

IWC International Women's Club South Limburg



Volume 42, Issue 7
April 2026



Photo: Christine

“Women connecting the World”

Bringing together women of all nationalities living in the area of South Limburg, promoting friendship, sharing mutual interests and extending support and information to newcomers.

All rights reserved

Inside this Issue

Pages

Calendar	3
Board Members	4
IWC Policies	5
President's Voice	6
Message from the Activities Coordinator	7
<u>March Meeting at the United World College (UWC)</u>	
A Reflection - Carol Herman	8
Message from Charlotte Groven	9
Woman - Hasiba Ghafori	10-14
Photos	15-16
<u>Announcements:</u>	
Message from the Nomination Committee	17
Messages from Mary Martha and Alison Brett	18
Welcome Coffee	19
Monthly Get Together Invitation	20
New Members Joining / members left	21
Open Door Message	22
Contributions by Laila, Ingrid and Melanie	23-25
Group Activities and Photos	26-31
Advertisements	32-33
Special Interest Groups & Silver Pinner	34-49
Editor's Note	50
Language Circles	51
Club Information & Website Information	52-53



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5 
6	7	8 <u>Walking Group</u> Meet at Brasserie Brocante at 10:30.	9 <u>Welcome Coffee</u> Café Zuid at 10:30.	10 <u>Group I</u> Walk at 11:00 in Maasmechelen. <u>Dutchesses</u> Meet at Montanova Brasserie at 14:30.	11 <u>Weekend Walks</u> Meet in Eijsden at 13:30..	12
13 <u>Book Group</u> Meet at Elsemieke's at 15:00. <u>Rose Book Group</u> Meet at Silvina's at 19:30.	14 <u>Groups C&D</u> Afternoon Tea at the Ritz at Ann's at 12:30. <u>Silent Reading</u> Meet from 14:30 to 16:30 at Hotel Botticelli.	15 Monthly Get Together - 't Keerhoes, Cadier en Keer at 19:30.	16 <u>Group F</u> Potluck dinner at Sathi's at 18:30.	17 <u>Knitting Group</u> Meet at 10:30.	18	19
20 <u>Sketch Walk</u> Meet at the Markt at 11:00.	21	22	23	24 <u>Group H</u> International Dinner—18:00 at Cecilia's.	25	26
27	28 <u>Group F</u> Board game evening at 19:00. <u>Spanish Group</u> Meet at 11:45 at Grand Café Lumiere.	29	30	<p><u>Wednesday, 15th April</u> Monthly Get Together at 't Keerhoes, Cadier en Keer</p> <p><u>Wednesday, 20th May</u> - AGM at 't Keerhoes</p> <p><u>Saturday, 13th June</u> - Summer Party</p> <p><u>Bar Duty: Group I (April).</u></p>		

Board Members

President

Ann Boddé



ac.bodde@xs4all.nl

Vice President

Mary D'Lazarus



editoraiwc@gmail.com

Treasurer

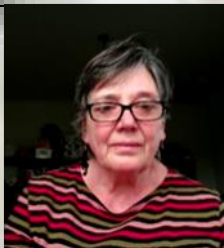
Jennie Meadows



jenniemeads@gmail.com

Secretary

Melanie Murray



secretary@iwc-sl.nl

Welcome Chair

Mary-Martha Bahn



welcome@iwc-sl.nl

Activities Coordinators

Sam Welie



activities@iwc-sl.nl

Newsletter Editor

Mary D'Lazarus

editoraiwc@gmail.com

IWC South Limburg : Privacy Policy

Please read carefully before renewing your membership

This page is relevant both for those applying for membership and for existing members.

According to the GDPR rules we have to respect your privacy with an official statement detailing how we deal with the information you provide.

This page also explains what you have to be aware of when it comes to the use of photos and information on our website and our social media platforms.

When you apply for membership we store the information you supply in a database hosted by wordpress on an EU server. We ask for the information on the application form in order to ensure you are eligible for membership, that we can accommodate your interests in the best possible way and to further contacts between our members.

We endeavour to delete member data when you leave the club, but we may keep some information for statistical purpose and to help the process should you return to South Limburg at a later point and reapply for membership.

The membership director stores a list of members on a local computer.

The editor of the IWC is also responsible for the Membership Directory leaflet. In the production of this, your data and pictures may be shared internally, and with the printer. Unless we have been otherwise informed in writing, your data will appear in this leaflet and where it may be available online, accessible to members only.

The treasurer stores information about the members in order to able to charge membership fees and control payments. This is also done on a local computer.

The pictures used on our website are approved for use by people in the pictures. Those pictures are static and not changed often.

Pictures and information in the Facebook group are only available to members. We cannot guarantee where Facebook stores this information, but it is probably not limited to EU.

Both the IWC photographer and members themselves take pictures of people and post them on the closed Facebook group. Some pictures may be used other places to promote club activities. If you do not want your picture taken, please inform the person taking the photographs that you do not want to be in the picture.

Being a member you accept this use of your information.

If you have any doubts or you do not agree with our privacy policy we suggest you email us to:

info@iwc-sl.nl

IWC South Limburg



President's Voice

Ann Boddé

So we officially are in Spring, did it take a long time coming this year – I believe so and I'm not convinced its here yet either. Yesterday, I left the house 4 degrees and cold sunshine, 5 minutes down the road it was torrential rain . Arrived at my destination (20 minutes away) in hail and then snow. 4 seasons in one hour!! Crazy .

However, I have a lot of joy in my garden, a tiny but sturdy magnolia stellata tree is in full bloom and two camilla's also in beautiful bloom. Their beauty and colour lift my spirits.

Speaking of lifting spirits we also, last month, were inspired by the students at UWC College. **Please see the article below** it was a wonderful to hear from the students, their talk about the sponsorship programme and what it means to them. Suffice it to say, many members felt it should be our charity of the year next year. Watch this space!

This month we lost our Welcome chair person Mary Martha (aka MM), she has stepped down from the board to take a new job. We will miss her “natuurlijk” and thank her for her honesty, work and dedication to the position over the last two years, she will be missed. I'm happy to announce we have secured another lady for the position - Alison Brett. Welcome Alison to the board.

At the end of last week I was honoured to be invited to celebrate Eid Mubarak with Laila and Oliver's family and friends. I learnt about how the end of fasting was celebrated in her family. It involved of course lots of delicious Indonesian family recipes – which we thoroughly enjoyed. It was a pleasure to meet and enjoy spending time with them and their family.

For me and others in the club, our Christian celebration of Easter is just around the corner. In our home we have some small traditions for Easter and this weekend I will start to prepare for the Easter weekend. Create a floral decoration for the table- involving eggs, flowers, bits of shrub chickens etc., decorate an egg tree (branches of blossom tree decorated with eggs). I'm not sure where this tradition comes from but I've adopted it since I moved here.

Then prepare the menu for next week, with a special dessert. I'm thinking a chocolate and orange cake, what do you think? Well maybe some healthy savoury stuff too!

I'm very pleased to announce this week my family are celebrating the safe arrival of a great nephew. Now I'm itching to go and meet him in Liverpool.

The end of this club year means I will step down as President after four years in the seat. Whilst I will be sad too, I'm looking forward to having more time and have lots of nice things planned for the summer. The nominations committee Resy Snyders and Silvina Lombardo Weisner, are already on the case of securing the next president.

Enjoy the Easter Holiday (whatever your religion) and I look forward to Shigemi and learning more about Ikebana in April.

Warmest uplifting thoughts.

Ann

Message from Activities Coordinator

Sam Welie



We had a really inspiring presentation at the UWC in March. And it was good to see it so well supported, including a number of potential new members as guests.

If you want to hear more of the students' stories, there are opportunities at two upcoming UWC events: their United Women Conference on October 1st and the student-led *Support the Change* on 9th June.

Our next meeting is on April 15, at 't Keerhoes. It's Group I's turn to provide the snacks. According to my computer this might mean waffles, Gerardsberger curd tarts, rijstevlaai or Couque de Dinant and speculoos biscuits. What cold savoury snack specialities does Belgium have?

Come along to see Shigemi give us a demonstration of Ikebana and tell us something about Japanese culture. I know several of us have visited Japan, but living or growing up in the country, and gaining an insight into its history and background, is a very different matter. And having at least a basic knowledge of the language of a country really helps.

Which leads me to remind everyone that the Dutchesses group will welcome new members if you want to practice Dutch or just come along for a chat. If you are struggling with Dutch and can't manage to get to the Dutchesses group, which is normally held on a weekday afternoon, let me know, I might know suitable alternatives.

And do read further on in the newsletter to see what other activities are happening. Many are not held at regular dates and times, so you need to keep an eye on the newsletter's calendar or the IWC Facebook page.

Have a good Easter - and safe travels if you are going away - and we hope to see you in a couple of weeks.

Sam

MARCH GET TOGETHER AT THE UNITED WORLD COLLEGE (UWC)

Contribution by Carol

A Reflection ...

The March monthly meeting hosted by the United World College (UWC) was not only enjoyable but also thought-provoking. The presentations were impressive: informative, articulate and rather moving.

Listening to young people describing the virtues and strengths of internationalism and exposure to other cultures to a room crowded with women from every corner of the earth seemed a little like preaching to the choir but then I had an epiphanic moment: the UWC and IWC are interlinked: we are family!

At the end of August, 1984, the Jeanne d'Arc College, now Porta Mosana, and the Joppenhof primary school, opened their doors to "The English Stream": international education in Maastricht was born. I was based in the secondary school as one of the three original "native speaker" teachers. Nelleke Bertrand-Pruis is the mother of two of the eight initial pupils. The family had recently moved from Eindhoven to Maastricht and she quickly sought me out to suggest starting a local international women's club ... and so "we" were born! Like the school, our beginnings were modest but we both grew rapidly after our almost simultaneous start. The "English Stream" evolved to become the "International School, Maastricht," going from strength to strength and changing locations to accommodate growing numbers. When the UWC organization was looking for an appropriate city to open a college in the Netherlands, Maastricht was selected not only for logistical reasons but also because international education had already proven successful in the area.

In the meantime, the IWC had also thrived with a healthy proportion of its members being mothers of pupils in international education: almost a symbiotic relationship!

It occurred to me last Wednesday as I sat at the back of the Staffroom in the impressive building now housing the UWC, that I had been present at the birth - I could almost claim to be a midwife! - of the two institutions. I felt an overwhelming sense of pride, a feeling of completion: a circle had been closed. 1984 was a very good year.

Carol Herman

MARCH GET TOGETHER AT THE UNITED WORLD COLLEGE (UWC)

MESSAGE FROM CHARLOTTE GROVEN—UNITED WORLD COLLEGE

Dear members of the International Women's Club,

Also, on behalf of Hasiba, Luka and Nico, I would like to sincerely thank you for your visit to United World College Maastricht recently.

We were delighted to share with you the story behind our international school for Peace and a Sustainable Future, and the journeys of the students who make this community so special. Beyond the two scholarship winners, we very much hope to welcome you again at our United Women's Conference on 1 October.

If our story has sparked ideas or suggestions on how you or your network might support our needs-based scholarship fund, we would be very grateful to hear from you. With your support, we can continue opening our classrooms to talented young people from challenging socio-economic backgrounds, like Hasiba.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly:

Charlotte Groven

c.groven@uwcmaastricht.nl



MARCH GET TOGETHER AT THE UNITED WORLD COLLEGE (UWC)

WOMAN - HASIBA GHAFORI —UNITED WORLD COLLEGE

Woman.

What a small word
for something so vast.
A word that sounds gentle
when spoken aloud
soft
like sunlight slipping through a window in the morning.
But inside that word
something enormous lies

Strength.

Strength that has carried generations
long before the world learned how to say thank you.

Woman.

I was born by one.
Raised by one.
Guided by one.

So, to me, this word is not just a word.

It is breath.
It is pulse.
It is life itself.

Because before every story...
before every family...
before every generation...

there is a woman.

The world gives women many names.

Daughter.
Sister.
Partner.
Mother.

But today
I want to rename the women of this world.
Today I call you
resplendent,
radiant,
mesmerizing,
The guiding stars
of humanity.

MARCH GET TOGETHER AT THE UNITED WORLD COLLEGE (UWC)

WOMAN - HASIBA GHAFORI —UNITED WORLD COLLEGE

And today

I want to speak to three women.

To the woman who came before me—

I love you.

Your footsteps built the path I walk on today.

Your sacrifices became the ground beneath my feet.

Your courage

is the reason I am standing here.

To the woman who exists today—

I am proud of you.

Proud of your strength.

Proud of your voice.

Proud of the battles you fight
even when no one sees them.

And to the woman who is still becoming—

I cannot wait to meet you.

Because being a woman is a journey.

A journey of becoming.

Of growing.

Learning.

Falling.

Rising again.

A journey of discovering strength
the world never believed we had.

And today,

as a teenager,

I feel something extraordinary.

I feel proud.

So incredibly proud.

Proud to be born into a generation
that carries the name of heroes.

And those heroes

are called women.

MARCH GET TOGETHER AT THE UNITED WORLD COLLEGE (UWC)

WOMAN - HASIBA GHAFORI — UNITED WORLD COLLEGE

Everywhere I look
I see women changing the world.

Sometimes loudly.
Sometimes quietly.
But always powerfully.

I see it in the girl
who dares to dream beyond the walls built around her.

I see it in the mother
who gives pieces of herself
so her child can live freely.

And I see it across the world.

In the women of Afghanistan.
In the women of Palestine.
In the women of Ukraine.
In the women of Iran.
In the women of Yemen.
In the women of Sudan.

Women who rise
even when the world tries to silence them.

Women who wake up every morning
and fight battles
most of us will never see.

And sometimes I wonder...

How many dreams
disappeared quietly because the world
was afraid
of their strength.

But here is the truth.

Those dreams were never truly lost.

Because every girl who dares to dream today
is carrying the unfinished dreams
of the women who came before her.

That is the power of women.

The world can try to silence our voices.

The world can try to cage our freedom.

But it can never break
the strength
inside us.

Because being a woman
means being many things at once.

Yes.

We are soft.



MARCH GET TOGETHER AT THE UNITED WORLD COLLEGE (UWC)

WOMAN - HASIBA GHAFORI —UNITED WORLD COLLEGE

Yes.

We are emotional.

But Emotion
is humanity.

Emotion
is courage.

Emotion
is the reason
the world still has hope.

Yes,
I am a woman
who sometimes wears makeup to feel beautiful.

Yes,
I am a woman
who might cry when a dress does not feel right.

But I am also the same woman
who breaks cycles of cruelty.

The same woman
who stands against the walls meant to cage her.

The same woman
who refuses
to remain silent.

Because when a woman falls
her courage does not disappear.

It becomes soil.

And from that soil
something powerful grows.

Women rise from it.

Not quite.

Not invisible.

But proud.

Alive.

Free.

MARCH GET TOGETHER AT THE UNITED WORLD COLLEGE (UWC)

WOMAN - HASIBA GHAFORI —UNITED WORLD COLLEGE

And from that soil
generations of heroes will grow.

Heroes who will turn darkness
into light.

I come from a place
where my mother
is my greatest hero.

Where every woman I meet
becomes a role model
in some way.

And that is why this day
means something truly special to me.

So today
I want to say something simple

Thank you.

To every woman
who fought so we could stand here.

To every woman
who dreamed
so we could dream bigger.

To every woman
who refused to give up
even when the world told her to.

Thank you
for existing.

And before I finish
I want to thank all the wonderful people here today.

Your presence reminds us
why this day matters.

Because change
does not happen alone. It happens
when people gather
with courage
with hope
and with belief.

MARCH GET TOGETHER



MARCH GET TOGETHER



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Dear Members,

As you may remember dear Ann Bodde, already indicated at last year's A.G.M. that she would be stepping down as President at the end of this Club year as her term of four years was coming to an end. In that same meeting Silvina and I came forward to form the Nomination Committee. We have taken this task very seriously, and are happy to announce that we have found a very capable and long-standing member to take up this position.

We are very grateful for all the wonderful work our current President, Ann Bodde, has put into the two terms, putting all her efforts into managing our Club so well.

Kind regards,

Silvina Lombardo (a former President)
Resy Snyders (a former Vice President)

Group Coordinators for Groups A&B and the German Group

The Coordinator positions for Groups A&B and the German Group is still vacant.

Please contact Silvina at silvinalom@gmail.com if you are interested to take over these vacant positions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MESSAGE FROM MARY MARTHA

For the past two years I have had the privilege of serving as the Welcome Chair for the club. During that time, I shared over and over with prospective members what makes this club so special. I meant every word I said, every time. Our club offers a community to those who feel a lack, friendship to those who have friendship to offer, and caring to those who may need a shoulder or a hug. As I tell new members, this club is what you make it, and it is indeed a special place.

In an unexpected but very welcome twist in my life, I have accepted a full-time job at the University starting in April. So, after two years of welcoming new members, I am handing the Welcome Chair duties over to Alison Brett, who I know will do great things to help even more ladies find their place here. I know you will all be as supportive of her as you have been to me.

Thank you for all your referrals over the years, and your enthusiastic support. See you at the next monthly meeting, or on a walk or a Fun Friday drinks event.

With gratitude and warmth,

Mary-Martha

MESSAGE FROM ALISON BRETT

I am very happy to be able to contribute more to IWC in the Welcome Chair role. I have only returned to the club during the last year and the warm welcome and large variety of activities really helped my transition from full time working to not working! I have loved discovering new places, meeting new people and taking up much loved hobbies again from the past.

I am looking forward to welcoming new members and I know that there will be lots of support from everyone in IWC.

Thank you, Mary-Martha for introducing me last year, I hope I can continue your great work welcoming new members to the IWC.

Looking forward to meeting everyone.

Alison



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Coffee



Thursday April 9th

10.30 -12.00

Café Zuid, Plein 1992, Maastricht

RSVP: welcome@iwc-sl-nl

International Women's Club - South Limburg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IKEBANA

demonstration

April 18, 2026
19,30

't Keerhoes,
Cadier en Keer

Learn about Ikebana and Japanese culture
with IWC member Shigema Eckhart





Alison Klein was born in the US where she lived in several cities before moving to The Netherlands in 1992. She moved to Maastricht three years ago and is a mother of two adult sons.

Her background is in marketing/import-export but she has been working as a freelance translator for the past 24 years.

She's joining the IWC in the hope of meeting other women with similar backgrounds and interests and is looking forward to getting to know more about the IWC and its members.

Alison also speaks Dutch, Spanish and French.

She joins Group E.

Elisabeth Pince van der Aa (Lisa) is a German national who moved to Maastricht with her husband some six months ago from Belgium where she worked for the NATO as a teacher for the last three years. She now works near Aachen but lives in Maastricht and is looking to meet new people in a similar situation as her to spend time with drinking coffee, visiting the city and having a good time! She hopes to meet like-minded people in the IWC.

Lisa speaks English and some Dutch and joins Group G.



OPEN DOOR



Dear Ladies,

As you already know, the Open Door Coordinators connect with other Sister Clubs, and in September 2023, we hosted a small group of members from the IWC BERLIN Club.

This special connection has resulted in being invited for a return visit to Berlin in May 2026; and seven of us will be travelling by train to explore Berlin from 19 to 23 May incl.

We have meanwhile received a proposed programme for the four days we will be in their city. It looks very exciting as well as leaving us some free time. Besides, a former member of our club, Anette Bolton, will be one of the guides showing us around part of Berlin during a walking tour.

Meanwhile, those of you who registered for the HELSINKI Sister Club Anniversary on 24-26 April, I wish you a very enjoyable time ()!

To be continued,

These trips look like Great Fun (),

Best wishes,
Resy Snyders

Open Door Coordinator IWC-S.L.
tsnyders@planet.nl

Resy Snyders
International Coordinator
Email: opendoor.iwctl@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WATCH PARTY!

Stay tuned for our next watch party! This time, we'll finally be watching the long-awaited sequel, *The Devil Wears Prada 2*. I've been waiting forever for this one, and the wait is finally over!

The world premiere is on May 1st, though I'm not yet sure when it will arrive in our Maastricht cinemas, so stay tuned for updates on the IWC Facebook page.

Get ready to show up in style for the premiere... fashionably fabulous, or whatever you're comfortable with of course! 😊

Laila



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let's do it again!

🍃 **Silent Reading** 🍃



You love to read but you never seem to find the right place, time, position or focus?

Join us for our 2nd **silent reading** session. We'll get this together!

Bring your favourite book, order a drink and finally dive into that great story that has been waiting for you.

When? Tuesday, April 14

*Where? Hotel Botticelli, Papenstraat 11, Maastricht
(beautiful living room with comfortable chairs!)*

What time? 2.30pm – 4.30pm or just as long/short as you like

We can order drinks and chat a little and aim to start reading around 3pm. Then we'll see for how long we get lost in the pleasure of reading, surrounded by friends (and drinks!)



We were thinking about more or less six ladies to join the activity.

If you want to join, please send an e-mail to: tisget@yahoo.com or send a whatsapp message to Ingrid: 06 44309001 or respond to the event on facebook.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SKETCH WALK



I am planning a sketch walk on Monday, 20th April at 11am in Markt. We will sketch some of Maastricht's 'Gevelsteen' . They are small, and sometimes quite simple and not so daunting as a whole building! A good way to start urban sketching. You are also free just to observe. I will post more details nearer the time about where exactly to meet and what you can bring, but I will have some supplies with me.

You might like to have a look at www.kijkeensnaarboven.nl in the meantime.

Group Activities

Groups A & B

Members living in Beek, Born, Doenrade, Einighausen, Elsloo, Geleen, Geulle, Munstergeleen, Oirsbeek, Puth, Sittard, Susteren, Urmond, Bunde, Meerssen, and Ulestraten.

Any activities planned for this group will be communicated via email and Facebook.

Silvina

**Coordinator:
Groups A & B**

TBD

Groups C & D

Members living in Berg en Terblijt, Brunssum, Heerlen, Hoensbroek, Houthem, Kerkrade, Klimmen, Landgraaf, Schin op Geul, Aachen, Banholt, Bemelen, Cadier en Keer, Eckelrade, Eys, Gulpen, Ingber, Margraten, Mechelen, Mheer and St. Geertruid.

AFTERNOON TEA AT THE RITZ

Dear Ladies,

As April is the last month to collect for our Charity of the year, I've decided to hold an afternoon tea on Tuesday 14th April at 12.30. I have place for 10 to 12 people. First come first served.

Indulge in a slice of the finest Tea traditions with Afternoon tea –

Homemade Quiche

A wide selection of sandwiches

Homemade Scones with clotted cream with a choice of Jam

A selection of cakes and other sweet treats

A large assortment of Teas and perhaps a glass of bubbles to celebrate the occasion.

The cost 15 Euros pp.

Please email Golnar to secure a place.

Warmest Regards

Ann Boddé

**Coordinator:
Groups C & D**

Ann Boddé
ac.bodde@xs4all.nl

Group E

Members living in Maastricht with postal codes 6213 to 6219.

Ladies,

Any activities planned for this group will be communicated via email and Facebook.

Thanks

Hilary

**Coordinator:
Group E**

Hilary Thomas Oliver
spentpenny@gmail.com

Group F

Maastricht with postal codes 6111 – 6212 (City Centre, St. Pietersberg).

Potluck Dinner @Sathi's (only for Group F)

When: Thursday, April 16th at 6:30pm.

For: 8 persons if the weather is not nice, extended to 12 people if the sun shines (we will know about 2 days earlier).

For all, with priority to Group F:

Board game evening

When: Tuesday, April 28th at 7pm.

For: 9 persons maximum.

Location: Dr. & Dr. Samosa, [Grote Gracht 40, 6211 SX Maastricht](#).

Please confirm you receive both mails for me to be sure that the pictures are not too heavy.

Best

Christèle

**Coordinator:
Group F**

Christèle Bouyer
christelebouyer@hotmail.com

Group G

Members living in Maastricht with postal codes 6221 to 6224 and 6229,

No activities planned for this month.

Please feel free to join the activities organised by the other groups where it is allowed to join them.

Thanks

Hélène van Kerkoerle



**Coordinator
Group G**
Hélène van Kerkoerle
hvankerkoerle@hotmail.com

Group H

Members living in Maastricht with postal codes 6225—6228, Eijsden, Mesch and Gronsveld.

Hello Ladies,

Our group activity will once again be the INTERNATIONAL DINNER at my house.

It will take place on Friday, April 24th at 6:00 PM.

The idea is to bring a typical dish from your country and, if possible, wear traditional clothing.

Interested? Please contact me!!!

ceciliaphx2@hotmail.com

**Coordinator
Group H**
Cecilia Rivas Aragon
ceciliaphx2@hotmail.com

Group I

Members living in Belgium

Dear Ladies,

Hope you are doing well and enjoying the longer days and the advent of Spring.

My suggestion for this month April is a walk, a short one or a long one we can decide with the participants. Minimum one hour.

Date: 10th April, 11hs in Salamander
Joseph Smeetslaan 280, Maasmechelen

Of course, we have as well an important day and date!

Next monthly meeting in 't Keerhuis and we have bar duty.

This is the only time in almost two years that the club expects us to contribute with a savoury or a sweet dish to share. DO PLEASE not leave me alone, we are a big group but a quite busy travelling one as well. If any of you are not able to attend, please help me and contribute anyway.

Email me and we can organise it....and be proud of our Belgian group.

All my best regards,

Silvina

Contact:
Silvina Lombardo de
Weisner
silvinalom@gmail.com

GROUP ACTIVITY PHOTOS



GROUP ACTIVITY PHOTOS



Advertisements

ARAGON SPANISH LESSONS IN EIJSDEN

Do you want to learn or practice Spanish?

Certified teacher with more than 20 years of experience.

Cecilia Rivas Aragón

+31623152435

ceciliaphx2@hotmail.com

LEARNING DUTCH

Dutch for expats, all levels.

Days to be arranged.

Yvonne Westerhof, a Dutch Foreign Language teacher,

043 3 26 26 09

yvonnewesterhof@gmail.com

Would you like to drink a cup of coffee and chat in English?

25 Euros an hour. Let's have a fun afternoon!
Gail 06 517 99590

Gail Howard

conversationswithgail.com

conversationswithgail@gmail.com

PORTUGUESE

Individual or group lessons. All levels. University graduated teacher.

Otilia Ramos

www.portugese-les.com

otiliaramos@gmail.com



Pedicure
10% OFF
for IWC members

06 22 479 197

www.tiptopvoet.nl

Sint Annadal 18F, 5th floor • 6214 PB • Maastricht

Advertisements

Music Lessons Maastricht

Viola  *Violin*
and other stringed instruments

QuentinThomas-Oliver

+31 6 21863853

QuentinThomasOliver@gmail.com



Interest Groups

Patchwork and Quilting

Dear Members,

Isn't it time you started thinking of joining the quilting group?

Probably most of you would appreciate a nice quilt on your bed or couch to keep you warm this winter, a quilt to give to your child on leaving the house, a small baby quilt for your sister's or friend's baby. Or a decoration for your wall. Perhaps smaller items as a special birthday present or something for your breakfast table. Why not give it a try?

It's fun, you're in a nice group and the end product is always worth your while!

You're very good at sewing? That's ever better!

Not very good at sewing? That's not a problem, there is plenty of help around. So give it a try - join us!

Thank you for cooperating!

A'mieke* 🧵 ✂️

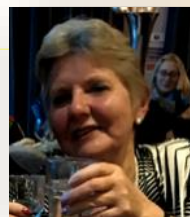


Contact:

Annemieke Beurskens
04 54 05 31 13

annemiekebeurskens@gmail.com

Knitting Group



Many thanks to all who supported our Craft and Coffee Morning. We enjoyed good company and delicious cakes AND raised €175 for our club charity.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, 17th April at 10.30. All are welcome.

Any questions please ask Jennie on jenniemeads@gmail.com.



Contact:

Jennie Meadows
06 21 85 58 55

jenniemeads@gmail.com

What's Cooking



Dear Ladies,

As April is the last month to collect for our Charity of the year, I've decided to hold an afternoon tea on Tuesday 14th April at 12.30. I have place for 12 people. First come first served.

Indulge in a slice of the finest Tea Traditions with Afternoon Tea –

Homemade Quiche

A wide selection of sandwiches

Homemade Scones with clotted cream with a choice of Jam,

A selection of cakes and other sweet treats.

A large assortment of Teas and perhaps a glass of bubbles to celebrate the occasion.

The cost 15 Euros pp.

Please email Golnar to secure a place. Cooks arrive at 10 am. Afternoon Tea will be served at 12.30

The venue is my home.

Warmest regards

Ann Boddé

Contact:

Golnar Motaharipour
g.motaharipour@yahoo.com

Every session will be announced by mail to the existing distribution list. If you are new or you wish to be part of the group, please send Golnar a mail to her email: g.motaharipour@yahoo.com

Photography Group



Any plans for a photography session will be communicated via Facebook.

Best wishes,

Christina Corwin
650.787.8296
chris.corwin@mac.com

Coordinator
Chris Corwin

Chris.corwin@mac.com

WHAT'S COOKING PHOTOS

Photos: Billy



Dutchesses



The next Dutchesses is planned for Friday, April 10th at 14.30 at Brasserie Montenova, off the Luikerweg in Maastricht, next to the midget golf. Parking is probably best at the parking circle at the top of Luikerweg.

Everyone is welcome, just come along. (Though maybe a good thing to let me know as we had to move the location for the last meeting at the very last minute!).

Sam



Contact:
Sam Welie
s.welie42@gmail.com

Central and Eastern Europe Group



In March we celebrated International Women's Day in the restaurant Minami. It was great to have a dinner with so many lovely ladies.

Agnieszka



Contact:
Agnieszka Oweibo
agnes.o@hotmail.com

Spanish Book Group



Hola chicas,

Que excelente tarde y amena reunion en casa de Gabriela. APLAUSOS!

Proximo encuentro sera en mi casa en Rekem, 1330hs donde discutiremos el libro La soledad de Gabriel Rolon.

El dia elegido : 8 de mayo.

A empezar a leer.

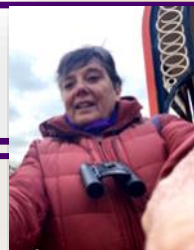
Felices Pascuas!

Contact:

Maria José

grupohispanodelectura@gmail.com

Bird Watching Group



A bird walk around De Kleine Weerd

We began at the Hoge Brug on Plein 1992 and began walking along the river towards Gouvernement and the Kleine Weerd nature reserve, collecting some others along the way. The weather was fresh and breezy, but lovely and sunny. As we walked alongside the river, the first bird we spotted was a cormorant flying low over the water. We passed the very messy section of the path which has a lot of green goose poo on it! You may have seen the goose 'colony' under the bridge. There are often people there feeding them, but it's not really a good idea for a few different reasons, not least avian flu. They will do fine without help from humans and they make a mess. They are mostly what are called 'soepgans' in Dutch or 'soup goose'. They hybridise with white farmed geese, and you get mixed brown and white geese.

We entered the Kleine Weerd. It is a small nature reserve just beyond Gouvernement, the modern brick government building on an island in the river. A few years ago there were some wild horses there, the local 'konikpaarden'. The signs that warn you to keep away from them are still there but the horses are gone. We took the path through the reserve to the bridge that crosses to the small island. This has a path that goes all the way around it, but it has not been maintained for a while and has been mostly inaccessible. But it has been cleared recently, to some extent anyway so we were able to walk round most of it. Here there are trees and good views of the river, so we were able to see and hear many more birds. The cormorants were drying their wings on the structure at the end of the island. We were able to spot a few more birds on the gouvernement island from there, including some oyster catchers, spotted by Sam. They are normally coastal birds, but they are often seen inland now.

Our goal was to spot a kingfisher.... but although they were audible and popped up on the Merlin app, we didn't manage to see one. There were not the only birds that were heard but not seen, we also heard dunnock; tree creeper; wren; and chiffchaff. We spotted a good number of different species though; cormorant; coot; moorhen; soepgans; greylag goose; Canada goose; oystercatcher; buzzard; great tit; blue tit; crow; swan; heron; mallard and some seagulls. There may have been others that I have forgotten to mention.

We finished with some soup and drinks at Ipanema café at Bonnefanten museum, a very nice way to end a breezy walk!

Coordinator

Melanie Murray

melaniemurray3@btinternet.com

BIRD WATCHING GROUP PHOTOS



Walking Group



After postponing our March walk by a week, we were rewarded with a glorious day to trek from Kanne up to the highest point in Maastricht on St Pieter. We enjoyed stunning views across the city and Château Neercanne as we made our way back to town to enjoy lunch together at De Sjotter. A huge thanks to Kiyo for leading us this month! And to Connie for the photos.

The past several years it has been my pleasure to coordinate a weekday walk each month. We have had a ton of laughs, lots of conversation and enjoyed this beautiful place together. March was the last weekday walk I coordinated as I will begin working a full-time job in April. However, I am delighted that two avid walkers, Connie and Silvia, will take over organizing and leading the weekday walks from April. See what they have planned for you all, below.

As for me, I will begin coordinating a weekend walk each month, see the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

Happy trails everyone!
Mary-Martha

April fills the landscape with beautiful flowers and vibrant colours and we look forward to seeing plenty of them. This month's hike will take place in the Ulestraten area. We'll cover a distance of 6.5 km. There will be slopes, so feel free to bring your hiking poles if you think you'll need them. To finish up, we'll enjoy a delicious lunch at Brasserie Brocante. We hope many of you will join us.

Date: Wednesday, 8th April 2026 Time: 10.30
Meeting place: Parking lot in front of Brasserie Brocante,
Dorpstraat 1, 6235 AC, Ulestraten.
Distance: 6-7 kms. Please note: There are slopes.

RSVP: cortega07@hotmail.com or whatsapp +31 655596034.
Silvia.leschonski@home.nl or +31 642100344



Please note: For the Walking Group, we create a NEW WhatsApp group for each walk. If you would like to join a specific walk please send a WhatsApp to 06-55596034 to be signed up and added for that month's walk.

If you have any question please let me know.

Regards,

Connie van Riet-Ortega

Coordinator

Mary-Martha Bahn

mmbahn@gmail.com

WALKING GROUP PHOTOS



Photos: Connie & Billy

WALKING GROUP PHOTOS



WALKING GROUP PHOTOS



Photos: Billy

Weekend Walkers Group



NEW - Weekend Walkers

Beginning in April I will be coordinating a walk one weekend a month. These walks will be 8-12km in length, and most will take 2 - 2.5 hours or so, faster than a leisurely stroll, but not a vigorous pace. The walks are open to members and their partner/spouse. I hope you will join me!

In April, let's try to enjoy some of the lovely tree blossoms that make their appearance this time of year. Our route goes around the orchard areas surrounding Mesch, on the Belgium border just south of Maastricht. We will begin and end at Hoever de Laerthof, where we can enjoy a drink together afterwards. There are some hills, and it may be muddy in areas this time of year.

Date: Saturday, 11th April

Time: 13:30

Location: Meet at the parking area in front of De Laerthof, Langstraat 3, Eijsden/Mesch

Distance: 9-10km

RSVP: WhatsApp 06 12103657, or email mmbahn@gmail.com

Please note: I will create a new WhatsApp group for each walk, so if you would like to join a walk please let me know that month. I do not maintain a "master" WhatsApp group list. Walks will be published in the newsletter and on FB (If I don't forget:))

Coordinator

Mary-Martha Bahn

mmbahn@gmail.com

Breakfast Group



Details of the next Breakfast will be communicated via Facebook.

Laila

lailasariolson@gmail.com

Rose Book Group



Hello dear readers,

It was quite complicated to find the book of Jim Thomson, at least for me that was on hold in the "Aduane".

We will meet on 13th April, after the vote of the majority, at 1930hs at my home in Rekem.

I will share the directions via email to the ones that do not have the Yearbook.

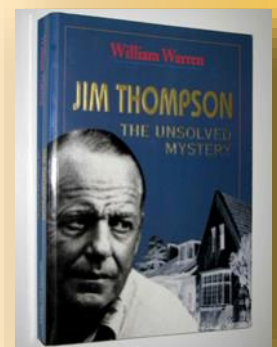
We will resume the book of Jim Thompson plus a new one:

Between Shades of Grey by Ruta Sepetys

Wishing you all lots of enjoyment and amusement in the reading of the chosen books,

Sending my best wishes for the coming celebrations (do not self-indulge on the chocolates or just do it with a good book!.)

Kisses from Silvina



Contact:
Silvina Lombardo de Weisner
silvinalom@gmail.com

Fun Friday Drinks



The organisation of the Fun Friday Drinks will be taken over by Esther as of April. Details will be posted on the IWC Facebook page.

Esther Novello-Partouns

[+316-15540825](tel:+316-15540825)

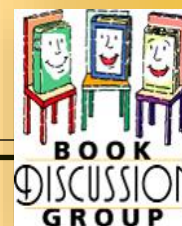
novellopartouns@gmail.com

Contact:

Bernadette Ichigui

bernamac@gmail.com

Book Group



On Monday, 23 February, we gathered at Gerry's to discuss Lisa Sandlin's novel "*Sweet Vidalia*". It is a while since we last met so there was much to sort out with regards to problems in the World as we enjoyed Gerry's splendid hospitality: always such a treat! Eventually, however, we turned our attention to the novel and rarely do we find such a general consensus: we loved it. Sandlin has written a positive, life-affirming tale of a strong woman who, in a quiet, unassuming way, rediscovers herself after her world collapses around her. One small caveat: perhaps there are too many stories of odd, eccentric characters woven into the story, but this is counterbalanced by every one of them contributing to Eliza's rehabilitation. Good humour and empathetic writing validate the comparisons with Anne Tyler and Elizabeth Strout. Thoroughly recommended.

We next meet at Elsemieke's on Monday, 13 April at 15:00, when we will discuss Julian Barnes' "*Departure(s)*". Let's hope it's not a grim read ...

Carol Herman



Contact:

Jane Roeleveld:

janeroeleveld@xs4all.nl

Carol Herman:

carol.herman.hewitt@gmail.com

Spanish Group— Grupo Hispano



Dear ladies,
Hola chicas,

Como las trata la primavera?

Que les parece si nos vemos el dia 28 de abril 1145hs/12hs en el Grand Cafe de Lumiere, dependiendo cuanta somos y el tiempo podemos desde ahi caminar o tomarnos juntas un cafe o lo que prefiera la mayoria.

Por favor avisen con tiempo, en los ultimos encuentros hemos hecho cambios a ultimo momento, lo que es probable que suceda cuando escribo a mas de un mes de distancia de antemano para nuestra editora..

Envio abrazos, espero verlas en el monthly meeting y el dia 28.

Saludos,

Contact:
Silvina Lombardo
silvinalom@gmail.com

Silver Pinner



Silver Pinner

Any activities planned for this group will be communicated via email.

Carol

Book and Wine Group



At the moment our book club (14 members!) is full. If you are interested in joining another book club with- in the IWC, please contact the Rose Book Club run by Silvina.

Happy reading ladies!

Billy
sybille.steinert@yahoo.com

'Culture Club' Group



March was meant for GREY. That was the weather that Wednesday (March 11th) in Venlo and the topic for the exhibition...

THE ART ON AGING.

Look at us : we deal with GREY pretty well 🤪 .
And we concluded: Museum Bommel van Dam - worthwhile to re-visit another day!

April:
In April we plan a weekend activity, not sure about the specific date yet. Please join the WhatsApp group of the Culture Club for more information.

See you soon!

Billy Steinert
Mobile: ++31 64 83 64 893

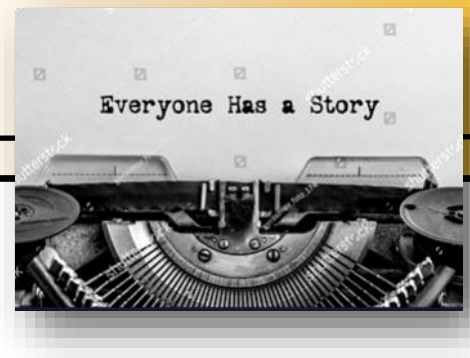
Marieke Severens
Mobile: ++31 6 37 40 34 99



CUTURE CLUB GROUP



Editor's Note



G'Day Ladies,

- ◆ Those of you organising activities, please also copy Laila Olson on emails you send me to enable her to generate the details on the IWC website.
- ◆ Spotlight
Calling all IWC members, established and recently joined, introverts and extroverts, to send me a short one-page autobiography with a photo of yourself. There is no better way for those of you who are established members of the club to introduce yourselves to the newer members and new members to introduce yourselves to the rest of the club. Please don't be shy! Please send in your articles to me at: editoraiwc@gmail.com.
- ◆ Ladies, please feel free to share any information you believe will make everyday life easier and nicer for all us IWC members. Be it a book or a poem you wrote or read, an interesting restaurant that you believe deserves a visit in these hard times, recommendations for home and garden help and any snippets of information that you may feel would be worth sharing are always welcome.
- ◆ Please note: The deadline for submitting your input for the newsletter is the 20th of each month. As a courtesy, I do send out a reminder after that date—please do check your spam folder too for your reminder.
- ◆ Please keep in mind to send emails with concise details in order to avoid confusion or the wrong information going into the NL.

Cheers

Mary

With a view to keeping the Newsletter informative, relevant and interesting I would appreciate it if each group coordinator / activity coordinator reviews their respective activities and lets me know whether they would still like their respective special interest group activities to remain in the Newsletter.

Only those of you who believe it is no longer necessary to have your groups remain in the Newsletter, please inform Silvia and myself accordingly so that I can remove your group activity from the next newsletter.

Language Circles

German



TBD

Dear Ladies,

The Board would welcome anyone who would be willing to lead the German language group.

Spanish



Silvina Lombardo

+32 89 76 58 30

silvinalom@gmail.com

Spanish natives + fluent Spanish speakers monthly, as convenient. At each other's homes.

Japanese Oshaberikai



Anneke de Jongh

ajongh@wxs.nl

We gather once a month to speak Japanese and/or do a Japanese activity.

Best regards,

Anneke

All group leaders, activities leaders and board members are **100% volunteers**, do please consider this when you contact them. If you do need to contact them with questions or complaints, please only do so via email unless a telephone is provided. It is difficult to check WhatsApp, Facebook, Messenger and the Club Facebook page all in our spare time.

Thanks to all our volunteers, without them this Club could not exist!

Club Information

Membership fee for the year September to August is €50.

New Members - For the first year of membership in the IWC, you should pay the following amount, depending on the month you join:

Sep-Dec: €50 EUR (+ €7 EUR one-time administration fee = **€57 EUR**)

Jan-April: **€35 EUR** (+ €7 EUR one-time administration fee = **€42 EUR**)

May-Aug: **€20 EUR** (+ €7 EUR one-time administration fee = **€27 EUR**)

After the first year, the Club fees are €50 per year (September through August) – **payable no later than 1st October of each year**. Re-joiners and new members pay 57 euros due to administration fees. Re-joiners will have to submit a new application form. Club fees can be paid only via ABN AMRO Bank N.V. Int. Women's Club Limburg:

Account Number IBAN Number: NL32ABNA0490106064; BIC: ABNANL2A.

Be sure to indicate your name, especially if the bank account is in the name of someone else (e.g. your partner).

IWC Bylaws

The IWC bylaws are posted on the IWC website (under Yearbook) and on our Facebook page. A paper copy is available upon request.

IWC Network Policy

Club—wide emails to the membership are intended for club affairs **ONLY** and **NOT** for the promotion of non-IWC endeavours, personal and professional. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

The use of the IWC website and Facebook page by members will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as deemed necessary by the Board and Webmaster.

Club Information

Rates for Advertisements:

¼ page € 12.50

½ page € 25.00

Full page € 50.00

- Special rates for recurring ads on request.

Advertisement fees can be paid via ABN AMRO Bank N.V. Int. Women's Club Limburg:
Account Number IBAN Number: NL32ABNA0490106064; BIC: ABNANL2A.
TO BE SETTLED WITH THE TREASURER BEFORE SUBMISSION!

(Please refer to Club Information for payment advice)

Mini ads for members, **maximum 30 words** per issue are free.

Editorial

The Newsletter is published **nine times a year**, on the **1st of the month**, from September through to June.

The Newsletter for December and January is a joint one, so please send in your December contributions to cover activities for January as well.

The deadline for all contributions is the 20th of the month.

Reminders are sent out to regular contributors.

Please keep in mind to avoid planning any activities on the day of the Monthly Meetings (generally the third Wednesday of each month).

The Editor reserves the right to cut or edit material sent to the newsletter for publication and cannot guarantee inclusion.

Views and opinions expressed in individual articles in the Newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the IWC.

If you have any comments or suggestions please do email the Editor: editoraiwc@gmail.com.