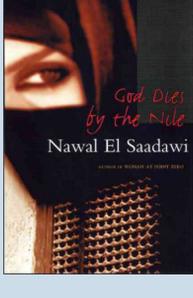




"A book is a dream that  
you hold  
in your hands."  
- Neil Gaiman

## Hotspots



Initiation of Be Inspired "Leadership Book Club" to indulge in the inner thoughts and dreams of the World's best known Arab Women Writers, tapping into Anbara Salam, Nawal Al Saadawi, Ahlam Mosteghanemi and others.

### "Leadership lies at the heart of YWCA as a movement."

First meeting took place on November 24 to discuss "Memoirs of an Early Arab Feminist". The meeting was very interactive and members are looking forward to their next meeting on January 24 to discuss "God Dies by the Nile" by Nawal El Saadawi.

## Women Empowerment

Board and Committee Members participated in a two day workshop on "Best Practices in Strategic Management", presented by Management Mix. The training was very interesting and the members felt that they have experienced strategic planning in a new perspective.



### Advocacy



Women in Parliament coalition is getting stronger and recognized as an efficient and professional lobbying group.

The YWCA- Beirut as coordinator of WIP implemented a project funded by the National Democratic Institute entitled "Parties nominate

women". The project aimed to lobby political parties for the inclusion of 30% gender quota in electoral law.

As well as conduct a study analysis on the process and results of the municipal elections.

And finally, share the information resulting



from the study and party meetings through a Press Conference.

Furthermore, after MP Saad Hariri was appointed to form the government, a campaign #صوتنا\_واصل\_عالمنا was launched on December 4 to pressure the Prime Minister to appoint 30% women ministers in the new cabinet. A paramotor flew over Junieh with the slogan #ثلاثين\_بالمية\_وزيرات and a gathering on the Corniche, Ain Mraisseh was organized to launch the campaign with around 50 women activists.

## Membership Activities



### Membership Day

**October 5:** The YWCA-Beirut launched the Membership activities for the year 2016-2017 with a welcoming brunch "Ya Halla!" at the YWCA premises. It was a very friendly get together after a three months summer vacation.

### November 2:

Dalal Farah Baird, presented an inspirational talk to the members. She is a self-taught artist and her artwork is known under the name Dalalism. Her extensive travels have exposed her to different belief systems and her curiosity in life matters helped her to think 'outside the box' and seek alternative



solutions to every day life challenges.

### December 14

The stormy weather did not prevent our members from attending the last membership meeting for the year 2016 to watch the Christmas classic "Miracle on 34th Street" and elect a new member to the Board: Ms. Rania Touma.

### Fundraising

#### Annual Christmas Lunch

On December 8, YWCA members and their friends joined together to celebrate Christmas at the Eau de Vie, Phoenicia. Proceeds from this lunch go to scholarships needed for the YWCA Technical College students.

## Hobbies and Skills

Still going on.



## Home Care Training



Still going strong! So far 67 students have graduated from this training.

## Youth Training & Exchange Program



YWCA-Beirut is an active partner in the SALTO-YOUTH Euro Med's network that provides training opportunities for youth, youth leaders and trainers.

### October 7-15, 2016

The project, "Across the lines -Youth exchange- Torino, Italy", aims to reflect on the different dimensions of international mobility as a tool to encourage active participation and citizenship, intercultural and interreligious dialogue in the field of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

"I am Inaam, I learned from this workshop how to love, respect and accept each other no matter if we are from another country or different religion! I learned things about their life, cultures and habits. I wish to repeat it again because it was an amazing experience that had never happened to me! Thank you YWCA-Beirut." ~ Inaam

"I am Issam, student at the YWCA-Beirut Technical College, this training was a very nice experience, I learned how to accept people as they are, belonging to another country, having different cultures, religion and values. I made new friends and it was my first travel to Italy! Turin is a beautiful city!" ~ Issam

"Hello! My name is Tarek, I am studying "Accounting" at YWCA-Beirut Technical College. The training in Turin was so important to me and full of fun! It was a life experience, knowing new cultures and meeting new people. It is very special to me because it was my first non-formal training. I don't know how to express my feelings, it was great and I wish I can repeat it this year too. Thank you YWCA-Beirut for this amazing Chance!" ~ Tarek

"First, I would like to thank the YWCA-Beirut for giving me the opportunity to attend several training sessions. As a result of joining this training course, I learnt many new things, all the topics were interesting and motivational. Overall, I rate this workshop as a professional and profitable one." ~ Tamara Chbeir

## Hostel

### A Home Away from Home

The YWCA Hostel is ideally located in Beirut Central District. It occupies three floors in the YWCA building. It is within walking distance from major universities and city attractions such as the Downtown area, "Corniche" seafront side, major hotels, restaurants, theaters and cinemas.

The hostel is fully booked all year round and can accommodate up to 90 working women and students.



## Y Cultural Center



The Center has been the setting for several cultural programs, exhibitions by embassies, as well as conferences and workshops:

During this period, it hosted several Associations:

1. Mother Goose Nursery, held their graduation ceremony

2. Rodina, the Association of Russian-Speaking Women in Lebanon, organized a two day Christmas Handmade Market.

3. Beyond Learning, organized a full day training for the Youth Educators of their Loompaland Summer Camp.

4. The Lebanese Scout Association, Beirut District, organized their celebration and honoring ceremony.