



ESTABLISHED 1992

Other Clubs Established
• Dallas, Texas
• Douala, Cameroon

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND
NON-PROFIT NON-POLITICAL NON-SECTARIAN

The aim of the club is to foster friendship and understanding among people of different nations and to support charities that assist women and children.

NEWSLETTER

Volume 17 / Number 2 / February 23, 2008

An affiliated member of Welcome Clubs International, Inc.

Founded in 1992 by Anna Kristina Sawtelle

Message from the President

Last night was a first for me, and for many others in Maine and across the country. I participated in a caucus. I've never missed voting in an election or state wide primary, but a caucus was a very different experience. It was exhilarating to stand up and be counted for my favorite candidate and to be part of 555 citizens who came out to be heard.

I've been upset by politics this year. The campaign started much too early; Senators should have been in Washington doing their jobs instead of out looking for votes. Even worse is the money being spent. The millions could probably provide health care for everyone in the United States. However, it was hard not to get caught up in the excitement as the race grew tighter. For once the 24 delegates from Maine matter, evidenced by appearances of the candidates on Saturday.

The most encouraging part is the large turn out all over the country for both Democratic and Republican primaries and caucuses. The number of citizens voting in recent years has been embarrassingly small, especially compared to that in emerging democracies. It's wonderful to see excitement instead of apathy.

The most promising part of the process is the growing number of young people voting and working in campaigns. This should not really be surprising. Every day we read about young people looking for ways to serve and to solve problems, from "greening up" their communities to helping those in need to immersing themselves in different cultures.

With all of the problems facing our country and the world, it's wonderful to see that our future leaders offer us hope for solutions.

Today's Program The Secoast Singers

In the Spring of 2007, Anna Kristina Sawtelle encouraged Ellen Farber to chair the musical portion of the planned Jubilee Dinner. Write a cavalcade, she said, of songs and narrative. Ellen has written and directed songs throughout her life and getting involved in this important project allowed her to get back on track after a difficult year.

A chorus was born: The Seacoast Ladies Who Can't Say No. The name refers to the fund raising efforts of the club...but the chorus really is about fun raising. Throughout the summer, the group rehearsed every week and then rehearsed some more. Ellen Farber was the musical director and the chorus consisted of Regina Godfrey, Lee Regan Jacks, Marie Kelleher, Charline Ludgate, Ellen O'Toole and Brenda Sullivan. Their debut at the Jubilee dinner in September was a huge success and the group decided to continue on though some dropped out (ahem...went South for the winter) and others joined in the fun.

The new and even better chorus now includes: Pat Dateo, Barbro Bohl and Sylvia Rubin. There may be others by show time today! New songs and choreography have been added. Costumes too, if you please! The repertoire includes very special IWCNE versions of familiar Broadway show tunes that highlight the international character of the club.

Thanks to Ellen, laughing and singing have become the foundation of this popular group that encourages new members (who laugh) and will entertain us all today.

**2008 Membership Dues
are now OVERDUE!**

Please send your check for \$25 payable to IWCNE to
IWCNE
P.O. Box 351
Cape Neddick, ME 03902

Executive Board of Directors 2008

President: Charline Ludgate – USA
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Vice President: Ellen O'Toole – USA/Ireland/Scotland
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Membership: Karen Hull – Norway/Sweden
(207) 985-7433 nordic44@roadrunner.com
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(207) 282-1054 mtt2006@verizon.net
Publicity: Ellen Sue Farber - USA
207-646-8666 musicalellen@aol.com
Historian: Rachel Gowen – England
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Newsletter: Dorothy Healy - USA
(207) 363-4167 Dorothy.Healy@gmail.com
WCI Liaison: Kristine Slater – Norway/USA
(603) 427-0322 jorun@comcast.net
IWCNE Founder: Anna Kristina Sawtelle – Sweden
(207) 361-1508 aksawtelle@aol.com

The date of the next board meeting to be held at the Conference Room at Sentry Hill is March 10 at 9:30am.

Deadline for the March 2008 Newsletter is Monday, March 10, 2008.

The Newsletter will be mailed the week following the Saturday luncheon. If you cannot attend and do not receive your newsletter in the mail, please leave a message for Dorothy Healy at 207-363-4167. Items submitted are subject to editing, due to space.

**March 29th Luncheon Speaker
Art Historian Deborah M. Child**

Member Claire Quintal suggested that we'd all enjoy hearing and learning from Deborah M. Child of Portsmouth NH at our March Luncheon at Jonathan's in Ogunquit.

Deborah M. Child is an independent art historian and museum consultant based in Portsmouth, NH. She is a graduate of The Master of Arts program at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. For the last five years she has been researching Piscataqua painting of the Federal period, with special interest in genealogy and provenance searches. Since 2005, she has been project curator for the John Samuel Blunt Catalogue Raisonne Project at The Portsmouth Athenaeum.

Ms Child is well known in the area. She's worked with Strawberry Banke, The Portsmouth Historical Society, Rye Historical Society and Warner House Association and will speak to us about her latest work on the John Samuel Blunt catalog and his connection to Federalist Portsmouth. Deb Child will be available to answer questions about Blunt's work in Portsmouth and her recently published book.

Membership Report

New Email Address

Freyda Winich Zieff is zieffn@verizon.net

Happy Birthday to Our Members:

February 7	Kristine Slater
February 9	Polly Coletti
February 12	Jacque Connerty
February 16	Johanna Mangion
(Apologies from editor for forgetting Birthdays last month)	
March 9	Anna Kristina Sawtelle
March 10	Gwen Knowlton
March 22	Marilyn Herbert
	Marjorie Weiner
March 29	Carol Gronquist



We Want to Know

Please call us if you know of one of our members who is going through a difficult time - illness, loss of a loved one, or any crisis, so we can offer our support.

Carrie Groppe (207-363-1406)
Charline Ludgate (207-439-8884)
Muriel Poulin (207-490-1808)
Betty Williams (207-646-5772)

IWCNE Activities

Please note: We are asking that members give a call to the hostess or facilitator when an event is in someone's home, by no later than the day before for **all** scheduled activities, including **Book Club and Foreign Film Discussion** evenings, so that appropriate arrangements may be made. Also in case of poor driving conditions, we are then able to telephone those expected if it seems best to cancel an event.

Foreign Film Discussion Evening



(1st Monday of the month)

(Acting Coordinator for February: Barb Poulin)

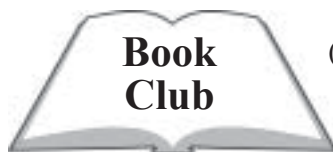
Place: The Foreign Film Discussion Group will meet at the Yorkshire Commons Community Room in York.

Date: Monday, March 3

Time: 6pm

Film: *Water*

Light refreshments will be served. Please call Barb Poulin for at 207-363-8731, email: barbpoulin@aol.com for film choices and/or if you plan to attend.



Book Club

(1st Tuesday after club luncheon)
Around the World with Women

Coordinators: Julie Stathoplos and Barb Poulin

Place: Home of Ellen Farber 207-646-8666

Date: Tuesday, February 26

Time: 7:00pm

Book: *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

Please call hostess if you plan to attend.

Note: For March only, the Book Group will meet on the Tuesday BEFORE the Club luncheon, not the one after it.

Place: Home of Pat Dateo 207-251-4402

Date: Tuesday, March 25

Time: 7:00pm

Book: *Sarah: Women of Genesis* by Orson Scott Card

Please call hostess if you plan to attend.

Seacoast Singers



Sing For your Supper with the

Seacoast Ladies Who Can't Say No meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at a restaurant for those who wish to partake. Please call Ellen Farber at 207-646-8666 to tell her that you are coming.

Francophone Gourmet Circle

Place: Janine Kolb, 59 Lewis Rd., Kittery

Date: March 18th at noon

Tel: 207-439-5705

Note: Téléphonez moi pas plus tard que Samedi 15 Mars pour savoir si vous viendrez et ce que vous aimeriez apporter. En attendant, il va se jouer au Music Hall, un excellent film français les 29 Février et 1er Mars. A ne pas manquer. Janine



Kaffee und Kuchen



(Fourth Friday of the month)

Sprechen Sie Deutsch? If you speak German and would like to have the opportunity to hear or speak German, over a cup of coffee and a piece of cake, please join us.

Place: Home of Lucille Gentsch 207-967-5623

Date: Friday, February 28th, at 3 p.m.

SAVE THE DATES

- April 17th Spring Pot Luck
- April 26th Luncheon
- May 24-29th WCI Conference
in San Diego, CA
- June 1st Fashion Show

Annual Meeting and Grant Presentations

January 26th Luncheon at Coastal House was the Annual Meeting of IWCNE. The new Board of Directors was introduced to the group by President Charline Ludgate (photo below). Bouquets of roses were presented to three retiring Board members: Barbara Poulin, Cynthia Raymond and Betty Williams.



Dorothy Healy, Chairman of the 2007 Fund Raising Committee had the honor and pleasure of awarding our grants for the 2007 season with Charline Ludgate presenting each check. There were two representatives from each charity present to receive their grant and tell us something about their organization.

The first speaker was Sue Henri-MacKenzie, Executive Coordinator of South Maine Parent Awareness (SMPA). Accompanying Sue was Mary Scamman, President of the Board of SMPA. Both women expressed gratitude for our gift of \$7,000. Although the organization has been in business for 27 years it is not well funded and they are not able to do some of the extra things, not supported by their regular funding, that might help parents cope with the difficulties of raising a child with a special needs. Sue has 3 children of her own with special needs and is well aware of how the support from her organization can help. Two of her children are currently attending college. Parents of children who are diagnosed with certain conditions may be completely unaware of what taking care of such a child entails. SMPA helps by accompanying the parents to conferences and meetings with professionals who will be of service to the child. Sometimes it's a matter of interpreting for the parent the unfamiliar terms used by the medical and legal professions.

The second speaker, Beth Stickney, Executive Director



of Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP) received \$3,500 for her organization. She was accompanied by Bree LaCasse the Development Coordinator of ILAP. Beth's office is in Portland, but there are satellite offices throughout Maine. She explained that our grant will go towards their program of helping women who are not U.S. citizens confront abusive

relationships. Women from many different countries get into abusive situations through marriage or promised marriages that never take place. They often have children as well. Even women who are U.S. citizens find it difficult to extract themselves from an abusive relationship. Imagine being in a foreign country with no familial support. ILAP helps by providing sources of temporary shelter, assistance with work permits, and green cards for low income immigrant women who are abused by a spouse or another who is supposed to be their provider but becomes their abuser.

The third speaker, Kristen Forselius is the Executive Director of Arts in Reach (AIR) in Dover, NH who received \$3,500. She was accompanied by Betsy Allen, a Vista Volunteer at AIR this year. The IWCNE has given this group a previous award. The philosophy of AIR is that a young middle school or high school girl who has been a victim of some trauma or has encountered great difficulties in her young life can recover through involvement in the arts. The organization hires artists in various fields to provide the girls with lessons in the particular art that is of interest to them. They are referred to the program through other professionals who feel that they might benefit from this kind of help. The arts might involve dance, paint, photography, writing, or singing. AIR is currently sponsoring a program on Broadway musicals that will feature a woman who has been a professional in the theater. AIR also sponsors museum and theater trips for the girls. Kristen was obviously very proud of the successes enjoyed by this organization in turning around the life of a young girl in trouble.



Dorothy then asked the Fundraising Committee in 2007 to stand and receive the appreciation of the group.

Pot Luck Dinners

In Retrospect...

On Friday evening, February 8th, Pat and Bob Dateo had a delightful pot luck dinner for 10 people. This was a snow-date for Thursday, February 7th. Pot Roast, perfect for a cold winter night, was the main course cooked by several members. Everyone worked very hard and contributed starters, vegetables and deserts for another successful pot-luck supper. There were a few no shows because of the change of date and bad weather but members who could not come contributed both food and \$\$\$\$. Thanks to all for following the rules. We thank our gracious hosts for a wonderful evening and Betty Williams for the coordination.

Tastefully submitted,
Ellen Farber

For Future...

- Annual St. Patrick's Day Party on March 16th at 6 p.m. Lucille Gentsch hosts this annual dinner in Kennebunkport. Irish Corned Beef dinner is served with cabbage, potatoes and Irish Soda Bread to go with the traditional Irish music (with a Maine twist!) This is a fun evening of good music, good food and good friends – and an Irish Coffee! Sign up early by calling Betty Williams 207-646-5772 because space is limited.
- Spring Fling! (We can only hope!) Barb Poulin is planning a heart healthy Pot Luck for April 17th at 6 pm in York. Dinner will feature seafood and poultry specialties plus lots of fresh vegetables and salads to keep us healthy as we come out of winter hibernation. Think healthy and come join in by calling Betty Williams 207-646-5772 and share your favorite healthy recipe with all of us.

Stefka: "Be at peace with each other, love and help one another."

Susan Heckaman's grandmother Stefanija Rozman, an immigrant to the United States from Slovenia in the 1950's died on January 11, 2008 in Cleveland, OH. Susan's Mother wrote this eulogy and Susan is sharing her grandmother with all of us through her Mother's words – sharing her life which was a unique one and her immigrant story that so many of us have in our own family histories. Thank you, Susan. All who read the story of this beautiful and wise woman will be richer for it.

When we think of "Mama" as she was known to all, we remember her huge heart and her wonderful smile. When her roommate died last year, she reminded us that people come and go and make room for the new generations. With her innocent warmth and sense of humor, she also said that she would "wake up dead" some morning and we laughed with her about that time in the future. We are here now to honor her great love, wisdom, patience, gratitude and gentleness. She was a kind soul who wanted nothing more than peace, but endured two world wars. The second of eight children, she was four when her father was shipped off to the Great War. By then, there were five children, and "Stefka" had to help her mother as she fell ill under great stress. Her father returned, and the family added three more mouths to feed. To help put food on the family table, Mama was loaned to neighbors to work their fields. You were never too young to work. She was a great student with dreams of becoming a teacher, but family needed her help at home. She became an informal teacher all of her life. She married at 19 and had four children when World War II came along. Her businessman husband, who held strong political opinions, was soon exiled. She was left alone in 1943 not just to care for the children, but for an aging mother-in-law and sister-in-law. The government soon took away the family's possessions and left Mama with a very small house and a few fields in which to grow food. That experience made her instill in all who would hear her, "Learn all that you can, what you have in your head, they can't take away from you." We lived in Cromelj, which had the area's only high school. Mama took in student-boarders in exchange for grain and potatoes, no matter the small house. As children we all helped her; chopping wood, mowing fields, picking dandelions in spring to sell to restaurants, grapes for wine in fall, gathering snails to sell for "escargot", and rinsing family laundry in the river behind our house. Running water didn't come to the house until 1953. All the while, Mama held her head high. Another of her favorite sayings was "Hold your head high; don't let them get you down." She had plenty of tragedy in her life - her brother was killed in World War II, and she took care of her daughter Anica dying of cancer at 47. These experiences didn't make her

bitter, just determined that no matter what life threw at her, she'd handle it. When she was finally able to join her husband in America after a thirteen year separation, Maria, as the youngest, was the only one allowed to join her mother by the Yugoslav government. The heartbreak of leaving the rest of the family in Slovenia was compounded by learning the day she arrived, that her marriage was in trouble as well. Not speaking English, she joined dozens of other immigrant women cleaning offices downtown on second shift. Others might see it as demeaning, but according to her bosses, she was "The Best". She took care of her granddaughter Susie by day, so Maria could finish high school. Together they shopped second-hand stores and sent dozens of boxes of clothes and coffee to the old country. When she married the second time, she moved across town into an integrated community. She embraced those neighbors as she had others all her life - from gypsies in Slovenia, to Hispanics and Appalachians in Ohio City; and till the end, her various roommates at the Slovene Home for the Aged. Wherever she was, she improved things. Her love of gardening had her growing 10-foot tomato plants in a shady yard in Lakewood. She taught fellow members of South Euclid Women's Club how to make strudel from scratch. She shared her soups, fried chicken, cookies and brownies with neighbors and family friends of multiple generations. After moving to South Euclid in 1981, she resumed her gardening, often starting her plants from seed in her sunroom, and joined Tri City Consortium on Aging. She was one of the founders of the Belokranjski Klub, a group of émigrés who came from her home region in Southeast Slovenia. Their annual fundraising dinner to honor St. Martin, the patron saint of winemakers, enabled members to explore their new homeland. She loved going on trips.

She loved her family more than anything else in life. If her children disappointed, and we all did, she was sad, but not mad. Her love was unconditional. Getting ready for major surgery about twelve years ago, she wrote these recently found instructions to her family: "Be at peace with each other, love and help one another." That is how she lived her life.

To all of you who touched her life, thank you.

WCI Corner

In the January Newsletter I reminded you of the San Diego Conference and gave you some details, one of which has been changed.

The registration fee for guest or spouse has been reduced from \$150.00 to \$75.00.

Those of you who are on line and have any questions can contact Vilma Boettcher, Conference Chair at vbboettcher@cox.net or Elizabeth Miller, Conference Treasurer at liesbethmiller@gmail.com. You can of course contact me by phone or e-mail, jorun@comcast.net or (603)427-0322.

Last month Lucille Gentsch wrote a notice regarding The International Women's Day which will be celebrated March 8th with a Film Festival at Wells High School from 10am to 4pm. The cost is \$19.00 which includes two full length films, "Yesterday" and "The Syrian Bride", lunch (a wrap, pasta salad and dessert). Lunch and a discussion will follow the first feature. The second feature starts at 1:30 and will be followed by tea ("a cup of friendship") and pastries.

For more details you can call Lucille at (207)967-5623 or you can log onto www.wocsd.org/adulted. To register, please call Wells Ogunquit Adult Education at (207)646-4565. The deadline is February 29th.

In Friendship,
Kristine Slater WCI Liaison

Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee is looking for worthy charities for 2008. If you know of a charity which might qualify for our next year's selections - charities which benefit women and children with no religious or political affiliations - please contact the Fundraising Chair, Lucille Gentsch at (207) 967-5623 or Lmgentsch@gwi.net.

"Feel the Beat"

Annual Fashion Show & Luncheon

Sunday June 1, 2008

at

The Meeting House in York Beach

Enjoy Music and Flavors of South America

Foreign Film Discussion

In Retrospect...

In early February six IWCNE members plus one spouse thoroughly enjoyed the 2006 Argentinian film *Cautiva*. Two of the group were about to travel to Argentina and found the film, set in Buenos Aires, particularly apropos.

A.O. Smith reviewed the film for the *New York Times*: "Captive" is a sober, angry attempt to grapple with the horrors of Argentina's recent history. It is a movie about the consequences of repression, both political and psychological..." The story is of a beautiful but perfectly ordinary teenager on her 15th birthday. Her seemingly middle class life is with a loving mother and a doting father retired from the police force. Christina attends a Catholic school and exhibits very typical teen age girl behavior in a suburban setting. As the story unfolds, she finds out she's not who she thought - she's 16 years old and her biological parents were architects whose strong political convictions led to incarceration and becoming two of the "disappeared" in the 1980s in Argentina. The film uses the all important identity of a teen age girl to illustrate the political identity of the country. And in a day, it's all changed - a changed birthdate, a family of strangers, a different school in another part of the city and more politically aware friends. Christina is not who she thinks she is nor was Argentina the country we thought it was.

For Future...

Coming up Monday, March 3 at 6 pm at Yorkshire Commons: a film from India, *Water*. (117 minutes in length). After losing her husband to illness, 8 year-old Chuyia (Sarala) is forced to live out the rest of her days in a temple for Hindu widows, communing with 14 other women and a cruel headmistress who agrees to take her in. But it's through the trials of another widow, a beautiful prostitute named Kalyani (Lisa Ray) who's being courted by a man from a higher caste (John Abraham), that Chuyia learns the true societal restrictions in this 2005 Oscar nominee.

Susan Heckaman
Financial Advisor - AAMS

Edward Jones

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



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IWCNE Luncheon Registration Form

International Women's Club of New England
March 29, 2008

NAME (S): _____

Jonathan's
92 Bourne Lane, Ogunquit, Maine 03907
207-646-4777

Deadline: March 21, 2008

R.S.V.P.: Please send your check for \$20.00 per person to
Micky Robinson 5 Meadowlark DR York, ME 03909 or call 207-363-8074
Pre-registration only. No refunds. Send someone else in your place.

MENU:

Entrée: Choose one

Lemon Baked Haddock

Chicken Picatta

Roast Loin of Pork

All entrees served with salad, starch and vegetable

Dessert

Coffee/Tea



**International Women's Club
of New England
Program for March 29th, 2008**

1 p.m. Program

Deborah M. Child
Portsmouth NH Art Historian

Directions to Jonathan's:
Route 1 North after Ogunquit Playhouse,
take right at Bourne Lane. Restaurant is on the left.

International Women's Club of New England
P.O. Box 351
Cape Neddick, Maine 03902



ESTABLISHED 1992

Women Around the World

*A film festival in celebration of International Women's Day
At Wells High School
200 Sanford Road, Wells*

Films, lunch, tea, facilitated discussions and meeting fascinating new people - a great way to spend a Saturday. We will view two films and enjoy facilitated discussions over lunch and tea. Co-sponsored by Wells-Ogunquit Adult Community Education and the International Women's Club of New England. Films to be shown are "Yesterday" (Africa) and "The Syrian Bride" (Middle East).

Saturday, March 8

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fee: \$19

(Fee includes two films, lunch and tea with pastries.)

Please call Wells-Ogunquit Adult Community Education to register—646-4565.

Registration deadline—February 29, 2008



IWCNE - March 2008 Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Foreign Film Yorkshire Commons 6 pm	4	5	6 Seacoast Singers Ellen Farber's 5:30 pm	7	8 International Women's Day "Women Around the World" 10:00 am - 4 pm
9	10 Board Meeting Sentry Hill, York 9:30 am Deadline for newsletter	11	12	13	14	15
16 St. Patrick's Day Party Lucille Gentsch's 6 pm	17	18 Francophone Gourmet Circle Janine Kolb's Noon	19	20	21 Deadline for Luncheon Signup / Payment	22
23 Easter	24	25 Book Club Pat Dateo's 7 pm	26	27	28 Kaffee und Kuchen Lucille Gentsch's 3 pm	29 Luncheon Jonathan's Ogunquit 11 am Registration
30	31					