



UNITED NATIONS WOMEN'S GUILD
GENEVA

NEWSLETTER



Editor's Letter

Dear Members, Dear Friends,

I very much hope you have enjoyed the last few months and could do all the things you wished to do and could share these with your family and friends.

The Bazaar Committee is very busy with the preparations for this year's Bazaar which will be held on Wednesday 27 October, please see more information on this event inside this issue.

We hope you will be able to attend this event as in the past and enjoy the atmosphere and be able to purchase your favourite things and enjoy the food stalls.

The language classes and different activities are beginning to start again so please see more information on these also in this issue.

Hope to meet up soon.
Caroline

President's Message

Niloufar Rafi-Kian Bouabid

Dear members, dear friends,

It is a pleasure to be with you in this new 2021-2022 session. I am pleased that this session will mark the restart of our UNWG-Geneva International Bazaar at the UNOG. The event is set to take place on 27 October 2021. It was a difficult task to set the event in motion this summer, however, we are lucky to have a partner such as the UNOG with a distinct mark of leadership. The UNWG-Geneva has been blessed with such a partnership and blessed to be able to hold this event under safe sanitary conditions. The theme of this year's International Bazaar is: "Equal rights, equal opportunities and equal responsibilities for all". The Swiss Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Lauber will preside over the International Bazaar and will be accompanied by the Vice-President, Mrs. Samba, Spouse of Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic to UNOG. I invite you to discover the composition of the Bazaar Committee (in the following pages), which reflects a diversified world, with representatives of the Americas, Africa, Europe, the Middle-East and Asia. It has been a very active and teamwork oriented committee and it is a pleasure and honour for me and the UNWG team to work with such accomplished and professional group. I look forward to seeing you all at our beautiful International Bazaar and I encourage you all to purchase lottery tickets; there are many interesting and valuable prizes.

As the saying goes, "to whom much is given, much is expected". The expectation for an organization such as ours is to fully move into this new century embracing the values of peace and equality that the UN promotes and which are so dear to both our Honorary Presidents. Equality, has many facets and takes root within the concept of gender equality, itself a fundamental human right. No gender equality, no equal rights. No equal rights, no peace or security for all.

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It is fundamental that our founding documents reflect these ideas. It is not about how our organization worked for 50 years, it is about how our organization embraces well established universal fundamental concepts and rules. To survive and thrive, our organization needs to adapt. There is a colossal workload at hand and it is in motion. We will be sure to communicate more thoroughly as we move on this issue.

I would simply like to point out, once again, the fact that our organization was originally created as a women's organization - open to women - and now faces a challenge on the issue of gender equality, is in itself a testament to the advancement made on the issue. Of course, elsewhere in the world much effort remains to be done to improve the condition of women, in countries dominated by men. Current world events have thrown back images of another time where women were considered more as objects than equal partners in society.

The UNWG-Geneva, will fearlessly continue its efforts to support the fundamental rights of those women and children through our funding of micro-projects and scholarships, all the while staying away from the politics. Nevertheless, we also want to acknowledge that we need to apply the concept of gender equality to our midst. In other words, we must apply to ourselves, what we request of others to apply to women elsewhere. Most importantly, fighting for women's rights is an empty promise if men are not included in the process. To better a society, all actors must get involved.

In the meantime my friends, our team is doing everything possible to bring you as many events as we can organize, still under difficult sanitary requirements. I would like to issue a personal thank you to the many members, and especially ex-presidents who bring our team their constant support and understanding. Your positive outlook and proactive attitude is very much appreciated.

We look forward to your participation in our unique brand of International Bazaar, which has been taking place for decades.

Continue to be blessed!

Nilou

Interview with Mrs Marguerite-Marie Samba-Maliavo, spouse of the Ambassador of the Central African Republic and Vice-President of the UNWG Bazaar Committee 2021

- 1. We are honoured to have a woman, former Minister of Health and spouse of the Ambassador of the Central African Republic, which adheres to the actions of the United Nations Women's Guild. Can you give us a few words about this commitment?**

It is also a great honour for me to have been designated as Vice-President of the Bazaar 2021. In this capacity, I have had the privilege of meeting and working with the President of the UNWG-Geneva, Mrs Niloufar Rafi-Kian Bouabid and her team. Throughout our meetings I was impressed by the good will, determination and unwavering commitment of the entire team to the right to education and the well-being of children and women in developing countries where many projects have already been funded by this organisation and effectively implemented.

My support for the organisation's activities was further strengthened by the fact that its mission is fully in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda 2030 and pursued by all development actors. Indeed, in addition to environmental issues, food security, peace and justice in the world, these SDGs place particular emphasis on access to education and good health for all and on equal opportunities and responsibilities between the sexes, including the empowerment of women. We know that the UNWG-Geneva has made this its priority for several decades and the basis of its solidarity.

On contact with the team, I immediately felt rallied to the just cause that I have always worked for. I was from an early age in actions of solidarity and support for vulnerable people and the defence of their rights. My experience as an actor in civil society, my profession as a doctor, as an international civil servant within the United Nations organisations, the political functions I have held in my country, notably as Minister of Health and Population, Minister of Social Affairs, Gender Promotion and Humanitarian Action, have enabled me to measure the importance of the well-being of the human being and to strongly adhere to successive global objectives on development.

- 2. "Equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities for all". As Vice-President of the UNWG International Bazaar 2021, what does the choice of this theme mean to you?**

In the world of yesterday, today and I think of tomorrow the effectiveness of equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities for all has been, is, and will always be an enormous challenge and a permanent struggle. The



forceful actions and resolutions taken by actors committed to this cause at the national and international level have allowed us to make some steps forward. However, there is still a great deal of disparity in the size of these "steps" depending on the communities, countries, regions and continents, due to socio-cultural constraints, weak political will, economic obstacles and the fragility of countries. Many developing countries failed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. Targets related to maternal and child health, access to education for girls, women's empowerment and reduction of gender inequality have not been met. The reasons for this failure are diverse and varied. For effective and efficient implementation, it is important to remember that the interdependence of problems must be matched by the interdependence of

solutions. The ODDs of the 2030 Agenda are a real opportunity to correct these shortcomings and improve the well-being of all in an equitable manner. To do so, they must be adopted by all countries, an active global partnership and universal solidarity. This is why the choice of this theme for the Bazaar 2021 is relevant and beneficial. It allows us to raise the level of awareness and the UNWG is a key actor in the global scheme against inequality. Coordination with other groups on other continents and a strategic partnership with other national and international organisations and institutions on this theme could give it an even stronger impetus.

3. The 2021 edition of the Bazaar comes after a global health crisis. What message will you have for the UNWG in this context?

The Covid-19 crisis has been an opportunity to gauge global solidarity and has convinced us that together humanity is capable of achieving great things, especially in terms of the mobilisation of resources. As far as our commitment is concerned, the annual Bazaar is for the UNWG-Geneva an opportunity to raise funds for the financing of projects in favour of disadvantaged women and children throughout the world. This activity was heavily impacted in 2020 and could not be held due to the violence of the Covid-19 epidemic. The UNWG has returned to work in this critical context, by taking all appropriate measures to ensure safety in the organisation of the Bazaar 2021, in close collaboration with the department in charge of Covid-19 at the UNOG and other competent bodies.

I would like first and foremost to congratulate the entire team of the UNWG for its tenacity, its commitment and its strong spirit of solidarity which has made the Bazaar 2021 a reality, despite the difficult sanitary and economic environment. The UNWG has enormous human potential and a vision that brings hope to many women and children already disadvantaged and further weakened by the consequences of the Covid-19 epidemic. It is important to note that in addition to impacting the mobilisation of resources, the epidemic may also weaken the achievements and gains made by previously funded projects. This is why I would recommend strengthening the monitoring of ongoing projects and taking into account the Covid-19 component in the implementation of new projects.

The current health crisis is not the only challenge facing the implementation of UNWG solidarity in countries. Insecurity in unstable countries is a major source of vulnerability and a catalyst for disrespect of the rights and dignity of women and children. This is why, in the absence of direct funding for projects in their favour due to potential inaccessibility constraints, the UNWG, through its strategic position and advocacy opportunities, could be one of the best spokespersons for the voiceless.

Interview by Imane Tazi-El Hachimi

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

I am happy to welcome you back with this first Newsletter of the 2021-2022 academic year.

After a rather trying period during which it has been very difficult for us to plan or schedule face-to-face activities, we were able to end the year with a summer lunch that allowed us to meet again.

This year is marked, first and foremost by the announcement of our Bazaar, scheduled for Wednesday 27 October. It is a great challenge in this unstable period, particularly under rather constraining sanitary conditions, but we are happy to be able to count on the support of our partners in this great adventure. Preparations are underway, the UN and external partners are all giving us their support, the missions have answered the call and our members are our unfailing support. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone taking part in this adventure and am convinced that it will be a great success, as usual.

As far as our other activities are concerned, starting in October, we have resumed our "Coffee Mornings" on the first Tuesday of each month, in person, while respecting the sanitary rules in place. Our first Coffee Morning took place on 5 October, in partnership with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the UNOG, and the theme was traditional Moldavian costumes.

We have resumed our "cultural visits", the first of which was to the exhibition at the Musée Rath entitled "Divers Egaux Unis". It was an opportunity to rediscover some beautiful works from the Palais des Nations in Geneva and many creations on the theme of equal rights. We were also very happy to see that the collection includes a painting that pays tribute to the UNWG.

The cycle of "Special Events" was launched with a literary gathering, the 'Discovery of Arab Art', through a discussion with Mr Nacer Khemir at ICAM. The Monthly Meetings will restart soon.

As far as the weekly activities and courses are concerned, we thank all the facilitators for their efforts to maintain a certain regularity of virtual activities until we can return to face-to-face courses. You will find in this issue the detailed calendar of activities.

Dear members, this Covid period has demonstrated to us the importance of social links and highlighted the value of our noble cause.

We aim by our activities to help disadvantaged children and women, and in recent times these have become even more essential. We hope to be able to continue to honour our commitments which depend on the involvement and participation of us all!

We're counting on you and hope to see you soon!

Imane

Message of the Vice-President Projects Mateja Prosek Grima

Dear members,

I hope you had a safe and healthy summer and that you managed to spend time with loved ones. Our summer was quite busy and with the technology we could work from all around the world, preparing new events and activities for our members and to get much needed funding for our philanthropic work. Let's keep our fingers crossed that Covid will not interfere in our plans.

As you know the month of September has in UNWG-Geneva traditionally been dedicated to holding our Children's Walk on the grounds of the UNOG. Due to the continuing Covid health crisis as well as the construction works going on at the UN, we were obliged for a second year in a row to organise our Children's Walk in a different format. We have asked once again the schools to organise their own mini-walks on the day of their choice in the scholastic year 2021-2022. We will provide the schools with materials and name signs. Until now the following schools have confirmed their participation: Collège du Léman, Ecolint-Campus Pregny and Nations, Chataigneraie, British School of Geneva and Ecole Montessori Deux Mille Feuilles, Institut International de Lancy, Ecole Chantemerle. Other schools which traditionally participated in the event are still deciding if they will join us this year.

We were pleased to see that children had a lot of fun last year organising their own mini walks despite not being on the grounds of the UN. Their teachers were very inventive with themes and props for the walks. This year we would however like to thank the schools in person for their hard work and dedication towards the Children's Walk, therefore we are planning to organise a small ceremony on the grounds of the UN towards the end of November to celebrate World's Children's day and to invite delegations from all the participating schools to commemorate this important day with us and to hand over any proceeds they have already collected. The number of students and teachers in each delegation will depend on the existing sanitary restrictions. We are still in discussions with the UN on how best to organise the event.

In addition to the preparation of the Children's Walk, we have been extremely busy preparing our Annual Bazaar which will hopefully take place at the end of October and which will bring in well needed funding to be able to fund a new round of projects from our members. It is for this reason that we have sent out a new call for project proposals and we hope to receive many interesting projects to assist children and women in need. The deadline for the submission of project proposals is 30 October 2021.

I hope that we can slowly go back to normality and that we will see many of you at our next International Bazaar.

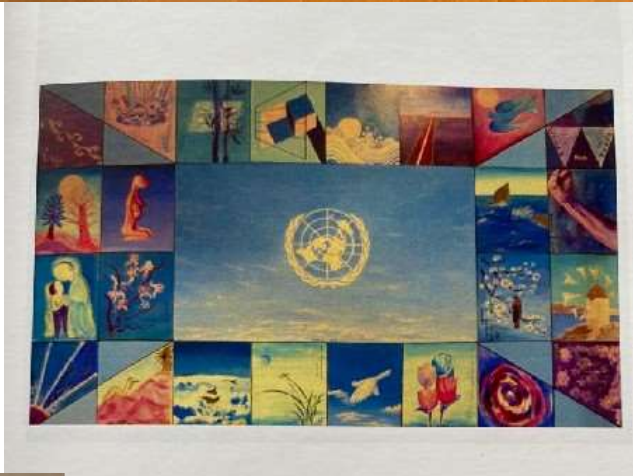
Mateja

Engaging the Diplomatic Community

Special thanks, Cultural Visit

Musée Rath

The visit to the exhibition 'Divers Egaux Unis' took place on Friday, 24 September 2021 and was kindly guided by Mrs Victoria Dzodziev, curator of the exhibition.



Beatriz Campeas, a former President of the UNWG-Geneva (left), along with painting in which she contributed to and was donated to the UN by our organisation, here with the current President of UNWG-Geneva, Mrs Niloufar Rafi-Kian Bouabid.



Cybèle Varela (1943-)
Hommage du cercle féminin des Nations Unies à l'ONU, 1995
Acrylic on canvas, 95 x 160 cm
UN Geneva Art Collection
Donated by UN Woman's Guild (UNWG)

Special thanks, Coffee Morning

Tuesday, 5 October 2021 at Le Café Lyrique

A Moldovan proverb says that a good day is known from the very morning - and we had such a good day on Tuesday, 5 October 2021!

A breakfast at "Le Café Lyrique" organized by the UNWG with the participation of the Mission of the Republic of Moldova in Geneva in the presence of our Ambassador, PR of the Republic of Moldova, H.E. Mrs Tatiana Molcean.

We presented an exhibition, "*Symbolism and Craftmanship in the river of time- 30 years of Independence of the Republic of Moldova*".

The exhibition gathers 12 traditional costumes, that include the blouse, 'Ia', the skirt- Fota or Catrinta, the underskirt and the belt.

Each costume was sewn by 12 members of the SEZATOAREA BASARABIA, based on the patterns and models discovered in the archives and collections of the National Museum of Ethnography of Moldova.

Şezătoare, literally translated as sitting, is an old form of gathering of people in small numbers, predominantly in rural areas and with the participation of women, and where a certain activity was carried out or learned – such as embroidery, knitting, sewing. Within these gatherings, which usually were organized in late autumn and winter, after the harvesting and other tasks in the field were finished.

Nowadays Şezătoare, are organized around museums, libraries and cultural centers throughout the country. SEZATOAREA BASARABIA is one of the associations, working under the guidance of the National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History in Chisinau, an institution that preserves a rich collection of traditional costumes, including shirts with "altita", that serve as inspiration.



Ia - the centrepiece of the traditional costume. It is the name given to the blouse or shirt from the traditional costume in Republic of Moldova and Romania. It is the most ornate and complex piece of the costume, with multiple symbols of natural origin embroidered onto the front part and the sleeves.

In the Republic of Moldova and certain parts of Romania, the blouse has a very specific element of decoration on the sleeve – called "altita".

The association gathers more than 360 ladies and gentlemen, either live or online, including diaspora representatives. Only a few participants in the sittings are members of the Union of Craftsmen of Moldova, the others have different professions such as teachers, doctors, economists, IT

engineers, technologists, researchers, among them are many housewives and others who care for young children. Here they taught the tailoring of shirts, many old manual sewing techniques, the properties of materials, the artistic principles of making ornaments, after which they work independently.

In 2021, after a long process of preparation "The Art of the Top Sleeve Embroidery Folk Blouse - 'Ia', a Cultural Identity Element in Romania and the Republic of Moldova" was accepted for inclusion in the UNESCO Intangible World Heritage List.

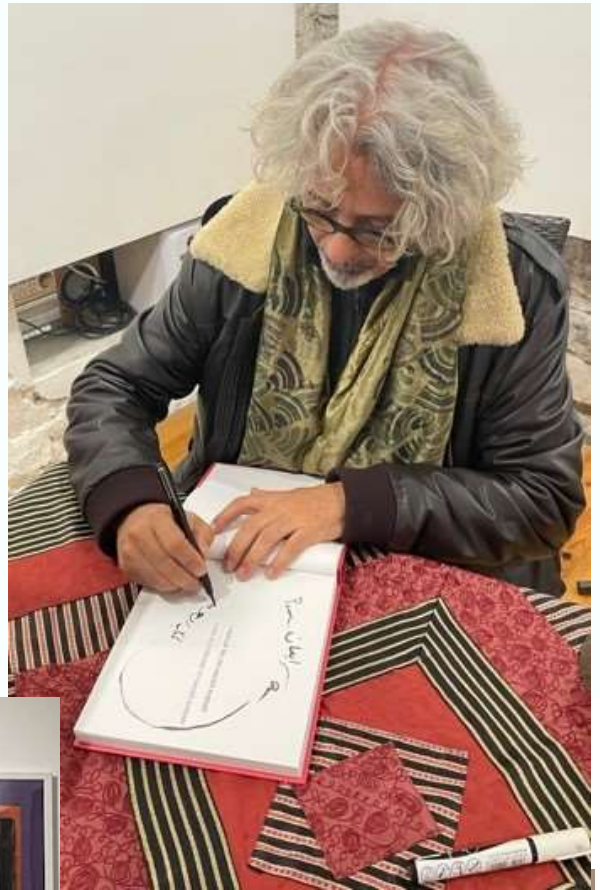
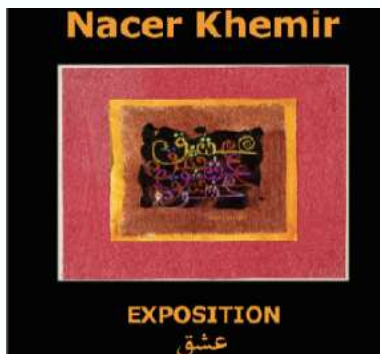


Special Event

The Special Events series restarted on Thursday, 14 October with the presentation of the Tunisian artist and film maker Nacer Khemir on "The discovery of Arab art" at the headquarters of the Institute of Arabian and Mediterranean Culture (ICAM).

The artist's latest book on love "عشق" gives the title to his exhibition: "Love according to Nacer Khemir". "The only truth is beauty, and where there is beauty there is love", one of the wonderful quotes that we remember from the great film maker Nacer Khemir during our beautiful event.

When we know that the Arabic language has 60 words to designate "love" we travel through its beautiful definitions and the verses of its poets through time and we are carried out of time!!



Future Events

UNWG International Bazaar Committee 2021



UNITED NATIONS WOMEN'S GUILD - GENEVA
CERCLE FÉMININ DES NATIONS UNIES - GENÈVE



BAZAAR 2021

Art work by Thomas Panchas-Breton, Collège du Leman



L'égalité des droits, des chances et des
responsabilités pour toutes et tous



Equal rights, equal opportunities and equal
responsibilities for all

MERCREDI 27 OCTOBRE / WEDNESDAY 27 OCTOBER

PALAIS DES NATIONS

09:00 - 17:00

INSCRIPTION OBLIGATOIRE / MANDATORY REGISTRATION:

<https://indico.un.org/event/36709/>



Bazaar 2021

Wednesday, 27 October 2021

Please don't forget to register for this
important event!

<https://indico.un.org/event/36709/>

UNWG-GENEVA - BAZAAR COMMITTEE 2021

POST	NAME
Bazaar President	H.E. Ambassador Jürg Lauber
Bazaar Vice-President	Mrs Marguerite-Marie Samba-Maliavo
UNWG President	Niloufar Rafi-Kian Bouabid
UNWG VPA	Imane Tazi-El Hachimi
UNWG VPP & Bazaar Public Relations	Mateja Prosek-Grima
Treasurer	Mala Prasad
Co-Treasurer	Arsha Rana
Lottery	Ajkuna Thanati Nadia Mehdi
Technical Coordinator	Imane Tazi El Hachimi Mateja Prosek-Grima Manila Paktian
Publicity	Imane Tazi- El Hachimi Mateja Prosek-Grima
National Stands	Nagwa Issa Ana Luisa Trabal de Moerzinger Mays Al Rushaidat
Restaurant Stands	Bouchra Zniber Radiona Nikova Laura Américo Manjate Da Conceição
Special Advisers	Malika Mohammad Ahmad Brahimi Shushma Pandey
Invitation & Protocol Coordinators	Nora Magistris Ingy Amin
Decoration	Leili Kaweh Gulsen Python
Bazaar Committee Secretary	Patricia Bell

Projects around the world financed by the UNWG-Geneva

Report by Mateja Prosek Grima, Vice President - Projects

Project contributing to reducing child mortality and to raising awareness of mothers of children with sickle cell disease

Institut Supérieur en Sciences Infirmières (ISSI), Kinshasa, DRC

The project supported by the grant from the UNWG-Geneva aimed at preventing cases of sickle cell disease and it was carried out in the Binza maternity hospital with the involvement of Institut Supérieur en Sciences Infirmières (ISSI). Sickle cell anaemia is the number one genetic disease in the world. It is an autosomal recessive disease in which haemoglobin A is replaced by an abnormal haemoglobin "S", which leads to "sickle cell disease" of red blood cells. Located in the health zone of Binza Meteo, this maternity hospital is the second largest in Kinshasa, with more than 400 births per month, 1200 women followed in prenatal consultations and nearly 500 children followed in pre-school consultations per health area.

The aim of the project was to contribute to reducing child mortality through early diagnoses of sickle cell disease in new-borns and children aged 0 to 5 years as well as raising awareness of mothers of children with sickle cell disease through promotional health activities. Early detection of the illness and education the mothers in correct follow up and health promoting care are vital to reducing the mortality from this disease.

In order to carry out this project, the ISSI joined forces with the Centre de Formation et Appui sanitaire (CEFA), which in 2006 created a support, training and monitoring platform on sickle cell disease (PAFOVED). The objective of this platform is to contribute to the improvement of the medical and social care of sickle cell disease sufferers and the knowledge of preventive measures.



Before the students went into the field, they were trained for two weeks in the CEFA laboratory. Their training focused on sensitization (content), electrophoresis test procedures, reading and interpretation of results. In addition to their training at the CEFA, the students had to learn about sickle cell disease. It was planned in the project to purchase books on sickle cell disease, but having encountered



difficulties in ordering these books, the institute decided to invest in reinforcing the internet connection in the students' computer room. They were thus able to have online access to books on sickle cell disease.



Students from ISSI focused on the problem of sickle cell disease and carried out promotion and prevention activities under the supervision of CEFA supervisors, including awareness raising, early detection by a capillary test of babies and children and education of mothers in terms of promotional care related to sickle cell disease. In order to raise awareness, pamphlets were also distributed to the mothers of the Binza maternity hospital by the student interns.



Projects around the world financed by the UNWG-Geneva

Article provided by Patricia Bell

Water harvesting at the Kripsaran Children’s Home

In 2020 the United Nations Women's Guild funded a project enabling the Darjeeling Children's Trust to complete a children's home in Darjeeling. In 2021 we funded a project to enable water harvesting by the Home. This is the latest news.

It is probably a common misconception that because the monsoon often brings torrential rains to the Himalayas, that supplies of water must be plentiful all year round. Sadly, circumstances in Darjeeling combine to mean that this isn't the case. Local infrastructure for collecting and distributing water dates mostly from the early part of the twentieth century and its capacity has been far outstripped by the growth in the town's population in the last seventy years or so. In addition, for over half the year there is a prolonged dry season when little rain falls.



Buying water is a necessity for most people but it is very expensive. At the Children’s Home where funds are always stretched, priority has to be given to ensure enough water for drinking and cooking. A daily wash or shower for 100 children and young people is an unaffordable luxury. The redevelopment project has provided the opportunity to change this. The new buildings have a very large roof area (shown right) which will allow the collection of rain water in an underground cistern and water storage tanks.

This will allow the young people to properly wash themselves and their clothes and make proper use of the new bathrooms that the Home now provides. It will have immense benefits to their health and well-being. Having a good

supply of free water without having to purchase adequate supplies will also free money for other uses such as better nutrition.



To complement the generosity of the UNWG grant, DCT Trustees have organised an active campaign of fund raising. In July we ran our successful "10k for 10k" event, which saw individuals and groups get together in walks, runs and cycle rides to cover 10 km in an attempt to raise the remaining funds needed to reach £10,000. One of our Trustees who lives in Switzerland but grew up in Darjeeling, set out on a mammoth cycle ride to raise money. Together with husband she cycled 216 kms of the EuroVelo 6 route from Lake

Constance to Basle over 4 days.

A big thank you to the UNWG for this grant which will make a huge contribution to achieving this



Call for Project Proposals for 2021



UNITED NATIONS WOMEN'S GUILD - GENEVA
CERCLE FÉMININ DES NATIONS UNIES - GENEVE



16 September 2021

Dear ladies, members of the UNWG-Geneva,

The support of vulnerable children and women throughout the world is central commitment of the UNWG-Geneva. Even though the Covid pandemic caused unparalleled disruption to our work in last 18 months, the UNWG-Geneva managed to organize fundraising activities and other social events to help those in need. It succeeded in honoring its commitment to secondary school students through its Scholarships program as well as managed to finance 14 projects which focused on providing food, water and other basic elements to impoverished communities around the globe.

After this extremely difficult year, we are very pleased to finally get back on track with our traditional fundraising activities. We are extremely grateful to the UNOG to be able to organize our major annual fundraising event – the UNWG-Geneva International Bazaar which will take place subject to favorable sanitary conditions, on 27 October 2021 in Palais des Nations. This major event will provide us with much needed funding to continue supporting projects from our members focusing on helping children and women in need.

We are pleased to announce a new **Call for project proposals for year 2021** which is subject to the outcome of the Bazaar. We are inviting all interested members to submit their project proposals focusing on helping children in need around the world. In order to finance as many good projects as possible, we are keeping the maximum amount to be awarded to individual projects at 4.000 CHF. We are confident that many members have good ideas and project proposals that we will be glad to consider.

Kindly note that the call for project applications will be open until **31st October 2021**. The application form together with the guidelines is attached to this email. Due to the Covid pandemic and ongoing restrictions the project proposals can only be submitted electronically. Any queries about project proposals can be addressed to Vice President - Project at project@unwg.ch.

We are looking forward to receiving various project proposals from our members focusing on helping children in need from all over the world.

Best regards,

N. R-K.B

Niloufar Rafi-Kian Bouabid
President

Mateja P. Grima

Mateja Prosek Grima
Vice President – Projects

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 2 January /February 2021

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

DONATE

button where you can donate any amount you would like to the UNWG 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 author of the motive.

We would warmly like to thank those who have kindly already contributed to the UNWG Donation Drive. 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. 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. 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



Languages and Courses at the UNWG

Dear UNWG Ladies,

In the beginning of our new 'school year' 2021/2022, I am sending greetings to you all from the Guild's EDUCATION section! As always, our Teachers and Course Leaders are extending a warm invitation to every member to join in the activities that are being offered.

I strongly believe that community is a precious thing and, right now especially, needed more than ever. Communities grow slowly over time by sharing interests and being active side-by-side. The companionship we experience can be a deeply rewarding and nourishing aspect in our daily life. In my personal experience, even difficult work is inspiring when there are strong community roots. The UNWG's core purpose to support women and children in difficult life circumstances can be best achieved by creating a strong community for all of us. You can help by participating!

Please take some time to explore our [Autumn Course Schedule](#)

To join or for obtaining information, please contact
Course Leaders directly.

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

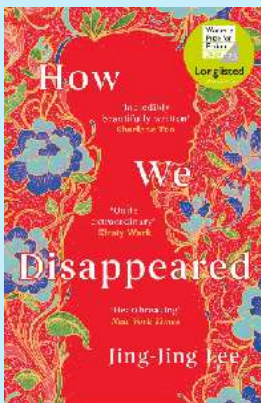
You could help by proposing our courses to members who have not yet 'taken the plunge', or you could 'take the plunge' yourself if you have not done so yet!

Please also reach out to our new members who might still be a little puzzled by the workings of the UNWG and help in making them feel 'at home' with us.

If you feel inspired to offer a course yourself, have ideas how to improve the program or have any questions, please contact Helgard Adams education@unwg.ch +41 76 604 8583.



Book Club



Friday, 29th October 2021, at 14:00, on Skype

We will be discussing our book of the month, 'How we Disappeared' by Jing-Jing Lee.

Thank you very much.
Chouhrette Bunzl.

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 CONVERSATION</u>	BEATRIZ VELO	+41 76 606 13 26	MONDAYS	11.00 - 13.00	Skype
<u>JAPANESE CONVERSATION</u>	HIROMI IRIYAMA	+39 389 989 2255	TUESDAYS	10.00 - 11.30	ZOOM
<u>ARTS AND CREATIONS</u>	CAROLINE SCUDAMORE	+33 6 85 20 54 85	FRIDAYS	15.00	ZOOM
<u>BOOK CLUB</u>	CHOUHRETTE BUNZL	chouhrettecherif@gmail.com	LAST FRIDAY of the month	14.00	Skype
<u>COOKING</u>	LEILI KAWEH	+41 786 77 17 40	THIRD FRIDAY of the month	11.30-13.00	ZOOM
<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

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!

Cookery Corner

My Egyptian Grandmother's Kitchen

Contributed by Ingy Amin

Since I spent most of my childhood in my grandparents' house, I have learnt a lot of recipes from my grandmother as well as a lot of stories and secrets of those delicious yummy Egyptian foods, one of these recipes is our Egyptian traditional desert OM ALI, (Egyptian Arabic (أم علي)) meaning the "Mother of Ali", but before going to the story of Om Ali let me acknowledge if one day you are invited to an Egyptian family's home and Om Ali is served consider yourself a VIP guest because this dessert is presented at festivals, ceremonies and at big parties!

This dessert was made to celebrate the death of the Sultana Shagaret El Durr. She was the wife of Salah el Din Al Ayoub (the last Egyptian sultan of the Ayoubid dynasty), a sultana deemed to be among the region's earliest feminists, she is the first and last Sultana to rule Egypt. After the Sultan Ayoubi's death she struggled to keep her power and earn respect from her predictably all male peers, so Shagaret El-Durr married Izz Al Din-Aybak a warrior with Turkish roots, so that she could abdicate the throne and hand over her power to him, her intention was to steer his decision making, not to relinquish her influence. However, when she discovered that the new Sultan was already married and he married her only to expend his control and get more royal power. Angered by his plan, Shagaret El Durr ordered her servants to assassinate her husband.

Aybak's first wife Om Ali (mother of Ali) couldn't forgive Shagaret El Durr for stealing and killing her husband and she got her maids to beat Shagaret El Durr to death with wooden slippers. To celebrate this, she ordered a special pudding to be made by whatever could be found in the pantry, she then distributed the delicious dish among the local households, spreading news of the Sultan's death and declaring her son Ali his successor.

When I make this dish I try not to overthink this story! Voilà! Om Ali. Bon Appétit !



Om Ali (Bread

Pudding)Ingredients

Filo, puff pastry or croissants, (in Arab stores you can buy Om Ali dough called Rokak)

Milk

Whipping Cream

Sugar, Vanilla,

Cinnamon Butter or

Ghee

Crème fraîche or Ishta in Arab Stores

Coconut, dry raisins, hazelnuts, pistachios, almonds...

Method

Cut the filo pastry sheet into squares, place on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, poke several holes with a fork, spray some butter and bake until golden.

We can use filo or croissant dough by putting only three layers of filo after spreading butter or ghee on the top of each layer.

Break the puff pastry squares or filo into an earthenware container or any oven-proof dish.

Add your favorite nut mix with coconut and dry raisin -quantity and items are optional according to taste.

In a casserole heat the milk with whipping cream and sugar, you can add some cinnamon and vanilla.

Pour the milk mix over the puff pastry spread some fresh cream or Ishta on top to cover and bake until top is golden brown.

Condolences

Dear members, dear friends,

My dear friend and valued adviser has passed away and her close friends, Nadia, Ajkuna, Beatriz, Connie etc., all miss her dearly. There isn't a day that goes by during the UNWG International Bazaar 2021 preparations where my colleagues and I do not remember her presence, her laugh and her friendship for us. She would come to work during the Bazaar, walk in through the door and burst into laughter. We went to her funeral, in complete disbelief, and it feels as though we are still in denial. She is gone but her memory is within us.

We express our sincere condolences and sympathy to her daughters, Sabrina and Radya.

Rest in peace my friend!

Niloufar Rafi-Kian Bouabid, President



Dear members, dear friends,

It is with also great sadness that we learned of the passing of our dear friend Conception Zaccagnini at the beginning of this month of October.

Conception had been a member of the Guild for many years and was very involved in the activities of the UNWG. She was always available and helped with a lot of kindness. We will miss her very much.

All of us from the UNWG send our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

Rest in peace dear Conception.

Niloufar Rafi-Kian Bouabid, President

Membership information

Membership registration for 2022 is open. 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.

For further information please contact:

Email: membership@unwg.ch

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Newsletter

The deadline to receive information for the next Newsletter is:

27 December 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 autumn.