

AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUBS NEWS

The Junior League of London

We are excited to share the results of our work in the first half of our fiscal year, demonstrating our impact in the London community. We love working with our community partners and are grateful that we can contribute to programmes that work to eliminate poverty in London.

The Little Black Dress Initiative (LBDI) is a poverty awareness and fundraising campaign that started on 12 March that challenges participants to wear 1 black dress for 5 days in a row, to raise funds for the Junior League

of London, an organisation committed to promoting voluntary service, developing the potential of women and improving the community, through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

Now in its 5th year, LBDI seeks to raise awareness about the limits poverty can play on choices of expression and opportunities for employment. By leveraging the iconic "Little Black Dress" and participants' social media channels, we shine a spotlight on the issues surrounding poverty, while seeking to raise funds for programmes that improve the lives of Londoners in need.

We would love your support. Hold a clothing drive at your office/school or church. Donate to the cause and support the ladies wearing the dress. Learn more here: www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/juniorleaguelondon/lbdi2018.

Also, join us for an evening of fun recognising some community partners, supporting the campaigners and a good glass of wine! All you need to enter is a piece of clothing to donate.

The Marylebone, 93 Marylebone High Street, 6-8pm.

We are very excited to formally welcome our Spring New Member Class of 2017-2018! We have over 25 new members, representing several countries, and from a wide range of backgrounds, work and interests, including women from Dubai, Hungary, and some locals from the UK. We have an MBA candidate and an editor from a major publishing house.

We kick off our New Member programme with Super Saturday. The new member class met at Restart Lives in South Kensington for a day of introduction to the League, its leadership, and its purpose, followed by a volunteer project and then some socialising to get to know each other.

Restart is a charity partner that aims to help homeless people regain their lives. They encourage guests to visit the drop-in centre and provide support to those who are ready to find employment and housing. During Super Saturday's volunteer activity, members assembled 117 survival amenity kits including snacks, clean socks, tissues, etc. for Restart's guests.

These women are charged up and ready to serve our London community and we can't wait to see them accomplish great things for the League. Welcome Ladies!

Do you know your Shakespeare from your Dickens? Your Bee Gees from your Beatles?





If the answer is yes, then you'll want to save the date for the Junior League of London's 4th Annual JLL Pub Quiz on Wednesday 18 April. Teams of up to six will be arranged and rounds include Pop Culture, Sports, History and lots more. This is known to be a very fun event and you won't want to miss it! Tickets go on sale soon so check back on our website for more information: www.jll.org.uk/pub-quiz-night/.

Join the Junior League of London and discover the secrets of the Churchill War Rooms during an evening of fun, all for a good cause. Held on Saturday, 12th May, our annual Spring Soirée fundraiser will feature entry to the museum at your leisure with a three-course dinner, drinks, dancing, and more! We have some exciting items secured for our live and silent auctions and all funds raised will go to fund the JLL's mission and our work in the community. You won't want to miss it! More information is available on our website.

We hope to see you there!

Hampstead Women's Club (HWC)

Interested in making new friends, having a full calendar of events and activities to choose from, exploring more of London and having volunteering opportunities? Then join the Hampstead Women's Club! You can live anywhere in London to be a member, you don't have to live in Hampstead - many of our members don't.

The HWC has been very busy this Winter growing community outreach. President, Stacy Popovici's goal in her term was to grow the charity and outreach aspect of the club and Chairs Laura Cox and Liz Wright have stepped up to the challenge by organising many opportunities within



the surrounding Hampstead area for our members to give back.

In December, we collected hundreds of toiletries and hygiene products for the Little Village to help struggling mothers have a little something to take care of themselves. Also this Winter, we donated hours helping organise donations and sending thank you notes for Knit For Peace on Back Lane. On Saturdays some members are helping serve breakfast at Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Church as part of C4WS, a community of churches in Camden who provide a place to sleep and breakfast to homeless guests. The HWC has also partnered with Henderson Court, an Age UK day centre for adults with and without dementia. Some members visit monthly and bring cakes, sing, do hand massages and just be a friendly visitor.

Other recent social highlights of our club include a Russian Banyan evening, a private prepared Mexican lunch and cooking demonstration from Chef Gabriela Arellano, an Oxford Circular hike, a Grand Tour of Royal Albert Hall and a wellness event learning about losing weight through intermittent fasting and hypnotherapy!

Upcoming events:

In addition to our ongoing regularly scheduled activities like our creative writing group, golf, book club, tennis, running, Heath walking, hiking and yoga, here are a few fun events lined up:

- Fortnum & Mason Delicious Histories Tour
- Wine Tasting at Vagabond
- Our Annual Spring Fling all member party
- Lunch at Kiln and Barrafinna
- Private tour of the V&A British Galleries

The calendar is still getting filled up so these are just a few of the MANY activities we will have this Spring.

We'd love for you to join our club! Come to one of our upcoming Link-up events. They are a casual way for non-members to meet members and learn more about the club. They are either coffee mornings or evening drinks. The next one is 21st April and then again on 18th May. Time and Place TBD. Contact Sumi at linkup@hwcinlondon.co.uk for addresses and more information.

The Hampstead Women's Club (HWC) is a multinational, social organisation for women living in the London area. Our purpose is to provide a sense of community through social, educational and charitable activities.

To find out more about the HWC in general, visit our website: www.hwcinlondon.co.uk or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

North American Connection, West Midlands

We are excited that Spring has finally arrived! This means that we will be planning lots of fun events like our popular Cinco de Mayo evening whereby we will be raising money for our various charities. Last year's Cinco de Mayo party was well attended by NAC members, their husband's and partners as well as British friends who had never experienced Cinco de Mayo before! This year we are planning another great event complete with quiz, home made Mexican Cuisine and an array of different flavoured margaritas!

This February just gone we organised another successful charity event, a ladies' Valentine's tea in aid of SoLo (Solihull Life Opportunities),



a charity that provides social opportunities and events for children and adults with learning difficulties. During Spring we will be organising our business clothing drives for Smart Works and Suited for Success, two great charities who provide interview support and job interview outfits for people currently out of work. Also in Spring, we have our ever popular Bunco night, a crazy dice game that involves a lot of excitement, laughter and sometimes quite a bit of wine too! In addition to all of these charity events, we also have some relaxed and entertaining social days and evenings out planned. For example, our monthly coffee mornings, our afternoon pub lunches and our Thirsty Thursday evenings, plus many other events!

Our group is here to provide friendship, support and integration into British life for new expats. But we are also here for long-term expats or 'lifers' who simply want to reconnect or stay connected with a bit of North American culture. Most of our members live within an hour's radius of Birmingham, including Solihull, Leamington Spa, Warwick, Stratford upon Avon and Staffordshire. We would love

to meet you and welcome you to one of our upcoming events. You can join us for a friendly event or two before deciding whether or not you would like to become a member of NAC. Please do have a browse through our website and get in touch! www.naconnect.com.

AWC London

What do Lady Randolph Churchill (mother of Winston); Lady Astor, the Duchess of Marlborough; Mrs. Selfridge; and Mrs. Herbert Hoover all have in common? They were all members of the AWC London! This year we're celebrating 120 years of the AWC, and the club is still as vibrant as ever and dedicated to supporting charitable efforts and building a community of women throughout London.

Strengthening ties with Ronald McDonald House

The AWC London is strengthening our ties with Ronald McDonald House this year. AWC raised funds at the annual auction last year to fund a room for a family at RMH, and this

spring we expanded our relationship with Ronald McDonald House by moving our regular activities to their premises. We've been gathering monthly to prepare a meal for the guests of Ronald McDonald House to support families of seriously ill children who are being treated at the Evalina Children's Hospital. AWC also sponsored the Angel Tree Project at Christmas which provided gifts for the children in hospital and their siblings who were celebrating the holiday at RMH.

With a regular presence at Ronald McDonald House, our members feel even closer to the crucial mission of providing a free "home away from home" for the families of children being treated at the hospital. AWC members are currently collecting Easter eggs for the RMH annual East Egg Hunt. AWC will again donate a percentage of the funds they raise at the Founder's Day auction in April.

Celebrating the AWC: Founders Day Tea

The Annual AWC Founders Day will be an Afternoon Tea at the Garden Museum on Friday, April 20. Founders Day is our annual event to come together and raise money to support our growing list of charities: The Soup Kitchen at the American International Church, Ronald McDonald House and the Doorstep library. We'll be holding a live auction for large ticket items, including a week's stay in a 3-bed, 3-bath condo in the heart of Breckenridge, Colorado. Our silent auction will include various wines, personal training sessions, gift cards, and themed baskets.

Guests will also enjoy a look back through AWC history as we'll be showcasing the historical archives recently organised and photographed from our former office on Old



AWC Mah Jongg: A pot luck hosted for the regular AWC Mah Jongg group



Brompton Road. We're excited to feature over a century of history while looking to the future with our fundraising efforts.

Weekend Getaway to the South of France

The AWC is hosting a special weekend getaway to Chateau Canet, a family run wine and olive domain in the Mervois region of the Languedoc, South of France. We've reserved the May 4th-7th Bank Holiday weekend for this perfect weekend away with significant others or girlfriends.

Stay in the original winemaker's cottages, which have been converted into luxury accommodations. The owners Floris & Victoria live on site with their family and love to share their passion for wine, French culture, and amazing food. They'll welcome guests and offer the chance to learn about wine making, taste award-winning wines, and tour the cellars. This is a fantastic chance to escape the city, experience the tranquil pace of life on a working winery, and enjoy a sampling of the French way of life.

Get in touch with the AWC if you'd like to learn more about the trip!

About the AWC

Founded in 1899 as the "Society of American Women," the American Women's Club of London has provided a welcoming atmosphere to American women living in London for over 100 years. The American Women's Club of London is a founding member of the Federation

of American Women's Club Overseas (FAWCO) and is a member of the Federation of International Women's Associations in London and the greater London area (FIWAL).

We welcome all US citizens as well as persons with close ties or affinity to the United States. We look forward to welcoming you as a New Member. Please visit our website at www.awclondon.org to learn more!

FIWAL (Federation of International Women's Associations in London)

FIWAL is an umbrella organisation of 30 clubs with an aggregate membership of nearly 2,000 individuals. Our aim is to broaden international friendship, understanding and communication amongst the international women's associations in London.

FIWAL's Valentine's Tea was graciously hosted by the spouse of the Malaysian High Commissioner at her Residence. The event was attended by 90 members and friends who



appreciated the delicious Malaysian High Tea of savoury and sweet dishes and enjoyed the entertainment especially several songs from the 'Singing Ambassador'. Thanks to everyone's generosity £2900 to be donated to the 'Sponsor a Kid' programme in Malaysia.

Fiwal Biennial Conference - Women's Voices Heard: Equality & Empowerment From Around The World

Friday, 27 April 2018 at Churchill Hotel, 30 Portman Square, London W1H 7BH.

9:30 – 10:30 Coffee & Registration;
10:30 Programme; 13:00 Lunch.

Speakers: **Dr Justina Mutale** - African Woman of the Year 2012, Founder and President, Justina Mutale Foundation for Leadership
Hana Satriyo - Director for Gender and Women's Participation, Indonesia for The Asia Foundation; spouse of the Indonesian Ambassador to the UK
Haifa Zangana - Iraqi novelist, author, artist, political activist and lecturer on women's empowerment. Best known for writing Women on a Journey: Between Bagdad and London.

Talyn Rahman Figuero (Moderator) - Executive Director and Founder of the Grassroot Diplomat. Tickets are £50 - includes 3-course Lunch (subsidised by FIWAL). To attend, contact FIWAL, c/o Mary Jane Eckert, 6 The Square, High Pine Close, Weybridge KT13 9EZ or email events@fiwal.org.uk by 19 April 2018. Visit fiwal.org.uk

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