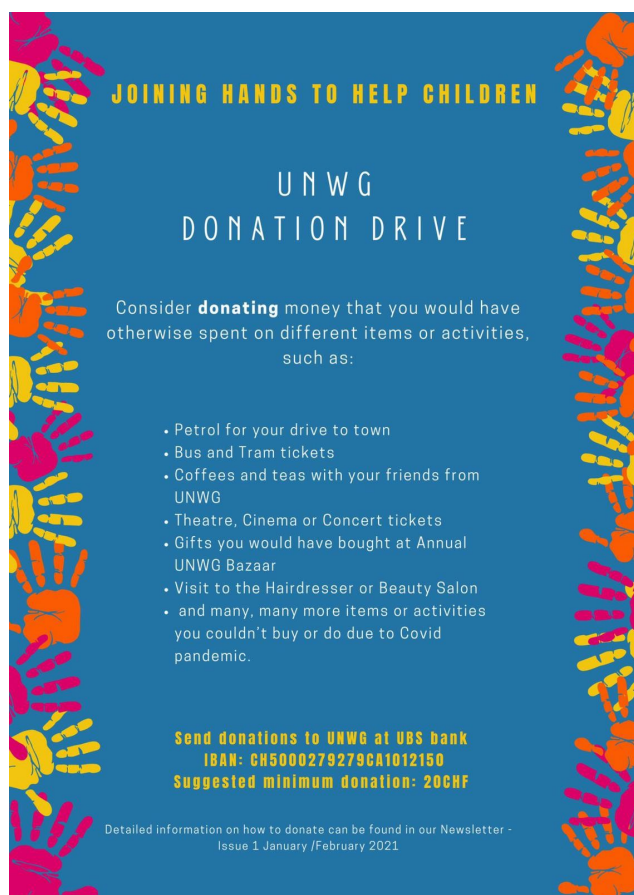


Monthly meeting

"How to dispose of our waste!" on the 30th April at 13:30 hosted by Caroline Scudamore. We will focus on how to be more conscious of the different ways of waste disposal.



FUNDRAISING



JOINING HANDS TO HELP CHILDREN

**UNWG
DONATION DRIVE**

Consider **donating** money that you would have otherwise spent on different items or activities, such as:

- Petrol for your drive to town
- Bus and Tram tickets
- Coffees and teas with your friends from UNWG
- Theatre, Cinema or Concert tickets
- Gifts you would have bought at Annual UNWG Bazaar
- Visit to the Hairdresser or Beauty Salon
- and many, many more items or activities you couldn't buy or do due to Covid pandemic.

**Send donations to UNWG at UBS bank
IBAN: CH5000279279CA1012150
Suggested minimum donation: 20CHF**

Detailed information on how to donate can be found in our Newsletter - Issue 1 January /February 2021



**Children's Walk 2020
Human Solidarity Arts Competition
Greeting Cards**

This year we have added an arts component to our fundraising efforts through Children's Walk initiative. The children from different schools participated in the arts competition by submitting drawings or paintings centered around the theme of Human Solidarity. The Executive Committee of UNWG selected 6 beautiful motives which were printed in UNWG Human Solidarity greeting cards and are now available to members for purchase.



You can purchase individual cards for 2.50 CHF or 10 cards (with 5 different motives) for 20.00 CHF. We are counting on your support!

You can order the cards by sending an email to project@unwg.ch. All proceeds from the sale of the greeting cards will go towards helping children in need around the world. Each card has an explanatory text on the back of the card about Children's Walk Initiative as well as information about the author of the motive.

We would warmly like to thank those who have kindly contributed to the UNWG Donation Drive: Anneke, Claire, Daren, Coni, Daniar, Doris, Eliane, Emira, Margrit, Marcia, Zohra, Beatriz, Chiow, Ingy, Thusitha, Caroline, Mala, Helgard, Juliana, Mateja, Imane & Niloufar.

These contributions really allow us to keep helping children in need around the world, especially during these difficult times.

This is an ongoing drive so please send in your donations to help us continue to support the very many projects we have around the world.

All the donations will go solely to assist children in need throughout the world. The donors will be acknowledged on our social media sites and those donating over 100 CHF will receive a commemorative Children's Walk pin as a token of appreciation for their generous support.

These beautiful pins are available also to purchase for **5 chf** each.

If you wish to stay anonymous when you give your donation, kindly write "Anonymous" in the message to the payee.

Suggested minimum amount of donation is 20 CHF.

Please send your donations to:

UNITED NATIONS WOMEN'S GUILD GENEVA

UBS Bank

IBAN: CH5000279279CA1012150



CULTURAL EXCHANGE SPACE

Nowruz Festival

In the northern hemisphere, March 20, 2021 - at 13:07 GMT + 3:30 - when the solar calendar coincides with the vernal equinox, marks the beginning of spring. For 300 million people worldwide, it is also the beginning of a new year.

"Nowruz" - which signifies "new day" - is a traditional holiday that celebrates the New Year in the Persian cultural space. It is a public holiday in many countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus as well as a popular celebration in Turkey, India, Kosovo, and other countries marked by Persian culture. This festival is celebrated every year between March 19 and 22 at different times, depending on the calendars and the spring equinox.

In 2010 the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution under the "Culture of Peace" initiative calling 21 March the "International Day of Nowruz". In 2019 UNESCO listed Nowruz as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity that "promotes the

values of peace and solidarity between generations and within families, as well as reconciliation and harmony."

***"Be happy for this moment.
This moment is your life."
Omar Khayyam***

fact seeds and eggs have a special symbolic place in the celebrations of Nowruz. Many rituals are associated with this festival, such as spring cleaning, wearing new clothing during the New Year celebration etc. Most importantly, a "Haft-Seen" – literally translating into the "seven "S" – table is set. Originally, the Haft See table had 12 fruits, each representing a month of the year. With time, the 12 symbols were reduce to 7 elements, each starting with the letter **S** – or "seen" in the Persian alphabet. They include: "**Sabzeh**" (sprouts of wheat, lentil, barley or other seeds, symbols of rebirth), "**Senjed**" (dried jujube berries, symbol of love), "**Sir**," (garlic, symbol of protection), "**Sib**" (apple, symbol of fertility), "**Sumac**" (symbol of love), "**Serkeh**" (vinegar, symbol of patience) and "**Samanu**" (cream obtained by prolonged cooking of young wheat sprouts previously ground, symbol of abundance). The table is also decorated with other objects such as painted eggs, a mirror, the Quran and poetry collections including poems from the famous Persian poet Hafez. A jar of goldfish, symbol of life, crowns the whole.



Fertility and new life are at the heart of this spring festival; In



By Venus Sharifi

FEATURE ARTICLES

Beatriz Campeas, UNWG President (1994-1998)

When did you first join the UNWG?

I joined the UNWG in 1981. I was introduced by a friend of mine. As I had small children at the time I only attended coffee mornings. Later on, I became an active member

What roles have you been involved in?

I always liked to be active and I tried to help as much as I could. I like to meet people and get to know them well. I was Hospitality Chairwoman for one year in 1986. Later on, I was responsible for the International Gift Stall. I was the UNWG President from 1994-1998, and a Member of the Statutes Committee 1996-2019.

I sold Lottery tickets at the International Organizations and among friends. I also helped to obtain cash donations for the Bazaar Committee. I participated in the different art exhibitions at the UN and WIPO. I was a member of the Painting Group and the Mah Jong Group. I also helped with the Children's Walk whenever I could.



Our first Annual Luncheon with Audrey Hepburn as guest Speaker at the Hotel Métropole, 1986

What do you like most about the UNWG?

Through the years the Guild became my second home. The Guild's motto "Friendship and Understanding" is the basic idea, a place where you have friends. Through work, members are able to meet others. We do not have to forget that the Guild was founded by women who were in Geneva following their husbands work and got together to share their views, hobbies and to make friends. They had left their families behind. Here they found what they needed and helped each other through work or an activity of their interest. They learn from one another and longtime friendships are made. We have the whole world represented in our Guild. This is the place to share our cultures and respect one another. We are aware of the needs of others and help children around the world.

Last year the Guild had its 50th anniversary. It is very important that we all continue to enhance the spirit, goals and positive activities of the Guild, bearing in mind the need to encourage the active participation of members.

Nadia Kherad, member the Ad-Hoc Statutes Committee (1995-Today)

When did you first join the UNWG?

As the spouse of the Ambassador of Afghanistan to UNOG, I became a member of the UNWG in 1984. From the first days, I greatly appreciated the purpose and organization of this international association. By participating in "Coffee Mornings" which use to take place at the ILO, I had the chance to meet exceptional women of different nationalities, languages, religions and cultures, in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

What roles have you been involved in?

I have always participated with real pleasure in the various activities of the Guild, and particularly in the Bazaar. In 1994, I was appointed Chair of the Nominating Committee and, since 1995, I have been a member of the Ad-Hoc Statutes Committee.

What do you like most about the UNWG?

From the inception of the Guild to this day, the dynamic, capable and dedicated members of the Executive Committee have devoted their time and energy to the organization of remarkable and very interesting programs. The most significant was the 25th

anniversary of the Guild, which took place at the Intercontinental Hotel and to which the spouses of Guild members were also invited, as well as the "annual lunches" with eminent Swiss and foreign personalities.

For my part, I have always particularly appreciated the Bazaar, which has become a memorable event with considerable success in Geneva, as well as the Children's Walk. These events make it



Selling Lottery tickets in 2000

possible to finance projects to help disadvantaged children in the whole world. **I was particularly proud of my son Professor Omar Kherad, who as a student in 2002 at the Faculty of Medicine for the day 'Saturnales' managed with his classmates to raise the sum of 25.000 CHF and this was offered to the Guild.**

Unfortunately, the current health situation has changed our lives and our activities. Despite the ordeal we are going through, I am sure we will come out stronger and better. I am looking forward to the joyful day that we can meet again.

Questions by Caroline Scudamore

MORE ABOUT US



COURSE OFFERS SPRING 2021

Helgard Adams, Education Coordinator

Dear UNWG Members,

With warmer temperatures in the air and the projected relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions in the news, we seem to finally move in the right direction!

Made possible by the generosity of our teachers and activity leaders, the Guild can offer our members an opportunity to connect with others while learning new

skills. Together, we warmly invite you to join in our community activities. You may do so by exploring your talents or by deciding to lead an activity yourself.

To keep you up-to-date regarding the Guild's current course offer, please see the MARCH COURSE OFFER in the attachment next to the Newsletter. For easy reference, we suggest that you print it out to have schedule and contact information accessible at all times.

To join courses, please contact your course leader directly through the indicated contact information. If you are not sure who to get in touch with, if you need more information or if you consider offering a course yourself, please send text to:

+41 76 604 8583 or write to: education@unwg.ch

Helgard

There have been requests for the following courses:

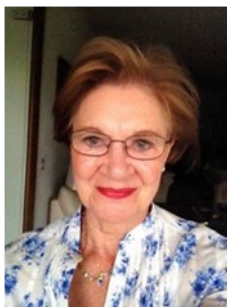
CHESS

ITALIAN

If you can offer a course in these subjects, please let us know!

COURSE	TEACHER	CONTACT	DATE	TIME	MEDIA
ENGLISH intermediate/advanced	BILQUEECE ALI-MOHAMED	alimohamed@bluewin.ch	THURSDAYS	13.30 - 15.00	ZOOM
ENGLISH CONVERSATION	PATRICIA BELL	belpatricia@gmail.com	MONDAYS	14.30 - 16.00	ZOOM. 8.3.
FRENCH A1	MINA RAVINDER	+41 78 739 38 00	WEDNESDAYS	10.00 - 11.30	ZOOM
FRENCH B2	MINA RAVINDER	+41 78 739 38 00	MONDAYS	14.00- 15.30	ZOOM
FRENCH BEGINNERS (niveau o)	DIANA DE PEIC	+41 79 302 17 06	MONDAYS	10.30 - 11.30	ZOOM
BASIC FRENCH	DIANA DE PEIC	+41 79 302 17 06	TUESDAYS	10.00- 12.00	ZOOM
FRENCH intermediate/advanced	NADIA MEHDI	+33 6 07 08 01 84	MONDAYS	10.00- 12.00	Skype
FRENCH CONVERSATION	MARYSE NICORA	+33 6 85 24 51 93	TUESDAYS	14.30 - 16.00	ZOOM
GERMAN BEGINNERS	UTA HORNISCHER	+41 79 458 87 84	TUESDAYS	12.00 - 13.00	ZOOM
GERMAN ADVANCED	UTA HORNISCHER	+41 79 458 87 84	TUESDAYS	13.00 - 14.00	ZOOM
SPANISH	DORIS MURILLO	+41 79 590 58 13	TUESDAYS	10.30 - 12.00	Skype
SPANISH CONVERSATION	BEATRIZ VELO	+41 76 606 13 26	MONDAYS	11.00 - 13.00	Skype
JAPANESE CONVERSATION	HIROMI IRIYAMA	+39 389 989 2255	MONDAYS	10.00 - 11.30	ZOOM
ARTS AND CREATIONS	CAROLINE SCUDAMORE	+33 6 85 20 54 85	FRIDAYS	15.00	ZOOM
BOOK CLUB	CHOUHRETTE BUNZL	chouhrettecherif@gmail.com	LAST FRIDAY of the month	14.30	Skype
COOKING	LEILI KAWEH	+98 912 488 4424	3TH FRIDAY of the months	11.30-13.00	ZOOM
PILATES	Sibyl De Peic	sybil.peic@outlook.com	WEDNESDAYS	10.00-11.00	ZOOM
BODY TONING	CLAUDIA NONNINGER	nonningerc@gmail.com	FRIDAYS	10.00 - 11.00	ZOOM
MEDITATION AND BREATHING	MALA SINGH	+91 704 229 97 12	MONDAYS	9.00 - 9.30	ZOOM 22.2.
HIKING (RESTARTING IN MARCH DUE TO COVID)	Mahrooghe Mary Kazazi/ Denise Maertens/ Edith Mayer-Wallin	mary.kazazi@gmail.com demaertens@wanadoo.fr mayer.wallin@gmail.com	WEDNESDAYS	ALL DAY	Different Venues CH/FR

MORE ABOUT US



Social Bridge Club **Rosaleen Nassif, Coordinator**

Tel: 079 229 0720

Email: rosnassif@gmail.com

The UNWG Social Bridge Group had 11 members last year, allowing us to play two, sometimes three tables. We are not all great bridge players, in fact we are at different levels, but we all love the game and have much fun in getting together on Thursday mornings at the Villa to play and

chat over tea or coffee. Sometimes we meet for a bridge lunch at a member's home.

With the arrival of Covid-19 and the consequent lockdowns it's been almost a year since we were able to meet. Unfortunately,

bridge is not an activity that we can play on Zoom or Skype. However, I continue to urge our members to keep practicing their bridge skills with the help of the Internet.

I look forward to the time when restrictions will be lifted at the Villa, and we can safely resume our Thursday morning get-togethers.



Spanish Conversation Class

Beatriz Velo, Teacher

Email : Beatrizvelo@gmail.com

On Mondays there is always time to have fun in Spanish either in the city or at the moment on Skype, there are always a variety of subjects to talk about.

How many years have you taught at the Guild?

This will be our third year!!!

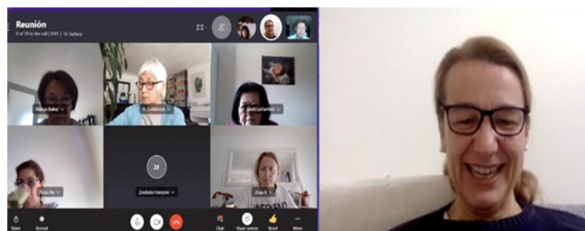
What subjects do we talk about in the classes?

We talk about cultural issues, travel, interviews with famous people we look at current affairs, usually articles from specialized magazines.

What other things have you been involved in for the Guild?

I presented a solidarity project that was approved in 2019 whose objective was to enable children of Peru to learn English, it is being implemented with effort and great success despite the difficulties that we all know.

“Ñ - the special sound only found in Spanish!”

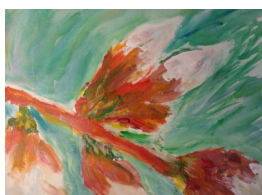


Pranamayas and Meditation

Mala is offering a new course: Pranamayas and Meditation

(concentration on yourself) on Mondays at 9.00 on zoom.

Join Us !



***Work from the Art and Creations Workshop
led by Caroline Sudamore***

Reminder!

**A new course of Japanese conversation
Offered by Hiromi Iriyama**

A Japanese conversation group on Mondays
from 10:00 – 11:30 on Zoom

Please contact Hiromi if you are interested:
hiromi.iriya@gmail.com

Reminder!

**A new course of English conversation
Offered by Patricia Bell**

Join us every Monday on Zoom from 14:30 – 16:00.
Starting on Monday 8 March.

Please contact Patricia if you are interested:
belpatricia@gmail.com

COOKERY CORNER

CORIANDER AND COCONUT MILK CURRY

For 1 kg of meat :

Green masala

500 gr. green coriander leaves
3 cm of ginger peeled
4 cloves of garlic
8 green chillies
Juice of 1 lemon

8 cloves
5 cm stick of cinnamon
4 onions chopped fine
½ l of coconut milk
250 gr. of live yoghurt
A little oil for frying
Salt
Freshly ground black pepper
A few small potatoes, approx. 1 per person

- The quantity of chillies can be modified according to how hot you would like it to be.
 - Even if you use less meat, be generous with the other ingredients because these quantities are approximate.
1. In a mixer, make a fine paste of coriander, garlic, chillies, ginger and lemon juice.
 2. Heat the oil and very quickly fry the cinnamon and the cloves for a few seconds till the cloves swell and the spices give off their aroma. Fry the onions in this flavoured oil till they are golden.
 3. Add the coriander purée to the onions. Rinse the mixer with a little water and add to the pan. Cook and stir till the purée starts leaving the bottom of the saucepan.
 4. Add the meat and cook, stirring till the pieces of meat are well coated with the green masala.
 5. Add salt and freshly ground black pepper.
 6. Add the coconut milk gradually and cook gently. The cooking time will depend on the meat you have chosen.
 7. Add the potatoes and the yoghurt about half an hour before serving.
 8. Continue cooking till the potatoes are done.
Serve very hot with plain Basmati rice



ALPHONSO MANGO ICE CREAM

(Alphonso mango pulp comes in tins of approximately 800 grams available from Bangladeshi/Indian/Pakistani/Sri Lankan grocers)

400 grams of Alphonso mango pulp
Juice of 1 lemon (very important to bring out the flavour of the mango)
Juice of 1 orange
250 grams sugar
250 grams of cream
To give it a more "exotic" touch, you can add:
100 grams of cashew nuts finely ground
seeds from 6 or 8 cardamom pods, crushed and finely ground

Whizz them all together and freeze.

This recipe (without the cashew nuts and the cardamom seeds) can be used for any soft fruit. If using fruit with small seeds, e.g. raspberries, blackberries, etc. strain the pulp because the frozen seeds are unpleasant!

If using fruit with thick skin, e.g. blackcurrants, you should strain the pulp.



By : Patricia Bell

CONDOLENCES

Tribute to Nathalie Tschyrkow

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing away of **Nathalie Tschyrkow** some days ago.

Nathalie had been a member of the Guild for many years during which she was active, available and generous.

In 1990, the Executive Committee created a sub-committee on the status of spouses and ex-spouses of the United Nations / Pension. Nathalie became our Special Adviser to deal with these issues. She has represented the UNWG at FICSA (Federation of Former International Civil Servants Association) and ECOSOC at various meetings in New York and Vienna. She has worked tirelessly and tenaciously with other organizations as well, in order to promote the pension rights of surviving and divorced surviving spouses in the United Nations system.

Subsequently, the UNWG was invited in 1997 and again in 2009 to participate in the United Nations International Women's Day. It was an opportunity to mention the Guild's recommendations relating to status and entitlements of these spouses. Thanks to her intelligence and courage, Nathalie was able to defend and advance the cause that was so close to her heart.

Nathalie loved to meet her friends from the Guild and used to participate in the Bazaar and Coffee Mornings accompanied by her daughter, Elisabeth, to whom we offer our sincere condolences.

Rest in peace Nathalie.



Nathalie Tschyrkow et M. Vladimir Petrovsky, ancien Directeur général de l'ONUG

**UNITED NATIONS
WOMEN'S GUILD**
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@UNWG Geneva



In remembrance of **Martine Damen** her family requested a contribution be made to the "Fundacion por un mañana major". A payment has been made to this Foundation from the Guild.

Many thanks to all who contributed in the memory of Martine.

The loss of our beloved member **Zakya Bessire** has deeply saddened us. She will always remain in our thoughts.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

To be eligible to apply for membership to the UNWG, please note the following:

Membership is open to any woman officially connected by work or relationship with the United Nations, the specialised agencies, the Permanent Missions to the UN and intergovernmental organisations with headquarters in Geneva. Women whose association with the UN community has ceased may become members and/or retain their membership.

Women who are not connected to the UN but whose contribution to the purpose of the UNWG would be considered valuable may become Associate Members on recommendation of two UNWG members and with the approval of the Executive Committee.

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.

Email: membership@unwg.ch

Newsletter

The deadline to receive information for the next Newsletter is: **15 April 2021.**
Please ensure that all information is sent to the Newsletter: email: **newsletter@unwg.ch**

The Executive Committee Team, hopes to see you soon and wishes you an excellent spring!