



UNITED NATIONS WOMEN'S GUILD GENEVA

NEWSLETTER



Editor's Letter

Dear Members, dear Friends,

What a year we have had and what a rollercoaster of a time of our lives we are having! However, I hope that you have been able to enjoy your time as much as possible even with the different levels of restrictions we are undergoing.

At the UNWG-Geneva there have been many varied events throughout the past year that have been able to take place even under the great pressure of the current public health situation.

Bravo and congratulations to all of those who were able to organise and assist in the Bazaar that took place at the Palais on Wednesday 27 October. This event was a great success and you can read more about it in this issue.

Here is to a wonderful year full of joy and adventure and especially health!

Hope to meet up again soon.

Caroline

President's Message

Niloufar Rafi-Kian Bouabid

Dear Members, dear Friends,

The fall of 2021 marked an intense period of fundraising for the UNWG-Geneva. We were able to hold a successful and safe Bazaar 2021, against all odds. I take this opportunity to thank once more, the UNOG and H.E. Ms Tatiana Valovaya, all participating Permanent Missions, our local and international partners, our volunteers, our members and all our friends who contributed to making the event a successful one. I have a particular thought and personal thank you to an amazing team of the Bazaar Committee (BC) 2021; BC members were very generous with their time and efforts, they contributed with forward, positive ideas and adapted the event to new requirements. I am happy to report that it was a very productive and collaborative BC, and I am very thankful for the support of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland in Geneva and the positive contribution of the Swiss Ambassador, H.E. Jürg Lauber, as the Bazaar President and a UNWG-Geneva Honorary President.

As we were working toward the Bazaar, we were also planning the Children's Walk (CW). Due to the ongoing pandemic, we continued the organization of the CW in participating schools. Nevertheless, we were able to hold the CW's Ceremony at the UNOG this fall. Participation in the Ceremony was reduced for obvious reasons, although the event was very successful and the children enjoyed a tour of the UNOG.

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Thanks to our fundraising efforts, we will be able to continue our support of micro-projects and scholarships. That is the reward of all those who worked so hard for both mentioned events. My personal gratitude goes to my colleagues of the Executive Committee, in particular the two Vice-Presidents and close colleagues, Imane and Mateja, brilliant ladies, advisors and friends.

We are continuing as well our events, such as classes and Coffee-Mornings. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my friend, Dr Ásthildur Jónsdóttir for hosting our January Coffee-Morning and all her guests; in particular, my special recognition goes to the Ambassador of Iceland to UNOG and other international organizations in Geneva, H.E. Harald Aspelund for his thorough and excellent presentation on effects of gender equality in Iceland. I will share with those who did not have the pleasure of listening to the Ambassador's discussion, an important aspect: giving rights to one group does not mean that existing rights are taken away from another.

Using this concept as a bridge between the presentation and our own internal efforts at modernizing our organization, I am happy that the path forward for us has begun. We have set in motion our work into opening a real discussion between the UNWG-Geneva

Management and its members. We wish for an open process and in so doing, we held our first meetings with our members regarding upcoming conceptual changes. They were very positive meetings and a proactive brainstorming sessions. Thank you to all those who participated and enriched our vision with ideas and advice. We are looking forward to your participation in upcoming sessions which we will hold prior to officially submitting our changes to the next AGA (as required by our Statutes and Bylaws (2014)).

Generally, I hope for a fruitful year 2022 for the UNWG-Geneva, a year of innovation, creativity and positivity. I also hope you have all had a good start of the year. May 2022 abound in friendship, kindness and collaboration amongst all members. We look forward to your continued participation throughout the year.

Nilou

Interviews with some of the children from International Schools in Geneva who took part in Children's Walks in 2021

As part of Children's Walk initiative we have interviewed selected students for their perspective on the Children's Walk event, their useful feedback and most importantly, to encourage them to become active citizens in their communities and agents of change.

Isabel from ECOLINT - Pregny Campus

Isabel's answers to the UN Walk Questions

1. What was your motivation for participating in the Children's Walk (CW)?

To give enough money to give to the children to go to school.

2. Can you describe how you felt after participating in the event?

Happy to give children money to go to school.

3. Do you know anything about the children you are helping by participating in the CW? Would you like to know?

No.

4. Would you like to suggest any different ideas how the Children's walk could be organised?

No.

5. Do you think that what you and we are doing is enough to help the other children?

We can do more! Maybe we could run more in the year. Maybe in one year we could do 3 walks.

6. Do you have any idea how else we could help children who live in poor conditions around the world?

We could share all of our money.

7. Is the feeling of helping others a good feeling?

Yes. It is a happy feeling.

8. Is giving more rewarding than receiving?

Yes, to give to someone else is better because I like their smile.



Isabel from ECOLINT - Pregny Campus

Giulia from Collège du Léman

1. What does charity mean for you?

For me it means helping poor people.

2. What was your motivation for participating in the Children's Walk (CW)?

My motivation was being happy and excited to be able to participate.

3. Can you describe how you felt after participating in the event

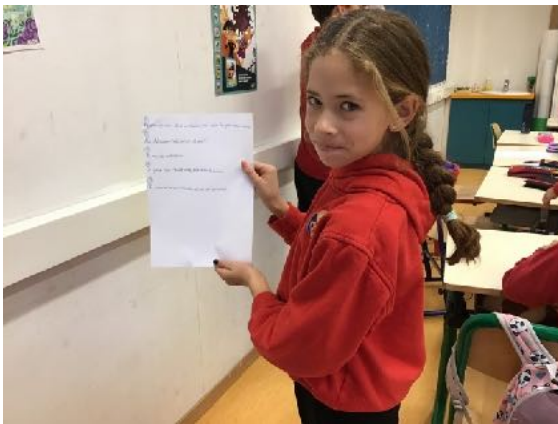
I felt proud.

4. Do you think that what you and we are doing is enough to help the other children?

I think we have enough to help the poor

5. Is the feeling of helping others a good feeling?

Feeling of helping others is a good feeling.



Giulia from Collège du Léman

Iyaloo, Salma and Aida from The British School of Geneva

1. What does charity mean for you?

Iyaloo – it means to donate something to people who can't afford things.

Salma – charity to me means to help people to have as many advantages as possible.

Aida – help people who can't go to school and then maybe even to go to University.

2. What was your motivation for participating in the Children's Walk (CW)?

Iyaloo – knowing the donations were going to children in need. I was tired but it was worth it.

Aida – it was worth walking so much to help other children.

Salma – the walk motivated me as I know that we are helping children in need and it is challenging to do things without money.

3. Can you describe how you felt after participating in the event?

Aida – I was happy to have done something to help. I was tired but it was worth it.

Salma – I felt nice because I feel good when I help people.

Iyaloo – tired but refreshed. Happy about what I had done.

4. Did you speak about this event with you classmates or your family and what was their reaction? Have you learned anything new by participating in the Children's Walk?

Salma – I told my parents who were very proud.

Iyaloo – I told my family who were excited that I had walked such a distance without stopping.

Aida – I told my parents who were happy that I walked so much for children in need.

(the children from BSG walked together over 800 km in one morning 😊).

5. Do you know anything about the children you are helping by participating in the CW? Would you like to know?

All 3 said they would like to know more.

6. Would you like to suggest any different ideas how the Children's walk could be organised?

Iyaloo – could it be in a warmer season?

7. Do you have any idea how else we could help children who live in poor conditions around the world?

Salma – we could do a fundraising event in school to get more donations.



Children from British School of Geneva with Ms. Valerie, Head of Primary school.



Children from Ecolint - Campus La Châtaigneraie with Ms. Corine, Vice-Principal of Primary School.

Interviews led by Mateja

UNWG International Bazaar 27 October 2021 at the Palais

On October 27 2021 the United Nations Women's Guild, Geneva (UNWG-Geneva) organised its flagship event: the Annual Bazaar 2021 under the theme "*Equal Rights, Opportunities and Responsibilities for All*", chaired by H.E. Ambassador Jürg Lauber, the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to UNOG.

This year's edition was a great challenge in itself in this unstable period, certainly in rather constraining sanitary conditions, but thanks to the partnership with the permanent missions in Geneva and the support of the UNOG, the day was a great success, as usual.

The inauguration was an official ceremony during which H.E. Tatiana Valovaya, Director General of UNOG and Honorary President of the UNWG-Geneva, congratulated the UNWG-Geneva for its commitment and its contribution to the objectives of the UN, especially in this period of pandemic which has dealt a severe blow to vulnerable people, especially women and children.

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Opening of the Bazaar

Opening of the UNWG-Geneva International Bazaar 2021 by H.E. Tatiana Valovaya and H.E. Jürg Lauber.



UNWG International Bazaar 27 October 2021 at the Palais

In his speech, H.E. Ambassador Jürg Lauber, the first male Honorary President of the UNWG-Geneva, said he was "proud and honoured to preside over this edition of the Bazaar" and expressed his admiration for the work and energy put in by the members of the UNWG-Geneva and the Permanent Missions in organising the Bazaar.

The Bazaar 2021 saw the participation of about fifty countries through national and food stands at which they demonstrated the wealth of their cultures to the international community and Geneva.

In addition to the stands, throughout the day cultural and artistic side events from different countries took place, ranging from music to dance to a parade of traditional costumes, showing once again the different cultures that the Geneva diplomatic community counts.

The UNWG-Geneva International Bazaar was also an opportunity for our volunteer members to demonstrate their skills and artistic creations and to donate once again their time and energy to the decoration of the premises of the Bazaar and the animation of the various stands of the UNWG-Geneva (lottery, kiosk, jewellery ...).

The proceeds of the Bazaar 2021, including the sales of all the stands and the lottery, amount to nearly 60,000 CHF and will be allocated to the financing of projects in favour of disadvantaged children in developing countries. The selection process of the projects submitted is underway.

The UNWG-Geneva International Bazaar is a great adventure bringing together different stakeholders and working together for a noble cause. In this regard, we would like to thank the members of the Bazaar Committee 2021, the Permanent Missions, our partners at the United Nations Office in Geneva, the City of Geneva our generous sponsors and UNWG-Geneva members involved in the organisation of the event. We are very thankful that they all trusted us in organising a safe event and very happy that all regional groups kindly accepted to reinforce their collaboration with the UNWG-Geneva.

Imane



H.E. Tatiana Valovaya and H.E. Jürg Lauber. visiting the stands of Switzerland, Malta and Egypt.



Highlights from UNWG International Bazaar 27 October 2021 at the Palais



Special thanks, Coffee Morning 2 November 2021



In order to celebrate the success of the Bazaar, our President, Niloufar Rafi-Kian Bouabid, and the members of the Executive Committee organized a Coffee Morning on Tuesday, 2 November at the restaurant "Le Lyrique".

It was an opportunity to thank the members of the Bazaar Committee 2021 as well as the volunteer members of the UNWG-Geneva who collaborated in the success of this event.

We thank the more than 50 members, including the Ambassador of North Macedonia, H.E. Mrs Teuta Agai-Demjaha and of the spouses of Ambassadors who kindly participated.

Mr Walter Manzi, Director of SAFI and one of our main partners for the Bazaar was present at this

event and gave a small individual gift to each participant.

We also let ourselves be carried away on an Arab-Andalusian musical journey spiced up with notes of Flamenco and Jazz by the musician Baha Baha Edine Fechich, head of the Jurigoz Group.

Imane

Special thanks, Coffee Morning 7 December 2021

Our friend and new Associate Member, Ms Victoria Dzodziev, founder of "D10 Art Space" and Director of "Lian Foundation" invited UNWG-Geneva members to a meeting at her gallery on Tuesday, 7 December.

Around a good breakfast, we were able to admire the works of Zurab Tsereteli who is a painter, sculptor and architect. This exhibition was entitled "Monumental" in reference to the works of the artist, a great name in Russian art, and his prolific career.

Place: D10 Art Space, rue Ami-Lullin 7, 1207 Geneva

Website: www.asd10.ch

Imane



Special thanks, Coffee Morning 10 January 2022

The first Coffee Morning of 2022 was hosted by Dr Ásthildur Jónsdóttir, spouse of the Ambassador of Iceland under the theme of "*Iceland: the effects of increased equality for women and men*".

Our hostess made a general presentation of Iceland with the screening of a film on this beautiful country followed by the intervention of H.E. Harald Aspelund, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Iceland to UN under the theme: "*Iceland: the effects of increased equality for women and men*".

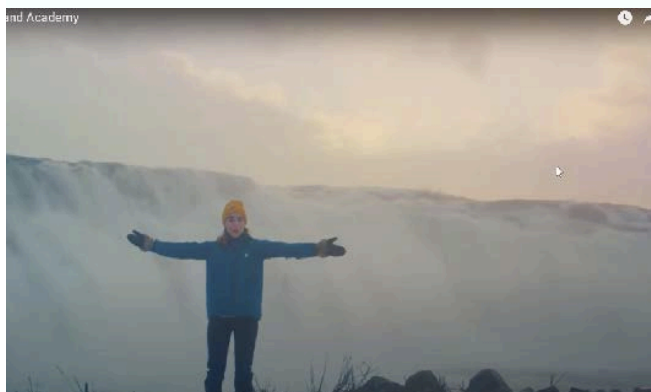
The second part of the event was dedicated to the presentation of the book "How to live Icelandic" by its two authors Nína Björk Jónsdóttir and Edda Magnus.

This was a very interesting presentation and insight into Iceland. A country leading in equal rights for women and men on many levels and a country using 90% renewable energy from its natural resources such as hydro-electricity and thermal energy. Approximately 40 participants enjoyed this online event. Imane



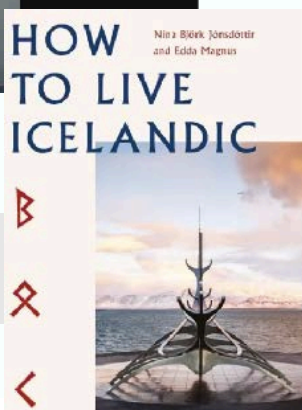
A Ministerial conference held in Buenos Aires in 2017 when 120 Member States supported the movement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Maternity rights in Iceland are one of the best in the world. With six months given to each parent!



Iceland is a country using 90% renewable energy from its natural resources such as hydro-electricity and thermal energy. Fabulous!

Pages from the book 'How to live Icelandic' written by Nína Björk Jónsdóttir and Edda Magnus.



Message of the Vice-President Activities Imane Tazi-El Hachimi

Dear Friends, dear Members,

The last quarter saw a renewed dynamism in the activities of the UNWG-Geneva. The Coffee Mornings were held regularly in person and were attended by a large number of members.

The UNWG-Geneva International Bazaar, which took place on 27 October, in record time and under very constraining conditions, aroused a great mobilisation by all concerned who did not spare their time and energy to ensure the success of this event.

Unfortunately, the deterioration of the health situation has forced us to return to virtual activities at the beginning of the year. With the help and support of our members and friends, we hope that life will soon return to normal.

Concerning the activities and the courses of the UNWG-Geneva, the activity leaders are making a considerable effort to maintain them, for which I wish to thank them. (See the course schedule in this issue).

Take care of yourselves, let's keep in touch, keep smiling and look forward to meeting again very soon.

Imane

Message of the Vice-President Projects Mateja Prosek Grima

Dear Friends, dear Members,

The final months of last year were very busy for the members of the Executive Committee, however they were also extremely rewarding. After a very difficult period of Covid crisis and months of lockdowns, screen coffee mornings and gym classes in front of the TV, we finally had the opportunity to start meeting in person at our various events.

In addition, under a great leadership and sound judgement of our dear President Nilou, we were able to hold our Annual International Bazaar which brought in much needed funds for our micro-projects programme. Thanks to the funds received from this year's Bazaar, we have opened a new call for project proposals. The project's Sub-Committee is scrutinising all the proposals and will submit the recommendations to the EC for final deliberation in the upcoming days.

Moreover, in order to secure the continuation of our Scholarship programme we worked very hard to organise the traditional Children's Walk, albeit on a smaller scale and following last year's successful arrangement of mini-Children's Walks. This year, however, we also wanted to honour the hard work and dedication of the children, their teachers and support staff from the international schools who participated or still will participate in Children's Walks, by organising a mini celebration at the UNOG. We also conducted short interviews with children who took part at this year's walks about their impressions of this unique event. I invite you to read further on in this Newsletter all about this year's Children's Walk initiatives.

Mateja

Spotlight on Children's Walk 2021 – 2022

The Children's Walk initiative was founded with the aim to help disadvantaged children around the globe. Funds raised through the Children's Walk go towards sponsoring scholarships for children entering secondary school. Each funding is for a period of 4 to 5 years maximum, which represents an important commitment, indeed obligation, on the part of the UNWG-Geneva. Collecting funds towards scholarships therefore should be at the forefront of our activities, especially in these difficult times.

This year, due to ongoing Covid pandemic and the restoration works on the grounds of UNOG, the UNWG-Geneva was obliged, yet again, to think out of the box on how to organise feasible events linked to its scholarships programme, in order to be able to continue funding ongoing scholarships in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Nicaragua. This year our scholarship programme in Madagascar has concluded.

Therefore, as in the previous year, we have invited the International Schools in greater Geneva to organise mini Children's Walks. The schools were given the possibility to choose the date of their Walk during the scholastic year 2021 - 2022. They also decided on the format and the length of the walk. The UNWG-Geneva offered support with materials, such as signs, lap cards and pledge passports as well as offered to assist at the walks depending, of course, on the favourable sanitary conditions at the time of each mini Walk.

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H.E. Tatiana Volovaya, Director General of UNOG addressing the children.



Ms. Ajkuna Tanati, UNWG-Geneva member, Ms Mateja Prosek Grima, Vice president Projects UNWG-Geneva, Ms Niloufar Rafi-Kian Bouabid, President UNWG-Geneva, H.E. Tatiana Valovaya, Director General of the UNOG and Ms Gita Sundararaman, former President of the UNWG.



Children from Ecole Chantemerle with their amazing Director Angela and the ladies from the UNOG.

Generally speaking, in addition to fundraising for scholarships, the UNWG-Geneva also wishes through this event to raise awareness and promote a culture of solidarity among children in Switzerland in favour of impoverished and disadvantaged children around the world. To this effect the UNWG-Geneva provided each school with a PowerPoint presentation focused on the importance and purpose of the Children's Walk initiative. Furthermore, the presentation included a short description of each beneficiary school, information on the number of students benefiting per school and items financed by UNWG-Geneva (school fees, school materials, food, etc.). The PowerPoint, which was shown to children before their walks, was an important tool to engage students to actively participate in the Walk and to be able to discuss the benefit of their action with their peers, parents and friends when asking for donations.

We also interviewed selected participating children on their feelings and impressions of the event. We invite you to read their sweet and sincere replies in the featured interview section. Their comments encouraged us to continue our work as well as build a bridge between local and beneficiary schools we support through our action.

To celebrate the remarkable effort made by international schools participating in this year's Walks, the UNWG organised a symbolic ceremony at the UNOG in November 2021. Due to ongoing COVID restrictions in place, only small delegations (consisting of up to a maximum of 5 students per school) participated in this year's Walk. H.E. Tatiana Valovaya, the Director-General of the UNOG honoured us with her presence and gave an inspirational speech to the children on the importance of education, reminding them about the privileged lives they are living, not having to worry about their education, which is not the case for millions of children around the world. The schools were also given copies of booklets from the Iceberg series of the Perception Change Programme. The Iceberg is a series of nine books, each focused on different topic (Environment, Hunger, Education, etc). It introduces today's issues to readers and seeks them to become part of the solution. Each student who participated in the walk was given one booklet. In addition, children present at the ceremony were presented with « Fairy Tales for a Fairer World », a collection of tales and myths from around the world, recounted with a modern-day twist to teach children about the SDGs.

After the ceremony the children were given the opportunity to tour the UNOG in order to know and understand more about the aims and the role of the United Nations in general and specifically in Geneva.

The UNWG-Geneva would like to thank children and their extremely dedicated educators for their participation at this year's Children's Walks. The schools participating are: British School of Geneva, Collège du Léman, Ecole Chantemerle, ECOLINT from campuses Prégny, Nations and La Châtaigneraie and Institut International Lancy.

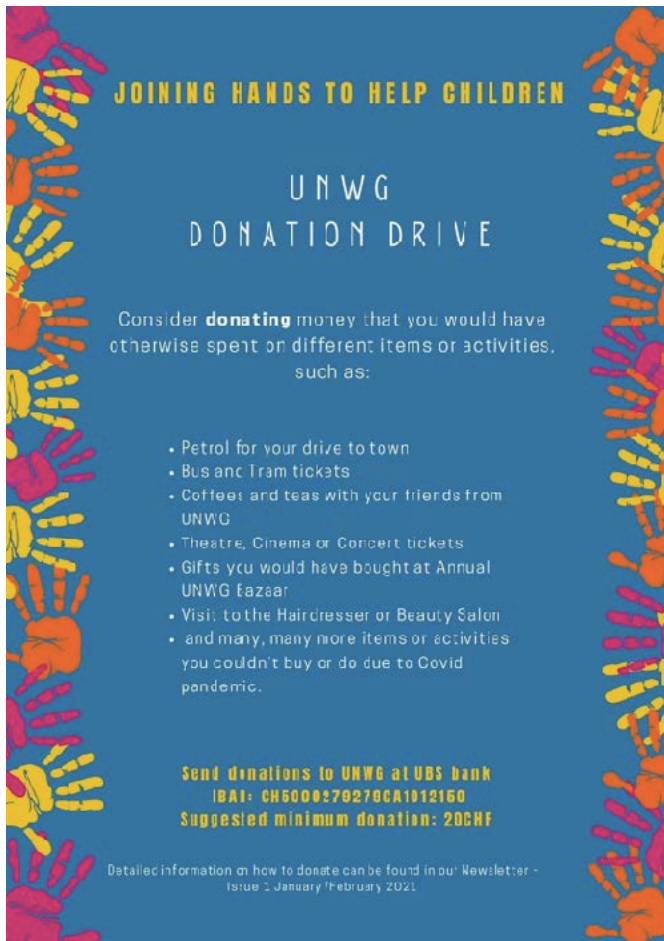
We would like to thank the Director-General for honouring us with her presence at the Children's Walk ceremony and to her team for guidance and support throughout the preparation and the organisation of the event. In addition, we thank the UN staff involved for their wholehearted and timely support. Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions in place, the event was not open to members, this notwithstanding we would like to wholeheartedly thank a small group of UNWG members who kindly volunteered to help out with different tasks on the day of the event.

Mateja



Children from College du Lemman with their wonderful teacher Ms Myriam.

Fund Raising Ideas



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

The Donation Drive is an important part of our fundraising initiatives and is ongoing and is especially important at the moment when in-person events are curtailed a bit. So please send in your donations to help us continue to support the very many important projects we have.

All the donations will go solely to assist disadvantaged children in need.. 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.

The pins UNWG-Geneva are still available for purchase as well as the greeting cards from the Children's Walk in 2020.

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 UNWG-GENEVA

UBS Bank - IBAN: CH5000279279CA1012150

Please also see the UNWG-Geneva web page for more information and see the

DONATE

button where you can donate any amount you would like to the UNWG-Geneva at any time to keep our projects and scholarships going!

www.unwg.ch



**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 motive.



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

Projects around the world financed by the UNWG-Geneva

Health and Nutrition for Candle Light High School in Uganda

The UNWG-Geneva financed a project focusing on improving nutritional diet and overall health of the students in Candle Light High School in Kyoga, Mukono District in Uganda.

In Uganda, nutrition among young people is a rampant issue. More than one third of all young children in Uganda are underdeveloped due to malnutrition. According to a report published by WFP in 2018, malnutrition in Uganda mostly affects adolescent girls, between the ages of 10-19. This is the age group of students attending Candle Light High School, majority being girls.

The project's objectives, in line with the SDGs, were focusing on ending hunger, on achieving food security and improving nutrition as well as promoting sustainable agriculture. The project addressed those pertinent issues hands-on, by growing vegetables, herbs and fruits on the Candle Light High school premises in order to feed students and their families; to provide nutritional training to students as well as training them on how to grow their own food; to cook healthy meals using accessible and locally sourced ingredients; and to sell surplus vegetables in the neighbouring community in order to sustain the project.

Funds from the UNWG-Geneva were released in July 2021. At that time, the school was closed to students due to a Covid-19 lockdown in the country. There was a lot of uncertainty as the schools remained closed throughout 2021. However, key staff continued working at the school and on the project, involving boarding students who stayed in the dormitory on the school premises as well as students living in the nearby communities who were able to participate. July and August were spent planning and preparing for the project how to set up the garden and to train teachers and students on growing and harvesting as well as maintenance. Workshop was organised for the schoolteachers focusing on education of SDGs through students' active engagement. They learned how the school can work with the 17 goals and how the teachers can create interlinkages and set targets, ensuring evolution of the traditional teaching techniques.

In September, the garden was prepared. This involved clearing and ploughing of the garden. Manure and soil were mixed for better yields. Blocks for making paddocks were purchased as well as other materials. A nursery bed was set up for different types of vegetables including eggplant, sukuma wiki, cabbage, green pepper, carrots, tomatoes and onions. On 13th September, the project was officially launched. Teachers and boarding students as well as students from the nearby area participated in planting the vegetables. In December first harvesting of some vegetables started and the project could start feeding school staff, students from the community, construction workers building new classrooms on the premises, and some community members. Some ready vegetables include Sukuma wiki, Egg plants, biringanya, nakati, bbugga and onions. Bbugga seeds were harvested, sun dried and kept for the next planting season and some vegetables have been sold at a local market ensuring the sustainability of the project.

The project faced a few challenges which were mostly related to the pandemic and the lockdown. Although the schools were in lockdown throughout the country the Candlelight High School obtained a license to carry on certain activities within the school, including tailoring classes making reusable sanitary pads and face masks, and therefore some students were still coming to school and living in the dormitory. Although efforts were made to involve students living in the community, majority of students could not participate in the project. Therefore, activities planned such as integrating cooking classes and nutritional training into existing catering classes for students were postponed to January 2022 when the schools finally opened. Although some activities have been delayed, it has not affected the project budget funded by UNWG-Geneva as those activities were to be financed separately.

The project design has taken into consideration several sustainability factors. Although the official project timeline was six months, the project is ongoing. The garden has been set up and is already feeding some of students and staff, and seeds will be harvested and replanted so it will not be necessary to buy as much seed for next planting. Surplus vegetables will continue being sold in the nearby market to cater for costs of continuing the project, and this will also contribute to the sustainability of the project. As the vegetable garden will grow and continue to give harvest, seeds will also be given to students to take home to their families to start growing vegetables and fruits in their yards and to teach their families and neighbours to do the same. This way, the project will keep expanding and more people will keep benefiting.

Mateja



Languages and Courses at the UNWG

Dear Members,

Does the beginning of a new year feel as fresh and exciting to you as it does to me?

I like to imagine that January brings not only gloom, cold temperatures and grey skies but also a new perspective. As we start counting a new period of time, our errors and wrong choices of 2021 seem less significant and easier to forgive in retrospect.

The new year is ahead, full of wonderful possibilities and endless potential. It is our very own, special opportunity to look at OURSELVES with kindness and patience. What is it that we need to feel contented, appreciated, strong, loved? Do we have routines and activities that support us to feel good about ourselves? Are there people around us who could inspire us to look at the world in a new way or to express ourselves differently? Can we connect with 'new' people who could be valuable new friends?

Personally, I promised myself small 'adventures' and a change in my habits just a bit here and there to keep daily life exciting and positive.

Wishing you all a good 2022!

Warmly,

Helgard

Contact: education@unwg.ch +41 76 604 8583



Please take some time to explore our UNWG COURSE SCHEDULE on page 22. We thank all our course leaders and participants for their dedication. To join or for obtaining information, please contact the course leader directly.

Unfortunately, most courses are still taking place virtually. We all keep our fingers crossed that this may change SOON!!!

You could help by proposing our courses to members who have not yet 'taken the plunge', or you could 'take the plunge' yourself if you have not done so yet!

Please reach out to new members who might still be a little puzzled by the workings of the UNWG to help make them feel 'at home'.

If you feel inspired to offer an activity yourself, have ideas how to improve the programme or have any questions, please contact me.

Helgard Adams, Education Officer

Please note we are needing teachers for the following classes, please let me know if you are interested.

- French
- English
- Italian
- Cooking

Adios a Beatriz nuestra profesora de lingua Español!

'Four years ago I ventured to teach Spanish conversation classes with one goal: that my students could express themselves in Spanish and at the same time discover Spanish and Ibero-American culture.

We read articles, reports, paragraphs from books, listened to interviews, songs and even went to see a movie in a theatre.

Thus we approached figures of art, literature, cinema, music, historical and emblematic places.

Between all of them, we have gradually achieved it. I'd say "we have succeeded" because my students showed me their interest, effort, and enthusiasm every Monday and this motivated me to continue along the route outlined. I take with me a great satisfaction for all that has been achieved: to form a true group where each one expressed and showed progress in their conversations in Spanish.

Thanks to UNWG for having given me the opportunity to teach Spanish during these 4 years. It has been a very enriching experience that I will always remember from my time in Geneva'.

Beatriz Velo



He estado muy agradecida por las clases de conversación en español. Gracias a Beatriz, cubrimos muchas temas muy interesantes. Muchas gracias y todo lo mejor para este próximo capítulo en su vida.
Marcia

Leí el artículo de su boletín con emoción. Gracia a Beatriz y mis compañeras sigo la clase hasta hoy. Keiko

Muchas gracias Beatriz para todas las clases españolas con los temas interesantes y especialmente su paciencia con nosotras! Muy buenos deseos para su regreso a Perú, Caroline

Querida Beatriz, una excelente profesora para guiarnos a hablar Español. Apreciado mucho tu enseñanza con mi agradezco. Deseo tu regreso segura a Perú. Muchas suertes, Yolanda

Querida Beatriz, Estoy muy agradecida por la oportunidad de conocerte y de poder participar en tus clases. Recordaré con placer los temas y las conversaciones tan interesantes. Te deseo lo mejor en la siguiente etapa de tu vida.
Amelia

Suerte Beatriz y Cristobal donde vayas: que vuestra vida se cumpla! Aquí extrañaremos tu amistad y tu aporte a Ginebra Internacional y muchas gracias por tu paciencia y tu ayuda pedagógica! Zoubida

Querida Beatriz, agradezco mucho las clases de español que nos has enseñado. Gracias por todos los momentos compartidos. Ha sido un placer tenerte como profesora. Buen regreso a Perú y mucha suerte. Rosa

Hiking Group outings

On 24 November 2021, 12 participants went hiking in France. This hike was led by Mahroughe Kazazi from Col de la Colombière, 12 km after Grand-Bornand. The hike lasted 4,5 hours with a height gain of 680m to le Lac de Peyre altitude 2,108 and le Col de Balafrasse at 2,296m at Massif Bornes - Aravis.

Le Lac de Peyre



Col de Balafrasse



On 15 December 2021, 15 participants went snowshoeing in Switzerland and it was the last hike of the year. We started our walk from le Sapin à Siméon, 1km before the Col du Marchairuz. The hike lasted 4 hours with a height gain of 400m to Cabane du Grand Cunay (ski-club du Brassus) at 1567m at Massif du Mont Tendre. This hike was led by Edith Mayer.

Cabane du Grand Cunay



Cookery Classes

Dear friends, cooking classmates, these were our last photos before the corona outbreak, the days when we could gather together without a mask, eat and laugh. Thank you all for opening your home to everyone with a kind face. We had a really good time together.

I just wanted to inform you about the temporary suspension of the cooking class right now until we find someone to replace me.

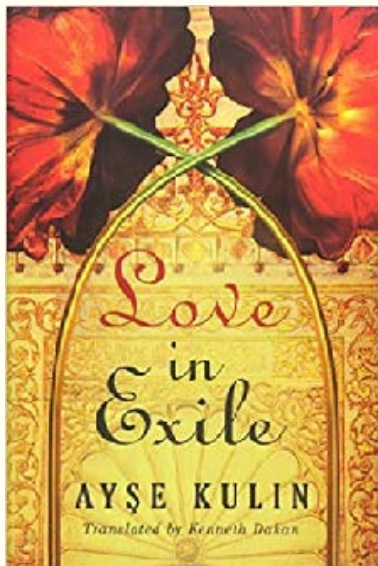
Wishing you a good year with good news and health and love.

Leili



Our last in-person cooking class took place in February 2020

Book Club



We will be discussing our book of the month on

Friday, 25 February 2022 at 14:00, on Skype

Love In Exile by Ayse Kulin

Thank you very much. Chouhrette Bunzl



A new Self-Care Club has just been formed at the UN and we are invited to join!

The Self-Care Club is a UN Geneva staff Club, open to family members, interns and the UNWG-Geneva and designed to support your work/life balance. Colleagues with a professional training in a self-care or a natural therapy method will share their skills with colleagues free of charge.

De-stress and gain new energy with yoga, meditation, breathing techniques, therapeutic art and creations workshops and much more. New and exciting courses will be added gradually to this Club.

There are online Zoom classes and there will be live classes in the future. Recorded and one-on-one classes are also available.

Please look at the website for further information and schedules to be found under *Calendar* for live classes and under *Activities* for recorded classes and one-on-one sessions.

Website: self-careclubgeneva.com

email: selfcareclubgeneva@gmail.com

UNWG COURSES IN SESSION

<u>LANGUAGE</u> <u>ARTS + ART OF</u> <u>MOVEMENT</u>					
<u>ENGLISH</u> <u>intermediate/</u> <u>advanced</u>	BILQUEECE ALIMOHAMED	alimohamed@bluewin.ch	THURSDAYS	13.30 – 15.30	ZOOM
<u>FRENCH A1</u>	MINA RAVINDER	+41 78 739 38 00	WEDNESDAYS	10.00 – 11.30	ZOOM
<u>FRENCH B2</u>	MINA RAVINDER	+41 78 739 38 00	MONDAYS	14.00 -15.30	ZOOM
<u>BASIC FRENCH</u>	DIANA DE PEIC	+41 79 302 17 06	TUESDAYS	10.00 – 12.00	ZOOM
<u>FRENCH</u> <u>intermediate/</u> <u>advanced</u>	NADIA MEHDI	+33 6 07 08 01 84	MONDAYS	10.00 – 12.00	Skype
<u>FRENCH</u> <u>CONVERSATION</u>	MARYSE NICORA	+33 6 85 24 51 93	TUESDAYS	14.30 - 16.00	ZOOM
<u>GERMAN</u> <u>ADVANCED</u>	UTA HORNISCHER	+41 79 458 87 84	TUESDAYS	12.00 – 13.00	ZOOM
<u>GERMAN</u> <u>BEGINNERS</u>	UTA HORNISCHER	+41 79 458 87 84	TUESDAYS	13.00 – 14.00	ZOOM
<u>SPANISH</u>	DORIS MURILLO	+41 79 590 58 13	TUESDAYS	13.30 – 15.00	Skype
<u>SPANISH</u> <u>CONVERSATION</u>	Participant led	<u>education@unwg.ch</u>	MONDAYS	11.00 – 12.30	Skype

<u>JAPANESE CONVERSATION</u>	HIROMI IRIYAMA	+39 389 989 2255	TUESDAYS	10.00 - 11.30	ZOOM
<u>SOCIAL BRIDGE</u>	ROSALEEN NASSIF	+41 79 229 0720	THURSDAY	9.30 - 13.30	Villa
<u>ARTS AND CREATIONS</u>	CAROLINE SCUDAMORE	+33 6 85 20 54 85	FRIDAYS	15.00 - 16.30	ZOOM
<u>BOOK CLUB</u>	CHOUHRETTE BUNZL	chouhrettecherif@gmail.com	LAST FRIDAY of the month	14.00	Skype
<u>PILATES</u>	Sibyl De Peic	sybil.peic@outlook.com	WEDNESDAYS	10.00 - 11.00	ZOOM
<u>FULL BODY WORKOUT</u>	CLAUDIA NONNINGER	nonningerc@gmail.com	FRIDAYS	10.00 - 11.00	ZOOM
<u>MEDITATION AND BREATHING</u>	MALA SINGH	+91 704 229 97 12	MONDAYS	9.00 - 9.30	ZOOM
<u>HIKING</u>	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

Please note that when Coffee Mornings or Special Events coincide with classes, activity leaders are asked to reschedule them to allow members to attend the Coffee Mornings or Special Events.

It is in the nature of schedules that they may change.

New courses and modification of indicated times will be communicated to our members by email if necessary.

Thank you for your understanding!

Condolences

Jeannie Taylor

Dear members, dear friends,

Here are some words for Jeannie from her husband and some of her friends at the UNWG-Geneva.

'I would like to say something about Jeannie's enthusiasm for her involvement with the UNWG-Geneva, which began after we moved to Manila in 1980 and continued through the four years we were there and the following six years in Colombo.

It strengthened when we returned to Geneva in 1990. As a family we heard so much about the fund raising, the projects, the International Bazaar, the Children's Walk, the Gym Group, all her interesting friends, and so much else. Jeannie also loved "Les Feuillantines" which holds the UNWG-Geneva office, and was among those who fought so successfully to save it from the recent threat of destruction. I am so glad all this was there to help enrich her wonderful life.

We miss her terribly'. Stanley Taylor



Our dear friend, Jeannie Taylor, passed away on 25th November 2021, after fighting a long illness.

It is a great loss for our UNWG-Geneva where for many years, she has been devoted and active, specifically in the Bazaar, the Sub-Committee for Projects and the Nominating Committee.

Jeannie was a charming, smiling, endearing lady and had a luminous personality with whom we always had much pleasure to meet at the Villa or in various events.

She was also interested in environmental issues and, more recently, in the fate of the Villa Les Feuillantines and its park in the context of the project concerning the "Cité de la Musique".

We miss her very much - may she rest in peace. Eliane , UNWG

'I'm in complete shock of losing our dear Jeannie in November 2021. I really loved our times together and many rich conversations. The world is missing you! Rest in peace Jeannie, thinking of you'. Caroline



“When I think of Jeannie she reminds me of bright colours literally and figuratively. I used to compliment her for her colourful earrings matching her clothes”. Amelia

.....

‘Whenever I encountered Jeannie during the years, my mood was immediately lifted by her graceful demeanour and her lovely kind smile. Thank you Jeannie for always having been a gentle and loving presence among us! I miss you Jeannie!’
Helgard

.....

Jeannie was such a kind and lovely person, we had so much fun during our sport classes and walks.

Someone as special as Jeannie will never be forgotten. Rest in peace my dear friend



Claudia

Membership Information

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 2022**.

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: **Wednesday (14:00 – 16:00) 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

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Newsletter

The deadline to receive information for the next Newsletter is:

1 March 2022. 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 a lovely last couple of months of winter!