



WEB

# INTERNATIONAL INNER WHEEL

## MAGAZINE 2019-2020

No.4

President Phyllis Charter



COVID-19 AWARENESS

Together  
we can



OVERCOME!

#TogetherWeCanSaveLives

International Inner Wheel

## Words from the Editor

# HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON

Many thanks for a very interesting year as your Editor. I have learnt a lot and become impressed by all the activities going on in the IW world. So much is done to support women, children and families in need.

I have tried to report from as many countries as possible but the space has been limited. Most of the articles have been published on the IIW Facebook.

At this moment I don't know if there will be any more Web Magazines. But please don't stop sending reports about your activities to HQ and the IIW Editor. Share your activities and experiences with others. It is strengthening our unique network.

Many clubs and districts have arranged meetings on the net to solve urgent needs but we're waiting for "open" times again. Nothing can



replace personal meetings, social contacts. Hope we can see each other soon in Jaipur, for example!

*Kerstin Jonson  
IIW Editor M/M 2019-2020*

## MOST WELCOME ALL NEW 81 CLUBS

**Bulgaria** 248 Sofia Balkanika.

**France** 69 Royan Cordouan.

**Germany** 81 Vulkaneifel, 86 Bingen.

**India** 298 Kollidam, 301 Delhi Ambience, Delhi Cosmopolitan, Delhi Malviya Nagar, Delhi Rohini Sapphires, Gurgaon Sushant Vatika, Palwal Tejaswani, 302 Rajanagaram, Sun City Srikakulam, Vizag Smart City, 303 Manmad, 304 Bagli Active, Sagar Gold, Shahpura Active, 305 Tonk New-Gen, 306 Vadodara (Udaan), 307 Amritsar Mid Town New Gen, Jammu Tawi, Kathua New Gen, 308 Jagadhri North, Narwana, New Gen Panchkula, 310 Moradabad Spark, 311 Ba-

reilly Glory Plus, Kanpur New Waves, Shining Haldwani, 312 Deoria Srijan, Lucknow Dental Tej, Lucknow Nursing Tej, Maihar, Rewa 'Meraki', Varanasi Sparkling Star, Varanasi Swarna Manjari, 314 Kalina, 315 Guntur Vikas, Martur, 316 Gates New Gen, Nightingales, 317 Chikodi, Lote, 318 Somwarpet Gold, 324 New Gen Orchid Gangtok, New Gen Silchar Titans, Pine City Shillong, Siliguri Uttarayon Aura, 325 Chaibasa, Mithila Samastipur, Patna Krishna, Patna Saumya, Patna Shivalja, Rajgir, Vanya Muzaffarpur, 326 Balaghat Tigress, Jabalpur Gems, Rourkela Riverside, Udala, 329 I.E.M. Kolkata,

Kolkata Cosmos.

**Italy** 210 Hirpinia, 211 Amantea.

**Mexico** 417 Lomas De Chapultepec.

**Nepal** 350 Harisiddhi Nepal, Kirtipur Central, Sainamaina, Tokha.

**Nigeria** 910 Abuja Garnets, Apo, 912 Ijede, 914 Abakaliki North, Asaba Gra, Asaba Gra.

**Pakistan** 344 Daska City, Sialkot City, Sialkot Mustansar.

**Philippines** 386 Cebu Acropolis.

**Togo** 909 Lome Etincelle.

**Uganda** n/d Ggaba.

(As per 15 May 2020)

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### FRONT PAGE

Many clubs are organizing impressive activities during the Covid-19. D 911, Nigeria, together with clubs, distributed food packs to needed in Onipandu and Mushin communities in Lagos.



## International Inner Wheel President Phyllis Charter

# INSPIRATIONAL INNOVATIVE WOMEN

Can you remember the world that we all lived in three months ago, when the last web magazine was produced? We were all enjoying meeting friends and family, attending our Inner Wheel meetings and conferences, travelling abroad and making new friends and then – it was as if the world was flat and we all fell off - Coronavirus (Covid-19) had arrived on our doorsteps.

### **Take care - stay safe – stay alert - to stay well**

“Coronavirus”, a small and new word that was to alter our way of life, as never known before. We have all experienced lockdown and social isolation restrictions put upon us that was to change the whole of our everyday lives. Whilst many Governments are now relaxing some of the restrictions, scientists are predicting the risks of returning to freedom too fast as they are afraid of a second wave. They urge that we take care - stay safe – stay alert - to stay well. We have to take small steps and learn to walk again before we can run.

### **IIW stands for many things**

Inner Wheel Members worldwide have shown that Together we can help, as and when required. I have seen so many pictures and heard so many stories of how Members have been inspirational in feeding and providing for thousands of homeless or needy people and how innovative members can be in creating awareness, making or providing masks and other protective equipment, or working on and supporting the front line in our hospital services. All making a difference in the world and helping so many lives.

Yes, IIW stands for International Inner Wheel but it also stands for Inspirational Innovative Women.

Many clubs and Districts have shown that virtual zoom/conference meetings are the new normal for Business/AGM or just a get together. We have proved that we can adopt and adapt our meetings and may have to accept this as being the new normal for many months to come. However there are lessons to be learnt and we must get prepared for the future with different type of meetings – especially where distance and possibly an overnight stay puts a heavy price on travelling. Can we use our new skills and take the opportunity to hold a “virtual” conference meeting and discuss and record all the Business, as if we were present? Obviously we will



miss being together but if it helps with membership and/or attendance at meetings Inner Wheel is gaining. We have to be positive and look to the future as the future of Inner Wheel is in our hands – we are its caretakers.

### **Proactive and dynamic organisation**

We have shown the world that Inner Wheel is a proactive and dynamic organisation that is capable of stepping forward to a challenge such as Coronavirus (Covid-19) and with nearly 110,000 inspirational and innovative members, Together we can go on to beat this virus and return to making the impossible – possible in so many people’s lives. By standing together we will all be stronger and will prove our worth of being in the No 1 position as the world’s largest service voluntary organisation for women.

On behalf of all those people that you may never see or never meet, can I say a very BIG THANK YOU to every member that has helped, supported and provided any form of service during this pandemic.

For making Inner Wheel a name that the world will come to remember and value, may I personally give you my many thanks and appreciation. Mark Twain once said “Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”

Thank you for being you.

*Phyllis*

# Support our Covid -19 Disaster and Vaccination Fund

## UNITED INNER WHEEL AGAINST CORONA

The Corona pandemic has brought major changes for all of us. Under these extremely difficult circumstances, it is encouraging and impressive to see the willingness to be helpful among IW members around the world. Here are some examples of various projects from the recent months - despite the limited opportunities for traditional meetings and social contacts. The Executive Committee and the Governing Body of International Inner Wheel have together created a special Covid-19 Disaster and Vaccination Fund.

The objective is to raise money to help with the immediate effects of the pandemic and to help with a long term solution. This fund is separate from all other finances of IIW. The funds raised will be distributed to organisations chosen and vetted by the Executive and the Governing Body. These could be regional, national or international, but they will all be working against Covid-19 and its effects.



### THE COVID-19 FUND

A special bank account has been set up for this fund. Please contact your BD, NR, NT, DT or IIW Adm (alan@internationalinnerwheel.org) for account number and further details.



### Pakistan

**DISTRICT 327 PAKISTAN**, is following the government's guidance very strictly that includes social distancing, washing hands frequently, sanitizing and educating people. All the 15 clubs are collectively putting efforts and helping the people suffering from lock-downs by organizing awareness programmes in rural areas:

- Distributing necessary grocery items among daily wagers and the deserving families.
- Giving out sanitizers, masks and soaps at public places.
- Provision of bed sheets, chairs, masks and surgical gloves to the hospitals and medical centers.

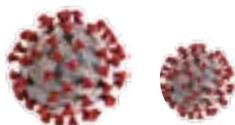


### Bulgaria

#### Supporting a hospital in Pleven

Just a week before the World's health day the ladies from IW Club Pleven donated protective helmets and a washing machine to the Dermatologic clinic in the University Hospital "Dr. George Stranski" in Pleven. At present, the clinic works as a quarantine hospital for patients with COVID 19.

We give our respect and honor to all doctors and nurses, fighting the disease at the first line.



### Philippines

**IWC Rizal Sunrise** spearheaded the campaign to raise funds to purchase personal protective equipments (PPE) for our healthcare workers and other frontliners who are risking their lives in nursing back to health the people infected with the Coronavirus.

With the generous support of the club members, our zumba family and the involvement of Filinvest East homeowners, we were able to raise funds to purchase many medical items. These medical supplies were equally divided between Research Institute of Tropical Medicine and Philippine General Hospital.

## New Zealand



**During my District Chairman's** visits Temuka Club gave me a special gift – a beautiful blue pottery mug. So, during New Zealand's COVID-19 lockdown, the thought of what we all can do to connect with Inner Wheel! So, I decided to use my Temuka Mug (I use daily) and designed an image to promote Inner Wheel. I posted it on FB. I thought it would be nice to have Inner Wheel members holding a teacup

or coffee mug, so that someone else could connect. The Aotea Auckland members Brenda and Michelle jumped on board first and many have followed in New Zealand and Australia. But all members are welcome to raise their cup/mug to celebrate all the work we are doing together.

*Alyssandra Skerrett, IWC Queenstown*



## Israel

**On March 1st Inner Wheel Israel** members had their second District Council attending members from all Israeli clubs.

The program included a visit to Peres Peace and Innovation Center in Tel Aviv, and two workshops given by deaf and blind people trying to convey the feeling of being and living as such.



Presentations were held by Club presidents regarding club activities 2019/2020. The council was very successful and was just in time, because a few days later we were in a Lock Down situation because of the Corona Virus.

Our Holidays: Passover, Easter and Ramadan were celebrated in Lock Down situation. IW Israel members assisted families in need to celebrate those holidays as well as keep helping children and women at risk in these troubled times.

Clubs are doing big efforts to operate during Corona time, meetings are conducted with "zoom" application. We wish all IW members, all over the world, may overcome this crisis in good health.



## Italy

### **Extensive district and club support**

District Chairman Caterina Narullo Bove, with DEC and all the members of District 210 Italy, collected and donated € 8000,00 in support of the most recent experimental and promising research, approved by Italian Medicines Agency (AIFA), promoted by the Naples IRCCS "Fondazione Pascale" and coordinated by Dr Paolo Ascierio; the research aims to establish the efficacy of early initiation of Tocilizumab (TCZ) in patients with Covid-19 pneumonia.

In addition to this valuable district service, and despite of all the impediments due to quarantine restrictions, every club has put all possible effort to give support to many local hospitals, as well as give aid to the many families in need, where at this stage there's a lack of job and livelihood, due to the mandatory ministerial provisions to limit the outbreak.

## South Africa

### **In Cape Town City in South Africa**

a former Restaurateur has for several years been making soup which he hands out to the homeless. IW Clubs and businesses donate funds and fresh vegetables for this purpose. In the current crises he is also helping the destitute, and out of work citizens in the city and poorer suburbs. He is now making 500 kg of soup per day and feeding 1000 people per day. For many it is their only meal!

Clubs are also providing groceries and toiletries to homes for the elderly. Fresh vegetables and groceries are also donated to CHOC HOUSE, a home for out of town children who stay there while undergoing Cancer Treatment at a local Hospital.

Many other IW projects require personal interaction and deliveries to homes and hospitals and all these are now on hold.





## India

### IWC Delhi Sainik Farms supports

In the need of the hour of Corona Virus disaster and keeping in mind the motto Service Before Self, Inner Wheel Club of Delhi Sainik Farms has provided packed food for 5 000 people at different slum areas in Delhi.

The Club has also donated Rs. 51,000/- in the PM-CARES fund, especially created to deal with Covid-19.



## Egypt & Jordan

**In the light of the recent difficult** emergency situation facing the world and Egypt with novel COVID -19, Inner wheel Club of Zamalek decided to contribute to this serious crisis facing Egypt by providing support to the largest governmental Fever hospital in Abbassia. The contribution strengthened the hospital resources for effective service provision and prevention of infection in this hospital.

A list of requirements was developed and accordingly IW Club of Zamalek donated many of the medical equipment and supplies needed to address this issue.



## Tunisia

**The Covid-19 pandemic reached** Tunisia in February 2020. The Ministry of Health has been able to manage this crisis well by putting in place a national prevention protocol.

In this context IWC Nabeul was approached to provide and equip the covid department -19 with a scope (or monitor) for e.g. monitoring heart rate, pulse and blood pressure, a water mattress for the fight against bedsores and bubblers allowing oxygen therapy for patients suffering from respiratory distress. By contributing this equipment the club will hopefully be a major player in saving lives.

## Malaysia district committee meets via Zoom app



**For the first time ever, D 330,** Malaysia, decided to convene an online District Committee meeting via Zoom app. District Chairman Padmini Menon conducted the meeting with over 70 participants from 20 clubs.

The agenda, like any official meeting, included roll calls,, election of office bearers, reports and the opportunity for everyone to take turns to speak. Quite quickly after this, a few clubs mentioned that they are planning to carry out their club meetings online. Life goes on as we adapt and strengthen to embrace the future.

## Greece donations to homeless in Athens

**IWC of Kifissia, Greece**, donated women's, men's and children's clothing and shoes as well as bedclothes etc.

The gift was handed over to the medical examiner Dr. Grigoris Leon who is Director of KYADA, Central of homeless of Athens Municipality. The Inner Wheel Club of Kifissia was represented by the President Eleni Panagiotou and an officer of the club Georgia Alibranti.



## Many thanks with IW-branded chocolate from GB&I

**At the Membership Meeting** last July when life was normal – that is, as normal as it ever is – we decided that small chocolates, wrapped with an IW logo on the packing, would make a welcome gesture in the various hotels being used during the GB&I Annual Conference in Belfast.

Little did we know!

However, rather than the chocolates passing their 'use by' date, Chairman Anthea Tilsley decided that, with the help of her Committee, these chocolates should be distributed and donated to as many groups of people working hard, often unnoticed, throughout the Covid 19 crisis. Districts were asked to distribute them where they felt the need.

We hope that all the chocolates— with their Inner Wheel message— give much pleasure in a very testing time.

## Singapore sponsored meals for children



**IWC Singapore sponsored meals** for children at the Singapore Good Shepherd Centre in spite of the the global pandemic. The food programme was organised for 42 children.

All these children at the Centre have serious difficulties at home which make their stay and care at their own homes with their parents very difficult. Due to the family problems encountered such as child

abuse, trauma, homelessness and domestic violence, the children had to be placed in an interim shelter.

The total donation received came to \$1,200 which was used to pay for the meals.

There were many challenges faced by the Centre during this pandemic due to the restrictions on movements etc. and none of Inner Wheel members were able to be present.

Although the children are being provided basic and balanced meals at the Centre, they would always look forward to such food treats. The children thoroughly enjoyed the food from MacDonald's, KFC and local delights and a Pizza dinner. They have also written Thank You Cards to show their appreciation.

## Finland takes care of the isolated



**IWC Nurmijärvi donated masks** for persons who are specially in risk during the corona pandemic period.

Two grocery shops delivered bags with food and could add a mask to each of them. The masks are essential for homecare workers, too.

Each and every one in the club has been in contact with members who are isolated. We try to remember to make at least one phone call every day.

Greetings from Finland.





## GERMANY SUPPORTED AUSTRALIA

All of us have seen the pictures of catastrophic bushfires in Australia at the beginning of this year. Burned houses, charred landscape, fleeing animals. The misery of the people who lost their houses, sometimes their entire livelihood, inspired the District Presidents of **Inner Wheel Germany** to help their Australian friends and seek their club members' support.

The response was overwhelming!

66,398.05 AUD have been donated from all German club members to help the Australian friends.

As a result of the close communication between Jutta Stender



Vorwachs, National Representative IW Germany, and Robyn Gillespie, President of IW Australia and Jane Muller IWA Immediate Past Presi-

dent and National Representative 2019/20, it became quickly clear that that it would be great to sustain the work of the large number of firefighters in Australia.

June Muller writes, that there is little knowledge outside of Australia about the fact that 80% of firefighters in Australia work voluntarily and even self-finance their equipment.

The donation of 66,398.05 AUD expresses an excellent engagement and interest of Inner Wheel friends, helping wherever and whenever friends worldwide need help.

## HELPING HANDS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

**In our lockdown situation – no work means no pay – which means that hundreds of thousands of South Africans are without means to buy the essentials to sustain life, the number one being food.**

As in so many countries we have small clubs and members with big hearts who are well acquainted with the hardship that surrounds us and we are willing to answer the call. The members rolled up their sleeves and made a nutritious low-cost basic meal for four people. They packed the ingredients, including instructions on how it should be made and then distributed it together with a weekly pack of sandwiches.

**IWC Bedfordview** (Johannesburg) became involved with a huge feeding scheme for nearby informal settlements.

As in so many places the prohibition of the sale of alcohol and cigarettes has led to the increase in domestic violence and our **Gaborone Club** (Botswana is part of District 932) was approached by a local shelter for abused women that was

overcrowded and in need of not only more space, but also funding as well.

In the Cape, on the West Coast, the **Saldanha Bay Club** handed out food parcels to a local high school and three trolley loads of groceries were donated to a local primary school.

The **IWC of Waterfront** (Cape Town), another small club, said "when the need arises" and it did



– before they knew what was happening they were helping with sandwiches, supplying meal packs, collecting and delivering warm clothing for distribution to the needy.

In the Cape "Ladles of Love" which focuses on feeding hungry people through their soup kitchens in Cape Town has gone one step further and started the Love Sandwich Project providing sandwiches and hardboiled eggs. The **Durbanville IWC** has become seriously involved with this project. In one week alone they collected 170 000 sandwiches and 38 000 boiled eggs.

**Bloemfontein Club** (right in the heart of South Africa) have adjusted their outreach, where previously they donated groceries to old age and children's homes, they now make a monthly monetary donation.

This is the tip of the iceberg – as disastrous as the COVID-19 virus is – it has made people become aware of one another and to care for one another!



## Fistula/Safe Motherhood Ambassadors in Ethiopia

# SUCCESSFULL NORWEGIAN PROJECT

After many years of supporting different organisations economically, IW Norway started their international project “Fistula” in 2006 in cooperation with the Norwegian Missionary Society (NMS) in Ethiopia. The “Fistula project” was the main international project for IW Norway up to 2014.

The Fistula project helped girls/young women, who were suffering from fistula, a major damage to the birth channel after unsuccessful childbirths where urine and sometimes faeces run freely.



*Dr Cathrine Hamlin, from Australia, spes. in gyn/obs, founded the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital, together with her husband Dr Reginald Hamlin in 1974. She was a pioneer in fistula surgery for her development of techniques and procedures for obstetric treatment. Together with the hospital staff, the Hemlins have treated more than 60 000 women to date for obstetric fistula. She died in Addis Ababa in March 2020, 96 years old.*



*Helene M Torkildsen (to the left) and Gunn Sembsmoen (far right) giving NMS a check. Since 2003 Norway IW has collected approx Nkr 2 million for the Fistula project.*

These women needed help to return to a normal life inside their villages – and the only way to regain this was through surgery at the Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa. IW Norway bought a car for the 700 km transport.

### Changed project

In 2014 the project was changed to: “Safe Motherhood Ambassadors” in the Blue Nile Valley. These ambassadors are former fistula patients, who have been cured. They are trained in giving advice and to help pregnant women and urge them to go to established health centres to give birth. The trained ambassadors will also give advice about hygiene and nutrition, and thus the whole society will benefit from their work.

### Loan to start business

Instead of a salary they will be able to get a 200-dollar loan to establish their own small businesses. The pregnant women will also be given gifts such as hand-knitted caps and baby blankets – all made by IW members in Norway and very important to attract women to give birth in hospital.

In addition the project continues to send women with birth injuries either to Hamlin or another hospital for treatment.

*PBD Helene M Torkildsen, IW Norway*

## TALKING ABOUT YOUNG PRESIDENTS



*The Tuggerah Lakes Charter meeting, L-R: Charter Secretary Camryn Chisholm, IIW President Chris Kirby, Charter President Morgan Chisholm, IWA President June Muller and Charter Treasurer Chelsea Chisholm.*

Morgan Chisholm was 20 when she was elected Charter President at the inaugural meeting of **Tuggerah Lakes IWC**, Australia, in 2018. By the time the club was chartered in 2019, she had turned 21. Her elder sister Chelsea was 22 and Charter Treasurer, and her younger sister Camryn was 19 and Charter Secretary. I don't know if it's a first time for three sisters to hold those Charter positions

These girls are my daughters. I have been a member for 21.5 years and am a past IW Australia Secretary and am currently the IW Australia Media Administrator. My mother, Dorothy Morgan, has been a member of the Wyong IWC for approximately 45 years.

*Susan Chisholm*



## MANY SWISS HANDS-ON-PROJECTS

### Here are some impressive hands-on-projects from Inner Wheel clubs in Switzerland:

During the whole year the "Schweizer Tafel" (Swiss food bank) serves poor people a meal. Once a year, several different groups serve soup in many places in Switzerland to collect money and to make people aware of the poverty in their own country.

The members of **IWC Aarau** have been participating in this event for many years. It is for the club members a very good thing, helping poor people and also meeting a lot of people and talking to them.

The same day **IWC Olten-Niederamt** also served soup. The members even baked cookies and cakes to sell them as well. Only on that place they got CHF 6'200.- for the Swiss food bank.

Another project is being pursued by **IWC Ur-schweiz**. The members have been organising a lotto for multiple handicapped and disabled persons for many years. First the club looks for small giveaways and gifts and each of the participants gets one at the end of the day. There are always many smiling faces in the room and everybody is very happy to have spent a wonderful day together.



*Marion Rauber and Esther Gassler from IWC Olten-Niederamt serving soup.*

The **IWC Basel-Wettstein's** most important social project is to help at a flea market. It is the biggest market in the region of Basel. They donate clothes for the sale and the collected money goes to a home where handicapped people live. 15 members from the club were on stage during more than 80 hours to sell the goods!

## BANGLADESH CARES ABOUT YOUNG GIRLS HEALTH AND HYGIENE

In February **Inner Wheel Club of Eskaton**, Dhaka, District 328, Bangladesh, arranged a good discussion meeting on young girls' health and hygiene and also how to use and dispose of used sanitary napkins.

Girls are our future mothers. Healthy girl will be the healthy mother. Menstruation is a natural process. It is a God gifted procedure. Every girl should know how they will pass this special time. But in our society most

of the girls feel shy to talk about that to their parents. Ignorance leads to unhealthy conditions

We discussed what kind of under garment they should use. They should take bath every single day with soap or body wash.

Before and after using the toilet they should clean their hands. In the time of menstruation they must change their sanitary napkin and underwear at least twice a day. Their secret area must be dry and clean. During that period they must eat healthy food. We also discussed the disposal of used napkins. Our club distributed sanitary napkins to 100 students of Dhanmondi high school at Dhaka, reports Club Secretary, Morshada Nasir.





## ACTIVE FRENCH CLUB



Open your mind and open your heart. Example of a new IWC club created on July 1, 2018 with a 40-year-old President, the **IW Antibes Marina Inner Wheel Club**.

The 21 members are between 40 and 75 years old and communicate with each other using WhatsApp for written or telephone contacts and Zoom for video meetings. All are happy with these new links just like those on social networks. These new technologies were very effective during containment.

The club has made itself known

to the local media through joyful activities such as karaoke, white and themed evenings or even traditional ones such as Christmas markets. The club has also approached the local business for useful partnership during charity events.

Our actions concern women in difficulties, suffering from female cancer or Alzheimer, sick children, or helping schools to raise their awareness of the environment.

A new look, a new vision on friendship, volunteering and the international. Long live IW!

## TURKISH GIFT TO DISABLED

**Dalyan IWC**, Turkey, celebrated the World Disability Week in May. Via Turkey Spinal Cord Injury Association (Beykoz branch) the club presented a wheelchair to a disabled woman.



## USA SUPPORTING GUATEMALAN CHILDREN

Members of the **Inner Wheel Club of Fort Myers, Florida, USA**, recently teamed up with the GRACE Project to make fertility bracelets and reusable menstrual kits for Guatemalan teens and women in Guatemala and here in Lee County, Florida.

Genelle Grant, Ed.D, is the Director and founder of the GRACE Project. After speaking at a District 696 Inner Wheel meeting last year about the organization, Inner Wheel members began making fertility bracelets and menstrual kits. In the last few months, they have made several thousand bracelets, using more than 60,000 beads – and have sewn and donated several hundred reusable menstrual kits.

Laurel McFarland from IWC of Sacramento in California donated some books she had written which were given to Guatemalan children.

After speaking at a District 696 luncheon, other clubs are now also making bracelets. Dr. Grant informed us that some of our reusable menstrual pads were also sent to the

Bahamas after this summer's hurricane where they were so needed. It is an ongoing project with no end in sight!



*Members make bracelets that help women track their time of monthly fertility*

# Karin Rivollet, our UN representative in Geneva

## FOR THE RIGHT OF THE CHILD



**International Inner Wheel, as a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) has the possibility to send observation representatives to the United Nations branches involved in social and economic matters (ECOSOC), especially those active in the wellbeing of women and children.**

**I have been the International Inner Wheel's UN Representative in Geneva since 2017. For each of the three UN annual sessions (January, May and September), I attend the deliberations of the Council of the Right of the Child (CRC), one of UN's branches, which is based in Geneva.**

My UN Rep colleagues in New York and Vienna follow other ECOSOC conferences and send their reports to our IIW Vice President, as I do.

My mission is quite interesting and brings me to hear the reports of state delegations from members of the large UN family from the five continents.

### All states must report

Each state is reviewed on a periodical basis, every 4 to 5 years by the appointed members of the CRC. The state delegation files a report following a predefined pattern before the meeting and I can download it from the UN website before attending the session.

Though the CRC has no means to enforce its recommendations, the state parties mostly try to follow them as they aim at contributing to the wellbeing of children and their parents in their home countries. Before each conference I concentrate on gathering from various sources,



*Karin Rivollet and IIVVP Bina Vyas.*

as much information as possible on the reviewed state, in order to be aware of diplomatic phrasing when delicate topics are being discussed. Underage marriages, sexual mutilations, girl's school dropouts and early pregnancies are, together with domestic violence, sensitive subjects.

### Our presence is important

Our position as NGO observers does not allow questions and interventions of any sort. We sit silently, listen, take notes and write reports. These are sent to our VP, who shares them with the Executive Board where they are discussed. The Rep's reports are then posted on the IIW website and become available to the public. I am convinced that our voice is heard and matters.

Although we are not allowed questions, our following the debates in the public section of the UN conference halls gives us, together with all other NGOs, a weight that is noted.

### Fruitful visit by Bina Vyas

In January this year our VP Bina Vyas flew from India to Geneva to acquaint herself with the work being done at the UN seat in Geneva. Together we attended the periodical review of Rwanda and the State of Palestine and pondered on how the weight of thousands of Inner Wheel members could be put to use.

### Attending many meetings

During the September 2019 UN CRC session, I attended the periodical review of Mozambique, Bosnia Herzegovina, Portugal and Australia. In January 2020 sessions on Costa Rica, Hungary, Rwanda, the State of Palestine and Austria took place. The May session was canceled due to the Covid Pandemic.

### Read the reports on the Web

Short reports on all these sessions are to be found on the UN page of our website. Unfortunately all reports have to be very short : no more than 20 lines are expected to report on two to three days of debates for each reviewed country and, more often than not, sad human tragedies.

During her stay in Geneva Bina also met members of the Geneva IW Club. I trust she flew home with fond memories of our cold swiss winter!

*Karin Rivollet,*

*IIW UN Representative in Geneva.*



*IIVVP Bina and Karin in front of the Swiss Parliament in Bern.*

# TWO NEW IIW REPRESENTATIVES IN THE UN

**Our voice is heard in several UN agencies. As an NGO (Non Governmental Organization) we are a consultative member of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the UNICEF Children's Fund. We have**

**six IW members representing us at meetings at the UN offices: Martine Gayon and Michelle Burgess in New York, Ceja Gregor-Hu, Ulrike Nemling and Véronique Bicu Michaille in Vienna and Karin Rivollet in Geneva.**

## Michelle Burgess in New York

My name is Michelle Burgess. I'm married to my husband James and we have two daughters, Aria and Sierra. I have been part of Inner Wheel Niles Fremont, California, for five years. My grandmother and mother both joined in 1981. Therefore, we have three generations currently in our club!

I have held the roles of Club Treasurer for two years, District Treasurer for two years, and I'm currently the IWUSA National Treasurer.

I have a background in Finance and HR, supporting early stage Silicon Valley start-ups.

My main duties will be to attend



meetings and conferences held at the UN Headquarters in New York and submit reports to both IIW and IWUSA after each meeting.

*Michelle Burgess*



*Michelle will attend meetings at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.*

## Véronique Bicu Michaille in Vienna

My name is Véronique Bicu Michaille. I'm French, married and have two daughters. I grew up 11 years in Gabon, Africa. I studied International Business and I am specialised on Administration Management/ Human Resources/ Expats Relocation and Event Organisation. I worked and lived in Germany, Romania and Vienna for several years and I speak five languages. Since September 2016, I'm living in Vienna with my family and enjoy it very much.

Since 2018, I'm an Inner Wheel member at IWC Wien Nordost, Treasurer for 2019-2020 and Vice President elected for 2020-2021.

During my life, I was always concerned about Human Rights matters especially for women, children and older people. Now I have the opportunity to work on these issues within two committees (Ageing and

Support of Women). My main duties will be to regularly collect relevant information, share it with the respective committee members, attend the meetings and conferences and report to my club as well as to the IIWC.

*Véronique Bicu Michaille*



*Véronique is going to represent IIW at the United Nations Office (UNO) in Vienna.*

# New deserved recipients of the Margarete Golding Award

## BETTY SELFE IN ENGLAND



District 12, GB&I, has been successful in obtaining a Margarete Golding Award for one of our Members, **Mrs. Betty Selfe**.

Betty has a distinguished career with Inner Wheel and she was presented with a long-service (65 years) certificate at the District Rally in 2019. The Margarete Golding Award does not take into account her "career" with Inner Wheel. The Citation therefore reads "In recognition of thirty-seven years dedicated service to the Criminal Justice System as a Justice of the Peace and fourteen years providing support,

fairness and compassion as a prison visitor."

The District Executive Committee had planned to make the presentation to Betty at the March District Meeting which as we know had to be cancelled as a result of the coronavirus situation.

District Chairman Liz Lister had advised Betty on the phone of the award but went to see at her home during that week (pre Lockdown) to present the award. Betty was "over the moon" and said that she never would have expected such an honour.

## MAITRE NEŞECAN HÜRTÜRK IN TURKEY



In the early 90's, homeless children called "street children" were everywhere to be seen in Izmir, sitting or sleeping. A center for the Rehabilitation of Street Children was opened in 1996, and to present, thanks to the voluntary efforts and dedicated, continuous work and leadership of Maitre Hürtürk, the center advises families and children in a wide variety of matters.

Many of her "street children" completed their education and they are now successful professionals in teaching, engineering, music, photography, public offices, health work and others. Maitre Neşecan Hürtürk has not only volunteered to solve the problem of "street children" in our city, but – with her selfless, courageous and dedicated services - she has contributed to the transformation of lives of at least two generations of children and youths to get away from the "streets", potential crime and drug addiction and to go on to become educated and productive citizens with open futures.

The Association called "The Association for the Protection of Street Children: Children are Our Future", was founded in 1994 by some female volunteers, led by an idealist lawyer, **Maitre Neşecan Hürtürk**, Turkey. The story of this Association is really the story of a life, life story of Maitre Neşecan Hürtürk, dedicated to saving "street children" from the streets and her efforts in transforming their lives into well-educated and productive citizens of Izmir and the Aegean Region.

*It was decided at the eleventh convention in May 2000, in Stockholm (Sweden) that an award be created in the name of Margarete Golding for highly commendable personal service in the community.*

*The award has been available since september 2001 and over 200 people have now received a Margarete Golding Award (MGA).*

### CRITERIA

*The successful Margarete Golding Award recipients have generally been involved with a variety of charities or organisations for a very long time, often involving a great deal of commitment on a very regular basis. This work must be completely unconnected with Inner Wheel membership, Inner Wheel or Rotary fundraising activities. Alternatively or in addition they must have made great personal sacrifices for the benefit of others. The awards are given to Inner Wheel members as well as members of the general public. The criteria for success are set high so that the award remains a truly significant marker of an individual's commitment to others.*



## Thoughts from two of our Board Directors

### KAREN WINTERS IN AUSTRALIA

I have been a member since 2003 when I joined a newly formed Club in Brisbane, Australia. I have held many Club, District and National positions and this year 2019-2020 IIW Board Director. Membership has offered me many opportunities particularly with personal growth, confidence, leadership and interacting with women not only from my own country but throughout the world.

This year with a worldwide pandemic COVID 19 the strength of Inner Wheel membership has been shown in the diversity of their endeavours to help their communities. Members have stood together and are showing the world what we are about and how we as an organisation are making a difference.



Margarette Golding would indeed be proud to see that the needs of the community that she and those early members wanted to serve are still being served during times of great need. Life has changed but in reality the community needs of almost 100 years ago is still relevant today. This year we have witnessed the adaptability of our

members, including Executive and Board Directors, using Zoom catch-ups and meetings as a way to stay connected, saving time and funds.

I hope as we count down towards our 100 years as an organisation that our membership will continue to grow and remain vital and vibrant into the future. Life has shown that people are time poor and the members of our future are women who want to give back to their communities not just through friendship but by supporting hands-on meaningful projects; meetings as we know them will evolve and that is okay.

The future for Inner Wheel is forever changing and I look forward to serving where I can and watching those changes unfold.

*Karen Winters, Australia  
Board Director 2019-2020*

### PATRICIA M HILTON IN INDIA

#### Footsteps in service

My Inner Wheel commitment to service began in 2001 as member of IWC of Dehradun, India. Over the years, I have had the greatest honour and privilege of working with some of the most incredible, strong and passionate women that have made a difference by touching the lives of each other and the people in the communities we serve.

In this incredible journey, I have served in different capacities at the club, district and national level, and was privileged to be the 42nd President of the Association of Inner Wheel Clubs of India and National Representative in 2017-2018. My year of leadership focused on increasing membership and forming new clubs, addressing illiteracy, protecting and preserving our en-

vironment, establishing project banks and launching the signature project *Subala – beauty and strength that aimed to empower and transform the lives of women and girls from marginalized and disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds.*

As an IIW BD for the year 2019-2020 I have had the opportunity of meeting and interacting closely with the International Inner Wheel leadership regularly to deliberate and discuss matters concerning the welfare of our organization. I was assigned to take care of non – districted clubs in Japan, Malawi, and Malta and have enjoyed working and interacting with them to strengthen our organization in those countries.

In more recent times, the world has been grappling with the effects of the COVID19 pandemic.

I am immensely proud of how we have adapted to change, stayed positive, and continued to work towards our common goals in these otherwise uncertain and challenging times.

Until our world returns to “normal” and we meet again, stay strong, stay safe, and take care of yourselves and your loved ones.



*Patricia M Hilton  
IIW Board Director 2019/2020*

# DUTCH CHOCOLATE KISSES AND MUSIC

The ladies of **Inner Wheel Schoonhoven** in the Netherlands, are busy pampering the elderly and lonely. After an earlier successful action when the President of the Board of IW Schoonhoven put chocolate

kisses in the letterbox of the elderly, the club members hired an barrel organ, the "Schoonhovenaar", and played cheerful music for the people living in the retirement complex De Zevender.



The older residents have long been confined to their homes because of the corona crises. Now they, and all the neighbors to Oranjeplaats in Schoonhoven, could listen to entertaining music from behind windows and from balconies and in the square. Much appreciated.

# OUR FRIENDSHIP KEEPS US TOGETHER



*Distance does not matter that much if the roots of friendship are strong enough!*

## Inner Wheel Friendship today

This IW year will always be remembered as a very special one. Each country has taken various measures to stop the spread of the CoVid-19 virus. In Switzerland, it was recommended that everyone should stay at home. Only going out to the grocery store, visiting the doctor or going to work, if home working

was not possible, was allowed. Schools, restaurants and shops selling non-essential goods remained closed.

The borders with neighboring countries were closing. The mountain railways remained closed. Everything was quiet. No gathering of more than five people was allowed and the social distancing had to be 2 meters. The loneliness of many of our members was obvious in the club and so the contact at least by phone was so important.

## No one was left alone

What fascinated me was how the clubs found and organized themselves anew during the last months. How many of us learned to conduct video chats by phone or computer? And so we stayed in touch despite everything. We kept in touch with our single and older members. No one was left alone. We even get closer together as we suddenly have time to chat, to listen

to each other, to tell about us. I have been asked several times, if an organization like Inner Wheel has any place in today's vibrant and ever changing world. I always answered this question with a clear YES. And today that YES is becoming even stronger as Inner Wheel friendship is what keeps us together.

## A big thank you to all the clubs

Many planned events had to be cancelled. No Mother's Day stands, no visits from the Friendship Clubs abroad, no trips and excursions, no meetings. And yet, Inner Wheel friendship keeps us together. The joy of seeing each other again soon is great. Perhaps we will be allowed to hug our dear friends again soon.

Let us stay positive and be grateful to be a member of Inner Wheel.

*Catherine Ineichen-Fluer,  
NR Switzerland 2019-2020*

# MOST WELCOME TO INNER WHEEL CONVENTION 2021 IN JAIPUR, INDIA

## Warm Greetings!

I would like to extend a warm invitation to our extended Inner Wheel family all over the world to the 18th International Inner Wheel Convention in Jaipur, India from 3rd to 6th March, 2021.

An age-old tradition in India that we all stand by is that guests should always be treated as you would God himself. And I can assure you that we plan to leave no stone un-turned in making sure that you remember our hospitality for many years to come.

A hugely diverse country, India's rich heritage and culture remain unparalleled. The South, North, East and West have their own distinct cultures and almost every state has carved out its own cultural niche.



The Convention itself is being organised in the state of the art Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Rajasthan, the land of royalty is a glittering jewel set in the golden sands of a barren desert landscape. The light that reflects off the golden sands engulfs a land renowned for its vibrant colours, people in bright clothes and beautiful jewellery, living in cities dotted and dominated by towering forts and palaces that rise from the sands like mirage.

Known as the Pink City because

of the colour of the stone used exclusively in the walled city, Jaipur shops sell embroidered leather shoes, blue pottery, tie and dye scarves and other exotic wares. And while you are in Rajasthan take time to visit other historic cities, too.

The famous Taj Mahal in Agra and India's capital city New Delhi are well worth a visit. These are only a few places close to the Convention City but if you have a lot of time at your hands then your trip to India can be customized depending upon what your heart desires. Pre and Post Convention tours have been planned for all of you and Convention Secretariat will be eager to help you to make your tours a life time experience.

International Inner Wheel Convention, held once in three years, offers a unique opportunity to members to meet and greet friends from all over besides deliberating on important Inner Wheel issues. I do hope you will plan to participate in these discussions for the way forward for our Organization.



Members of Local Convention Committee feel privileged to be part of the administrative machinery of an Organization that has touched the lives of so many people all over the world and extend a warm invitation to all of you.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require assistance in organizing your trip.

*Renu Baljee  
Coordinator  
International Inner Wheel  
18th Convention Jaipur 2021*

## CORONA NEWS

The World is facing an unprecedented challenge with our communities being impacted by COVID-19 pandemic.

Our hearts go out to all those affected by the outbreak. Please note that the health and safety of our members is our utmost priority.

We would like to assure you that all necessary precautions and social distancing norms will be followed during the Convention.

We are determined to make the Convention a grand success!

Looking forward to welcoming you to the enchanting city of Jaipur.

*Secretariat  
International Inner Wheel  
18th Convention Jaipur 2021*

# SIGHTBOX OPEN EYES WORLDWIDE

Angela Williams, **IWC North Wirral**, D 18, GB&I, Past District Chairman 2014-2015, is the Ambassador of the Sightbox Trust and has just spent several months in Gambia for this project.

Sightbox Trust is a charity set up two years ago within District 18. The charity works with visually impaired and blind children teaching education through the tools in a sports box. The box contains balls with bells in, running tethers, parachute canopy, blind folds, talking watch, talking pedometer, and Boccia with a grid. To build confidence and in-



*A pair of special made glasses presented to Momadhu.*

dependence with the children is allowing them to be included in society rather than segregated.

The whole idea started from a school for visually impaired in Liverpool, England, and Angela Williams has taken it on board to share these ideas around the world. She has already taken boxes to Gambia and Nepal and is now working to get them into India. In the two years the charity has been running 16 boxes have been sent out around the world.

## STAY HOME - STAY SAFE - SAVE LIVES

**IW Belgium-Luxembourg:** In our country we have a National Council, three Districts and 77 clubs. Each District and all the clubs are making tremendous efforts to help and support organisations in the fight against Covid-19. In the spirit of TOGETHER WE CAN, the National Council also wants to contribute.

Therefore they took an amount out of their reserves to make a donation to the Red Cross.

We gave the same amount to the North part (Dutch speaking)

and to the South part (French speaking) of the country because they work independently.

We support: SFS, an essential link in the treatment of patients with COVID-19.

The Blood Service has been in contact for several weeks with the country's major hospitals to consider a partnership to develop a treatment against COVID-19, a treatment aimed at improving the health of severely affected patients by Covid-19. The primary role of the



Red Cross in this treatment is to collect plasma from patients cured and immunized against COVID-19. Their second role is to perform laboratory analysis to detect antibodies.

## IMPORTANT DONATIONS TO HOSPITALS

The **Inner Weel Clubs in District 224** – Romania and Republic of Moldova - are constant and traditional sponsors of the regional medical system. During the coronavirus pandemic, the clubs of our district are near the frontliners from the county hospitals. **IWC Giurgiu** and **IWC Bacau** directed their funds to fighting the Covid-19 infection.

Giurgiu donated 7.500 euro for equipment for helping the medical activity of Infectious Disease Section of the Giurgiu County Hospital, e.g. protective equipment for healthcare professionals, a monitor for vital functions, an ECG and an air filtration and sterilizations system.



IWC Bacau (photo) donated 5.000 euro for medical equipment to Bacau County Hospital. The equipment is needed by the doctors working in the Intensive Care Unit in the context of the coronavirus pandemic.

Read  
The IIW  
Printed Annual  
Magazine 2020

Available in August