



International Women's Club of Kinshasa, DRC

Presidents' Note

November 2011

Dear all,

Ein Erfolg ! "a success" !

Was Mrs Sabine Blomeyer's reaction and comment after the **IWC Welcome Event** her husband, the Ambassador of Germany Dr Peter Blomeyer and herself hosted in the garden of their Residence on October 20th. Blessed by a dry weather and a colorful sunset on the Congo River, all our guests did enjoy this IWC evening with the Orchestre Symphonique de Kinshasa, the highlight of which were the 2 pieces played by young violonists conducted by Mrs Sabine Blomeyer herself. We would like to extend our warmest thanks to His Excellency and Sabine for hosting the event, to the conductor Mr Armand, to the OSK, to Sister Magda and Sister Marie-Gaston from VTA for touching our hearts, to our sponsor Bracongo, to the French Embassy and to our members who helped us make this event a prestigious one !

November should see the launching of the updated **IWC Newcomer's guidebook** with colorful adds from different sponsors. A tremendous input for a top quality guide which will spread among Kinshasa and help all newcomers.

November is also the month for **Presidential elections** in the DRC which should be held at the end of the month. IWC will continue its activities and outings : for obvious reasons we prefer to concentrate them during the first part of November.

Last but not least : a very warm welcome to all **new members** who joined last month !

Looking forward for you to

Join, Share & Belong

with kindest regards,

Marie-Agnès & Wyn,
IWC Presidents 2011/12

2011-2012 Executive Board

President:

Marie-Agnès Fontaine
Wyn Hawker

Past President:

Hanne Dokolo

Vice President:

Manuela De Boever,
Mona Ibrahim

Treasurer:

Hazar Azzam
Viviane Azemchap

Secretary:

Huguette Diakabana
Heather Posey (stand in)

Welfare:

Fatima Abdullahi
Pam Schmoll

Activities:

Dominique Ledoux
Niru Ishigooka

Hospitality:

Mumtaz Ladha
Paule Lemay

Fundraising:

Linda Vodak
Open position!!

Please contact the IWC at
iwckinshasa@gmail.com
if you are interested in one of
the vacancies stated above

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IWC MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

Date: Tuesday 8th November 2011

Time: 9:30 am

Place: U.S. Ambassador's Residence, Nzongotolo No.2, Gombe.

Speaker : Patricia Nzolantima will give a talk about her magazine "Working Lady"

Please remember to bring photo identification.



NEWCOMERS COFFEE MORNING

Date: Tuesday 15th November 2011

Time: 9:30am – 11am

Place: Institut Français, Halle de la Gombe.

Address : croisement av. de la Gombe et des forces armées

Newcomers and members are welcome to attend this lovely opportunity to catch up and talk. There is no charge for this event, but coffee and refreshments will be available for purchase.

There is

ACTIVITIES ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONTHLY OUTING :

At Mamadou's

Date : Wednesday 9th November 2011

Time : 9.30am

Meeting place : Grand Hotel lower parking place

Members : free **Non-members :** 5\$ club fee



We shall go and visit Mamadou's jewelry workshop. We shall see how they work the gold....and might be able to see some raw diamonds!

We will then complete our trip by visiting his downtown jewelry shop.

Date : mercredi 9 novembre 2011

Heure : 9h30

Place : parking inférieur du Grand Hôtel

Membres : gratuit **Non-membres :** 5\$ participation

Pour cette visite du mois de novembre nous nous rendrons dans l'atelier de fabrication de bijoux chez "Mamadou".

On nous expliquera la manière de travailler l'or..... et nous pourrons voir quelques diamants!!

Nous terminerons notre escapade en visitant la bijouterie au centre ville.



Dominique & Niru

Photographs courtesy of Marie-Agnès Fontaine

ACTIVITIES

Paper folding & cutting

Date : Monday 14th November

Place : At Hyemyung's. Exact address at November coffee morning.

Time : 10am – 12pm

Cost : 5\$. Priority to annual members. Maximum 7 people. Non-members : 5\$+5\$ club fee

Hyemyung is planning to teach us the following : paper folding : a "bird flying", a "frog jumping", a "boat", a "standing pencil case". Paper folding and cutting : a "plane star and a solid star", a "ladder", a "net" and more . Please note that dues will have to be paid at registration.

ACTIVITIES ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONTHLY CLUB LUNCH:

Date : Friday 18th November 2011

Time : 12.30

Place : Grand Hôtel

Members : 17\$ **Non-Members :** 17\$ + 5\$ club fee / drinks not included

Let's join and meet for this club lunch at the Grand Hôtel. Menu of the day : meat or fish with vegetables + dessert.

Please note that due to too many no-show reservations last month we now ask for payment on the registration day, that is at the coffee morning. If unable to come please inform us on iwckinshasa@gmail.com 2 days before the due date. After this date, the reservations will be considered final.

Date : vendredi 18 novembre 2011

Heure : 12h30

Lieu : Grand Hôtel

Membres : 17\$ **Non membres :** 17\$+5\$ participation / boissons non comprises

Pour ce déjeuner au Grand Hôtel nous aurons une formule d'un plat de viande ou de poisson accompagnés de légumes du jour et dessert au choix.

Certaines personnes inscrites au repas du mois dernier n'ayant pas annulé leur réservation à l'avance, nous vous signalons que dorénavant le règlement du repas sera demandé au moment de l'inscription, c'est à dire lors du café mensuel. En cas d'empêchement, prière de nous le signaler au plus tard 2 jours avant le repas à iwckinshas@gmail.com. Après cette date, toute inscription sera considérée comme définitive.

Dominique & Niru

IWC NEWCOMER'S GUIDE BOOK



The IWC Newcomer's Guide to Kinshasa is about to be launched !

The collecting of information, typing, formatting, proof-reading is now over.
The collecting of colored adds from different companies is also over.

This update version has been a tremendous input for what will be a top-quality guide : see this cover representing the world we all come from, our logo in the center with photos of Kinshasa and its surroundings.

We expect this new updated edition to be ready by our next coffee morning. If not orders can be placed. As stocks will be limited, please advice us of any bulk orders we would be happy to set aside for you.

WELFARE COMMITTEE

OCTOBER WELFARE OUTINGS

ACHAD



On Thursday, October 6th we visited ACHAD (Association of Handicapped Tailors) living facility which houses 12 previously homeless families (mostly single moms with kids). Tailors used own funds to built dormitory shell. IWC provided funding to install electricity, bathroom, interior walls and doors for each family's room. As ACHAD is now requesting funds to build a veranda (will help keep indoor facility cleaner) and to finish the interior (refinish and paint walls, cement floors), a group of ladies went and checked the project, had the opportunity to talk to Papa Jean and to the families on site and see what a tiny but very tidy place they achieved, having a separate shelter for each family. The IWC voted in favour of the project.



Photographs courtesy of Hyemyung Kang and Marie-Agnès Fontaine

FRERE MAURO

On Tuesday October 11th a group went to visit Frère Mauro (shelter for homeless children which received IWC support last year) who welcomed with his usual kindness in spite of a heavy schedule and took time to show us around this home for girls where they are now using the printer IWC provided last June. It enables them to print the photos of the ultrasound scans on young pregnant girls.

VTA



On Tuesday October 11th a group went to visit VTA (shelter for girls at-risk which is asking IWC for funds to refurbish the facility). We were welcomed by Sister Magda, Sister Marie-Gaston and all the girls present at this time of the day. After showing us how they teach reading and writing to the girls, some of them having arrived from "the street" hardly 6 weeks before and being already able to write simple words as "farine", then the whole group started singing us the "scout alphabet" in French. We then had a guided tour of the center, the sisters



proudly showing us the nit and tidy rooms, the new "mattresses with cover" they are asking IWC to sponsor, the girls preparing diner outside with their own-grown vegetables. What a joy to see how amazing the Sisters are. It has been then decided that the VTA center would be our beneficiaries of the profit of the Welcome event concert.

Photographs courtesy of Marie-Agnès Fontaine

SCHOOL

On Tuesday October 11th a group went to visit the school "Complexe Scolaire Terre Promise" which is asking IWC to purchase desks. Thanks to our two wonderful drivers for taking us there.... We were shown the different classrooms in which those students are being taught and the few desks they are currently using.



Photograph courtesy of Marie-Agnès Fontaine

WELFARE COMMITTEE MESSAGE

UPCOMING WELFARE OUTINGS

We are sorry to announce that due to security reasons, Welfare outings cannot be organized this month.

NEW PROJECTS

If you have a project that will leave a positive effect on the society and you are looking for funding, please contact Welfare Committee Chair, Fatima Abdullahi at faabdullahi@yahoo.com.

MONTHLY MEETING

The monthly welfare committee meeting will be held 9.30am Monday 14 November. Meeting location will be confirmed by email.

Fatima & Pam

SITES AND SIGHTINGS

OCTOBER MONTHLY CLUB LUNCH



Our October lunch at the Nautic-Club was quite a pleasant one! We were welcomed by Lucienne who treated us with a somptuous and delicious Congolese buffet we shared on the terrace with an incredible view over the Congo River. Once again, thank you Lucienne for welcoming the IWC.

Notre déjeuner mensuel au Nautic-club a été très agréable : accueillies par Lucienne qui nous a concocté un magnifique et délicieux buffet Congolais que nous avons partagé sur la terrasse avec une

*vue imprenable sur le fleuve.
Merci Lucienne de ton accueil.*



Photographs courtesy of Marie-Agnès Fontaine

OCTOBER MONTHLY CLUB OUTING



A stormy rain ? No problem. There we were, at M. Auguy's atelier among his wooden sculptures of Tintin's world. He made us discover his talents, those of his team and his creations of Tintin's characters. A warm thank you to all of you, "the artists" who work in this atelier. We will definitely come again !

Malgré une pluie battante nous avons découvert l'atelier de Monsieur Auguy en nous plongeant dans cet univers de Tintin.

Nous avons pu découvrir le travail du sculpteur au peintre.....pour arriver au résultat final de tous ces personnages.

Un grand merci à vous "les Artistes"..... sachez que nous reviendrons vous revoir!!

Photographs courtesy of Marie-Agnès Fontaine



SITES AND SIGHTINGS

OCTOBER WELCOME EVENT



Ein Erfolg ! A success !

Thank you Sabine for those wonderful words pronounced at the end of the evening, which filled us with an incredible joy of having achieved what started 6 months ago as a challenge between you and Marie-Agnès: your passionate work with the Orchestre Symphonique Kibanguiste – you are a professional violinist teaching as a volunteer at the OSK - and the idea of a possible partnership with IWC. But where? Where could we find a place large enough for 90 musicians and 40 chorists? The answer came spontaneously from your husband, Dr Peter Blomeyer, Ambassador of Germany who offered the gardens of his and your Residence. Herzlichen Dank, Herr Botschafter! What a better place could we find? Convenient location, astonishing views on the Congo River, beautiful lawns, huge congolese trees under which the OSK played extracts from Beethoven, Vivaldi, Händel and a special request from our vice-president Mona...Carmina Burana (Carl Orff). Thankyou for your professionalism, your joy, your smiles, thank you for making it possible.



Then, Sabine, what a wonderful and magic gift: you conducting your very young students for their first performance ever! We all sang along "frère Jacques" with all our heart. We wish them all the success they deserve.



SITES AND SIGHTINGS

Sister Magda and Sister Marie-Gaston from VTA kindly agreed to join and explain about their work within this shelter for young girls. You also touched our hearts. We know you like music : those of you who visited VTA last month will remember Sister Marie-Gaston singing the "alphabet scout" with the girls. Your shelter will not only benefit from profits of the event, but all the audience will remember you and hopefully will help you further more.



Thank you to Bracongo who sponsored the drinks, the waiters and the chairs for this large audience of nearly 300 people! You may have noticed all the publicity displayed in the garden and next to the stage, but did you notice the 2 huge IWC logos, also on either side of the stage? We ordered them from a painter IWC visited last April: Kayamba. Thank you, Maître! If you weren't there, check our banners at our next meetings.

Not only were our guests welcomed treated with 1000 wonderful vegetable staff of the German embassy under



with a free drink but they were also samosas, thanks to the work of the supervision from their chef.



German wines were also available at our wine table : Linderhof Spätburgunder, Müller-Thurgau, Liederhof Weissherbst (rosé wine) and the traditional Frankenwein.



The previous week's weather forecast was too wet to take the risk of not having any shelter. Thanks to the French Embassy, we managed to get the huge tent for the OSK. Thank you also to the generous anonymous person who kindly provided the other two tents for the audience.

Very warm and special thanks to Mona, one of our two vice-presidents, for your support and advice when preparing the event, to Paule, our hospitality chair in charge of the tickets, and to the IWC board.

Last but not least, thank you to all of you who either helped selling the entry tickets beforehand, or spontaneously gave a hand during this evening and helped us make this IWC welcome event such a prestigious one!

SITES AND SIGHTINGS



Thanks to all for making our motto come true:

Join, Share & Belong

Marie-Agnès & Wyn

Photos courtesy of Ines Quastenberg, Harry Tschauder and Marie-Agnès Fontaine

CLASSIFIED ADS

9^{ÉME} JUMPING INTERNATIONAL DE KINSHASA

Cercle Hippique de Kinshasa are organising their annual 9th international jumping competition on Friday 11 November until Sunday 13 November. This well known event is a great outing for not only those who love horses, but to also those wanting to experience another special event in the Kinshasa calendar.

IWC KINSHASA WEB SITE

Can't find your Newcomer's Guide to Kinshasa and needing to find a particular shop or an outing idea? Sign into the 'members' section of the IWC website at <http://www.iwckinshasa.org/> and search for it on the online version of the Guide. You can also find the members contact details in this section too.

To access the website, you need to be a paid member (annual) and to have received the web access information from the IWC email. If you have any queries, please send an email to iwckinshasa@gmail.com

In the 'public' pages of the website, you can view the names of our sponsors and donors from various fundraising events, previous newsletters, and IWC info and news as well as the current month's calendar.

WANTING TO ADVERTISE ITEMS FOR SALE ETC THROUGH THE IWC EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LISTS?

Members are more than welcome to send through 'items for sale' or other advertisements to be forwarded on through our distribution lists.

However, if your email includes any attachments, we request that you send them to us in pdf format (this format helps reduce the size of the file whilst also meaning that anyone can open regardless of what version of Microsoft windows they have) OR as a document saved as a 'doc' rather than a 'docx' type (some members are not able to open those attachments saved as a 'docx' document type). As many members do not have fast internet, we also request that you keep the size of any attached documents to less than 500kb if possible.

CATERING

SAMOSAS & SPRING ROLLS at a reasonable rate - as enjoyed at the 2010 Christmas Bazaar.
Contact: Papa Tiala , 099 870 4035

ASSISTANCE WITH SETTING UP, PACKING UP, WASHING DISHES, FOOD SERVICE, ETC

Joyce ably assisted the IWC during our monthly coffee mornings and 'pot luck lunches' at the SA Embassy Recreation Centre, as well during our 2010 Christmas Bazaar in a professional manner.
Contact: Joyce Katende, 089 725 8331

ABOUT US

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB OF KINSHASA (IWC) is a social and philanthropic membership based organization comprised of women and men from the local and international communities.

In addition to providing a social space for women and men from all over the world, the Club also provides assistance to local community projects. The IWC is considered an English-speaking Club, however the language needs of non-English speakers are accommodated when possible.

Regular monthly activities are our monthly coffee mornings which take place the 1st Tuesday of the month -where we usually have a speaker-, newcomers coffee mornings, our monthly lunch, cultural and welfare outings in Kinshasa. Different groups are created on voluntary basis and differ each year. These activities are free for members however open to non-members for a small fee. All are welcome!

The Club by-laws state the IWC's purpose as:

- To provide an opportunity for women and men of all nationalities to meet and to promote good relations within the community.*
- To conduct activities for the benefit and welfare of such persons or groups of persons of Congolese nationality as may be designated by the Club.*
- To provide information and understanding of our host country through speakers and trips and to help newcomers become integrated into the international community.*

Whilst Club members are mostly expatriates based in Kinshasa, it also includes members from local business, academic, artistic, social, government and international circles. It is a good networking and support space for people and can add value to any newcomer or resident of the city!

2011-2012 membership fees are as follows:

Members joining in September 2011 to February 2012: \$75

Members joining in March to June 2012: \$35

***These memberships** are valid from the date of payment until end of June 2012. Monthly memberships are available for **\$10** and entitle the member to activities until the next Coffee morning (primarily for use by temporary residents of Kinshasa).*

***Full membership** entitles the member to join in all the activities, browse the website version of the Kinshasa Newcomer's Guide, place articles and notices in the newsletter, and more.*

Only a nominal % of membership fees are used for administrative and social activities of the club. The major administrative expenses are donated by volunteer members, especially the IWC Board. The majority of fees collected go to the welfare budget which supports organizations and projects working toward development of communities in Kinshasa.

IWC AND PHOTOS

We thank you in advance for respecting the following requests regarding members' privacy:

No photos should be taken at any residence the IWC is invited to, unless permission is given by the hostess. No photos taken during outings, lunches or any club event should be shared on Facebook (or the equivalent) unless permission given by all persons concerned.



International Women's Club of Kinshasa Activities Calendar – November 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/ Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5/6
7	8 9:30am IWC Coffee Morning	9 9.30am IWC outing	10	11	12/13
14 9:30 am Welfare Com. Meeting 10am-12am Activity Paper folding & cutting	15 9:30am Newcomers Coffee Morning	16	17	18 12.30pm IWC Club lunch	19/20
21	22 9.30am Board Meeting	23	24	25	26/27
28	29	30			

Priority given to members where places are limited; activity charges may apply for non members