



"giving back to the community"

## Hotspots



### Celebrating International Women's Day March 8

Since 2010, YWCA- Beirut has been celebrating the International Women's Day by organizing an event to honor a Lebanese woman for her outstanding achievements.

This year, we decided to celebrate that day by giving tribute to a group of women, the unknown soldiers,

working in the public sector, focusing on their achievements as Director General of Ministries. The theme of the event was

"تحية إلى المديرية في الفئة الأولى في الإدارة العامة". 20 women were honored on that special day. We also gave recognition to Ms. Ni'mat Kenaan who was the first appointed woman director of the Ministry of Social Affairs in 1993.

### Giving back to the community

Thanks to the support of our members and friends we were able to gather enough funds from screening the movie "Hidden Figures" on February 23rd to help out a shelter for the elderly and abandoned children with Down Syndrome.



### World YWCA Day

Every year on April 24, YWCA around the world celebrates World YWCA Day. This year, our theme was Rise Up: Support and Invest in Young Women's Rights. Building and advancing young women's leadership is crucial to the YWCA work. We believe that NOW more than ever, it's time for young women and girls to RISE UP!

## Women Empowerment

### Leadership Committee Book Club

Leadership lies at the heart of YWCA as a movement.

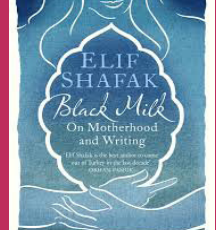
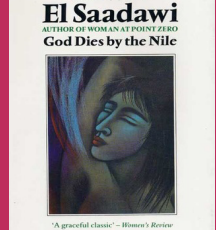
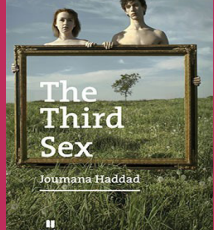
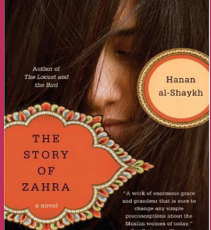
Several very interesting and interactive meetings took place during this period to

discuss the books below.

The discussions dealt with the most intricate thoughts, and objectives of the authors.

Quotations were cited, poems, paragraphs were highlighted and discussed. The moderator gave time and opportunity for

each member to express her thoughts and ideas over a cup of coffee, homemade biscuits and dried fruits.



### Cine Club

Another successful program relating to women empowerment, determination and perseverance.



## Membership Activities



### Membership Day

Monthly membership meetings are among many opportunities through which members enhance their knowledge, acquire new interests and develop friendships.

#### February 1:

Brazilian Cultural event in collaboration with the Brazilian Embassy.

#### April 5:

Meeting with George Saliby to discuss his documentary "Bonjour Beyrouth".

#### May 3:

Presentation on "Eat Healthy, Eat Organic" presented by Biomass.

#### June 7:

Natural Reserves, the National Treasures of Lebanon" presented by Marc Beyrouthy

#### Trips

##### February 8:

The YWCA-Beirut organized a cultural trip to the Beirut National Museum to see the newly added section. The participants also enjoyed

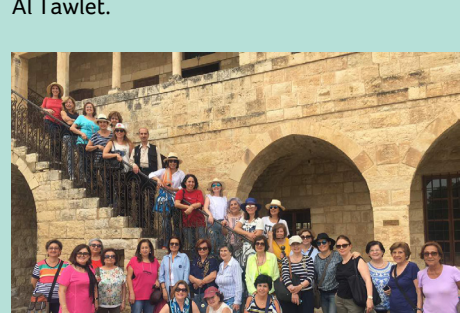


a delicious breakfast at Mom and I.

#### June 15:

Informative, Historical and entertaining trip to Baakline and Deir El Qamar

The participants set out of Beirut at 8:30 and initiated their journey with breakfast at Janna Sur Mer, Damour. Then visited the outstanding Baakline waterfalls, and enjoyed a guided tour of Hamadeh palace. After that, the group drove to Deir El Qamar and also had a guided tour of the old houses and streets. Finally, the day ended with a relaxing and delicious lunch at Al Tawlet.



## Hobbies and Skills



The program is still going on as strong as ever: Cooking Class, Oil painting, collage/decoupage.

New programs were also introduced for more variety and to fulfill every interest:

- Chocolate making and decorating session with the amazing Chef Pierre Abi Haylah. It was a fun workshop where 17 participants learned the history of chocolate, the making,



molding, decorating and not forgetting the final stage of tasting.

- Creative Art: Participants enjoyed creating a necklace from t-shirts and house clutterers with Hala Bassma

- Good posture and Flexibility with Samar Abou Issa.

- Mastering fundamentals of Baking and Pastry with Hilda Mardelli.

## Home Care Training

This program empowers women and girls by developing their capacity to insure economic sustainability.

Ten students graduated this year and most of them were readily employed by "Jalissa", a baby sitter agency.



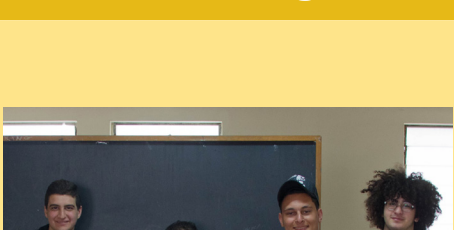
## Technical College

The Hospitality Management BT 3 students joined the HORECA in Biel. The students received certificates of participation. It was quite an enriching experience participating in such an empowering competition.

Graduation May 26: 22 students graduated from the following programs: Accounting and Computer, Pre-school Education and Hospitality Management. Guest speaker was the well-known Joumana Dammous Salameh, whose family organizes Horreca and publish Food and Taste magazine.



## Youth Training



Under the project "Join Us" (a European Voluntary Service Program) funded by EU, YWCA-Beirut hosted two very pleasant Polish girls for 6 months.

Being a volunteer for YWCA in Beirut was an incredible experience. I and Asia spent 3 months giving English activities to students of YWCA Technical College. During this time we learnt a lot about the country and its culture. The most interesting part of our classes, were discussions when students shared their opinions on the whole range of subjects. In YWCA we always felt appreciated and taken care of: I am especially grateful to Madame Samia Nazzal for her extraordinary support, Madame Tamara Chbeir for being such a wonderful teacher, and Madame Lisa Saad for all the conversations about Lebanon. It was a great adventure. Thank you all for this highly enriching experience.

Kind regards,  
Angelika

I came to Lebanon to volunteer at YWCA-Beirut, my task was to teach at the Technical College that belongs to the organization. I must say it was quite an experience! The students, although difficult at times, were eager to talk and share views and ideas with us. It was a very valuable experience and I am really grateful we could get to know the people that will one day shape Lebanon. We were greeted with kindness and accepted by the school's staff. The principal, Ms Samia Nazzal, always cared about our well-being and helped us and guided us on our way. We were given an opportunity to attend French classes with the wonderful Ms Tamara Chbeir who dedicated her own time to teach us. We could count on other teachers to support us, especially on Ms Lisa Saad, who offered her advice whether it was concerning teaching or life in Beirut. During our time there we met amazing people who helped us see what Lebanon really is.

Asia

## AUB NGO Fair

For the last two consecutive years, the YWCA-Beirut participated in the AUB NGO Fair. Our aim is to enhance networking between the NGOs' numerous roles and the active citizens and students who aim to partner in a collaborative atmosphere.

