



Newsletter of International Inner Wheel • Issue No. 5 IIWY 2021-2022

# IN THE PINK

[www.internationalinnerwheel.org](http://www.internationalinnerwheel.org)



## Empowerment of WOMEN and GIRLS

### CELEBRATING 98 YEARS

"The merit of Mrs Margarett Golding was to breathe life into a new organisation, to guide it through its formative stages and to see it solidly established."

**Ebe Panitteri Martines**  
International President  
2021-2022



Message from  
**Ebe Panitteri Martines**  
 International Inner Wheel President 2021-22



The main priorities of **"PINK FIRST"** are: **HEALTH — EDUCATION — OPPORTUNITIES — EMPOWERMENT.**  
 The fourth priority is **EMPOWERMENT.**

**EMPOWERMENT** is the degree of women's autonomy and self-determination. This enables them to represent their interest in a responsible and self-determined way acting on their own authority. It means women having power and control over their lives. It is the process of gaining freedom and power to do what they want to control what happens to them.

1	2	3	4
<p>Ensure women's participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. <u>Inner Wheel</u> could organise initiatives and meetings to increase awareness on female:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation and equal opportunities for leadership.</li> <li>• Representation in parliaments and ministerial positions.</li> </ul>	<p>Empower women to take decisions on their own health care, own earnings and investments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women's economic independence is crucial to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women.</li> <li>• Women should be free to deter pregnancy by their own choice.</li> </ul>	<p>Improve financial inclusion and economic empowerment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many women are stuck in low-paid work, equal pay remains elusive and men occupy most senior positions.</li> </ul>	<p>Support women's movements and leadership. <u>Inner Wheel</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase number of Members (10% including 2% of members under 40 years of age).</li> </ul>

**Empowerment is connected with Sustainable Development Goal No 5:**



Achieve gender equality and empower all Women and Girls

It suffices to have a look at the articles sent by Clubs all over the world published on the International Inner Wheel website, Facebook and other social media to have an idea of how many initiatives have been carried out by Inner Wheel Members to honour my theme Pink First and its fourth priority, **EMPOWERMENT**, thus giving their contribution to allow women and girls achieve gender equality.

The list of services is endless, therefore I exhort IW Members to read the international news on IWW Website and get acquainted with the incredible variety of projects and activities carried out by IW Clubs all around the world.

I thank all Members for the fantastic way they are implementing Presidential Theme **PINK FIRST** and giving their contribution to help achieve Goal No 5 under the auspices of the UN 2030 Agenda.

- Just a few examples to highlight some initiatives taken by Clubs during the current IW Year.
- A personality development training was conducted aiming at empowering District Officials, Club Presidents and all participants to be successful in life.
  - 4 E-cycles were donated to less privileged ladies to travel to earn their living.
  - Three looms were donated to support village women in weaving carpets with traditional design and empower them economically, socially and culturally.
  - Two prosthetic hands, 1 artificial leg, 3 battery-operated tricycles, 8 simple paddle tricycles were donated to enable the receivers to be independent and earn a livelihood.
  - Sewing machines were also provided in view of self-employment.
  - 10 Rickshaws were donated to needy women who received full training so that they could earn a living.

**Women helping Women  
 Women empowering Women  
 Women saving Women  
 are what we need for**

**Strong Women  
 Stronger World**

**Ebe Panitteri Martines**  
 IIW President 2021-22



## Digital Empowerment of Members A journey to keep connected

In the rapidly changing world of uncertainty that we have been living in for the last two years, it has been a challenge for many Inner Wheel members to meet and connect with others using the traditional forms of meeting. A significant positive for Inner Wheel during the pandemic is that we needed to find a way to keep our members connected while not physically meeting. So technology has become our new friend.



**The problems faced by IWNZ** are not unique to New Zealand or Inner Wheel – they are issues faced by any organisation:



- How do we know who our members are?
- How can we communicate efficiently with our members?
- How can we keep everyone connected when physical meetings cannot happen?
- How can we do all this work when we are managed by volunteers?

IWNZ began developing their National Strategy some years ago. A strategy is a constantly evolving, living document where issues are addressed, solutions developed, and steps to help reach these goals.

**Problem** – How do we know who our members are?

**Solution** – We created a national database linked to the IWNZ website, [www.innerwheel.org.nz](http://www.innerwheel.org.nz). Members each have a personal login to manage their membership profile, opt out of communications, register to attend events and access a members-only portal on the website for resources, discussion groups and members-only events.

Therefore, the IWNZ Website operates as two separate entities:

- the first being for the general public, to showcase Inner Wheel and share what we do and how to become a member,
- the second as a powerful tool for our members a communication database and members resource portal.

**Problem** – How can we do all this work when we are run by volunteers?

**Solution** – Our first focus was on procuring funds. Our National

Executive team began applying for local grants to secure funding used to purchase the software applications required and to pay for the professional set up of the database and website. We then secured a second year of funding, which enabled us to contract the services of a part-time administrator who maintains the system and creates the website material, forms, and procedures. She also helps to manage the database and online events.

**Problem** – how to get everyone on board with the tools?

**Solution** – Many new tools were introduced to IWNZ. We took it in two-year stages. In 2020-21, we registered IWNZ as a non Profit with Google, which gave us free access to all the **Google Workspace tools**. We registered the domain name [iwanz.org.nz](http://iwanz.org.nz) and were then able to create an organisation on Google with Administrators that can set up all email accounts and manage these Goggle accounts internally.

**All National and District position holders had accounts created** and instructed to use these in the first year. In addition, Google Meet sessions helped these account holders migrate their previous Gmail accounts to the new system, and they attended online lessons on how to use the new accounts.



Resources and all Inner Wheel business were moved into **Drive to share documents and resources retained for future use.**

It was very timely that we had converted to this system, as our biannual conference was in jeopardy of not happening. The National team took over the running of the conference, with all meetings held via Google Meet online meetings. Google Forms enabled us to **reach out to members to collect information, take surveys, and administer registration forms.**

For the 2021-22 year, **all Clubs were allocated Google accounts**, expanding the system across the country. At the same time, we launched the new **IWNZ website and database** and had contracted our part-time Administrator. Having Arielle on hand to reach out to struggling members was a vital and a calming asset to us. Arielle's gentle manner and personal approach saw her making personal contact with many. The use of **online meetings to assist** some members while also listening to the problems were encountered. Therefore, she created the

necessary **troubleshooting and FAQ** section on the website to help others experiencing these issues of most concern.

Change does not always come easy, and in a world where everything was changing and the higher demand of using technology bought with it some fear and frustrations by some. We knew it would not be an easy process to transition everyone over. Still, we took our time, applied care and concern, and held back from instigating the system's full functionality at this moment in time.

### **Online Events**

The other step to getting everyone on board was introducing **two forms of online events.**

**IWNZ Day** happens on the 1st of September every year. Members are encouraged to **'Walk and Talk'** and share Inner Wheel with their friends. In 2021, IWNZ day fell in the middle of a level four, complete COVID-19 lockdown, so we went online. **"Brew in Your Bubbles"** was created, and invitations were sent to all members. The ladies "Zoomed" in for a morning tea, sharing a little time for a "walk" as we did **a virtual walk in the sunshine.** We took a **tour of the country** to check in on our friends from across NZ. We had a **quiz** to guess the logos of charities we support, we told a few **stories of lockdown projects** and generally had a great time connecting.

At every online event, IWNZ President, Michelle, likes to teach



(A) **Bi-monthly Sunday sessions are casual**, online events on a Sunday afternoon for members to register to attend, log in and take part in conversations, share ideas, meet each other, and even play a few games. They are open to all members within NZ and overseas. These have been fun meetings. In July, we held our first one where the National Governing Body members and associates had an opportunity to introduce themselves and share their roles and IW stories. It helped IW members see who the National team are and realise we are all just members and friendly people.

Members something new. It has been a bit of fun for the members to learn some **"Zoom Etiquette"** such as – how to rename themselves to include their first name and Club name, so members can see where they come from and raise their



Recently we sent a **survey** to all members who have attended these Digital Education Events. Here is a summary of the results:

- Everyone (100%) who attended found the sessions helpful and felt they learnt something new.
- 82% felt empowered to help other members in their Clubs to develop their online skills.
- 95% believe the video recordings are of benefit.
- 86% who responded had attended at least three online events

hand, or share a reaction. Most importantly, to is how to mute and unmute themselves. Members are encouraged to keep their camera on so that they can genuinely connect and see each other.

It was a tremendous honour for IWNZ members to meet IIV President Ebe at their November

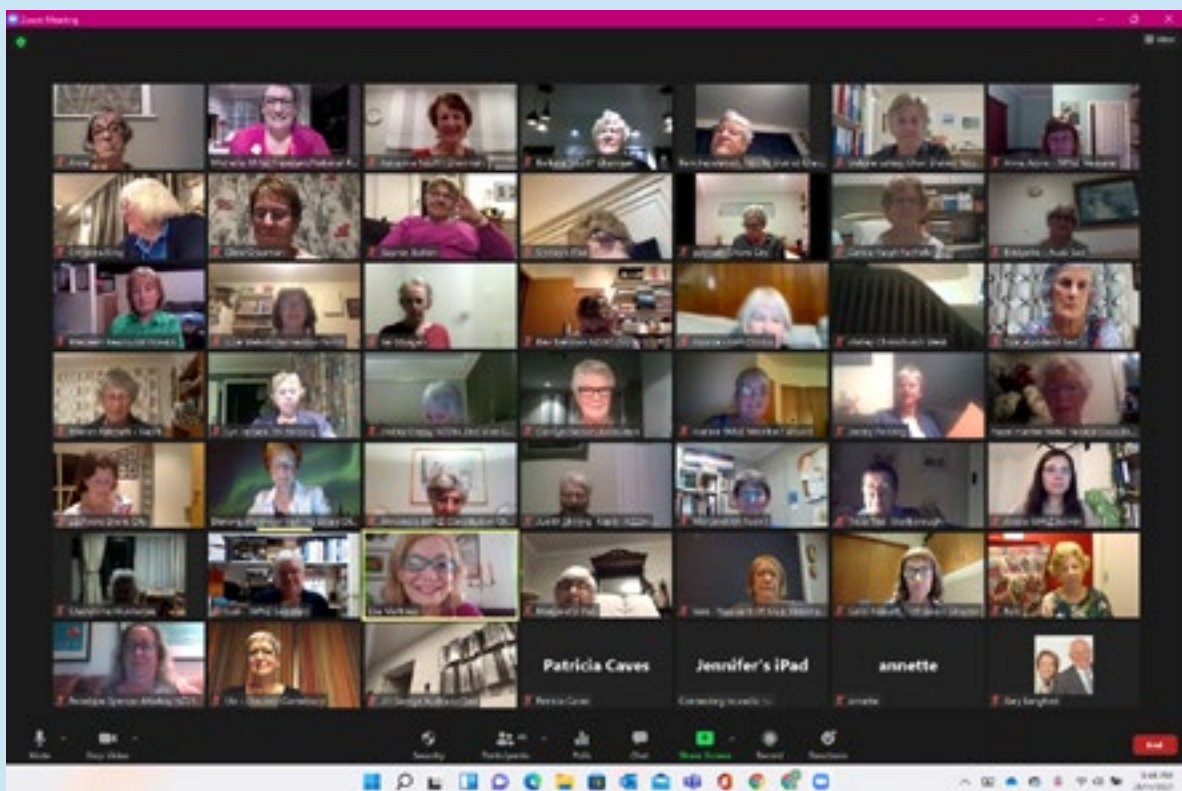
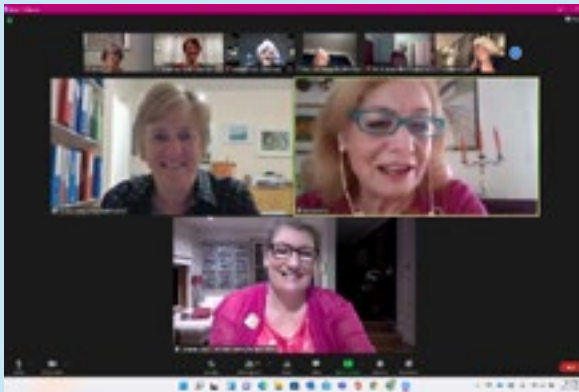
Sunday Session. In this event, the District Chairmen shared their District projects and talked about how the Clubs in their District manage. We then had a Question and Answer session with IIV President Ebe. It was a unique and intimate experience for members to meet President Ebe. Many members have commented on this beautiful experience they had, and they were impressed to realise how much effort she took to read about what is happening in IWNZ and share some of her experiences with IWNZ members.

(B) The second format of online meetings and empowerment of IWNZ members is a **monthly Digital Education series**. Held on the first Wednesday of every month, this series is **recorded and then posted on the IWNZ website and YouTube channel** for others to view at their leisure.



The **topics** include:

- How to use Google Workspace accounts,
- How to log into the website Members tools,
- How to make media submissions,
- An online guide to service records,
- Creating exciting newsletters,
- Using Online Creative Tools,
- Social Media tips and tricks,
- How to write a Press Release,
- How to publicise your Club events,
- Using Google Apps and tools.



## Comments from the **feedback:**

- “Appreciate the effort being made to educate members. Those who aren’t participating are missing out.”
- “The digital sessions are a great way for us as IWNZ get to work together, and members see themselves as part of a bigger organisation than just their Club. Great way to share ideas and keep members up today with website and support. Also been a great way to educate us this year as we have become so dependant on the technologic age.”
- “I think the sessions have been beneficial not only for the IW content but also to encourage members to become more at ease with the new technology. Also to adjust to how organisations such as IW will need to communicate in the future.”
- “Congratulations, Michelle, on running these sessions. They are really valuable and a great way to upskill.”
- “Have found the sessions easier to be part of than expected. They are well managed.”
- “These online sessions help to make members feel connected across the wider organisation - something that has only been possible by attendance at District meetings or conference previously and is a goal we have hoped to achieve for several years.”
- “Congratulations to Michelle as well for her excellent patient chairing of the meetings and teaching of all things Zoom!”

At every session, members get a tour of any new developments on the IWNZ website and new resources for their use.



These digital education sessions have played a significant role in empowering the members to gain confidence in using the resources and tools available and help keep the members inspired and engaged in the technological developments. As a result, their popularity is increasing.

With Zoom etiquette and a non-threatening environment created in the delivery of these events, there has been considerable evidence that these sessions are making a difference and members are using the tools.

**Problem:** How to communicate with all Members effectively?

**Solutions:** The development of the new database has also meant that communication tools have expanded for use by IWNZ. For example, regular newsletters can be delivered to all members using the database. In addition, invitations and reminders of online events, online registrations monitored and the ability to send surveys to specific groups of members.

Another effective tool in communication is the use and strength of social media, ease of access to the website and a clear communication plan to ensure effective and timely communications to all members.

There are systems for all campaigns to ensure that information is communicated clearly to all members. The social media channels are maintained by the IWNZ media team, who regularly post inspiration and ideas on Facebook and Instagram. Therefore ensuring these pages are active, relevant and engaging.

## Summary



**Communication is vital** to ensuring all Inner Wheel members feel connected, empowered and engaged. We have a **clear strategy**, we have set the priorities of what our IWNZ members want to see happening, and we are **working together** as a team to keep the wheel turning and to keep IWNZ moving forward as we **develop the skills from within**. The process is intentionally careful to ensure all members feel supported at whatever level they choose. It is vital that the older **members are valued and supported** within their Clubs, while others are encouraged to **grow and guide the organisation into the next 100 years**. We have some more inspiring tools to roll out in 2022 and, in particular, are looking forward to a National Membership March, 'Tickled Pink' campaign. Together, through empowerment, we are evolving as an organisation that supports **Strong Women** in a **Stronger World**. IWNZ's journey continues....



# Empowerment INDIA

by VEENA SWAMY, National Editor

## Stree Shakti App Build • Motivate • Grow

### A success story of Inner Wheel in India

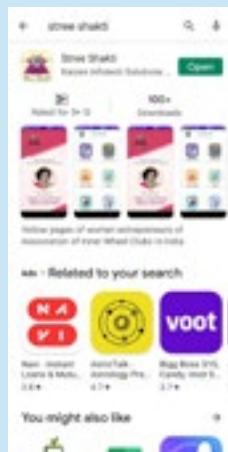
The Inner Wheel year 2021-22 started with the International theme “PINK FIRST” given by International Inner Wheel President Ebe Panitteri Martines. She also unveiled a three-year worldwide social theme, “Strong Women, Stronger World”. It was a pleasant coincidence then that the President of the Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in India, Saroj Katiyar, also came up with Association Goals “SHEROES” with a clear vision and focus to help women grow. I believe a woman’s best protection is the money she earns for herself and financial independence will lead to sustainable growth. A three step plan was made and implemented at national level.

#### SHEROES and Stree Shakti App

The first letter of SHEROES, “S” stands for ‘Stree Shakti’, a Hindi word which means Women Power in English. ‘Stree Shakti’ is a name of vision for empowering women through entrepreneurship which led to the first step to develop a mobile-friendly App which is named ‘Stree Shakti’.

The Stree Shakti App is a one-stop destination to locate all women entrepreneurs in Inner Wheel at a click of a finger. It is an e-directory with the names, contact details, and businesses, products, initiatives of the ‘Shepreneurs’ a name proudly given by Association President Saroj Katiyar to Inner Wheel women entrepreneurs and thus a great help to them to promote, advertise and sell their products and increase online visibility. Data of approximately 3,500 Inner Wheel women entrepreneurs spread across more than 1,500 clubs in India were collected and made available through this app. It works on Android and iOS and is available on Google Play Store and App Store for free download. She is motivating 47,000 Inner Wheel members and their families in India to download, use this App and give preference to doing business with an Inner Wheel friend.

A *Shepreneur* can be searched by any one keyword Name, Club Name, City, Business Classification, District number or Mobile number. For example, suppose you are living in Delhi and want to send a cake to your sister on her birthday in Mumbai, you can use the keyword “Baker” or “Cake” to search for an Inner Wheel friend in Mumbai who is in the cake-baking business and then place the order. The added advantage is that you are getting connected to a trusted Inner Wheel member. The Inner Wheel baker in Mumbai can get business from all over India by enrolling for free with the App. You can also connect with local *Shepreneurs* for your day-to-day shopping needs and who knows it may come with the added benefit from an Inner Wheel friend.



This App has many uses as it contains vast information. Apart from the business directory of *Shepreneurs*, it contains information about Inner Wheel, Inner Wheel Objectives, IIW Theme PINK FIRST by IIW President Ebe Panitteri, biodata and photo along with a special motivating message for *Shepreneurs*. It also contains detailed information about Association Goals ‘SHEROES’ hence, doing good branding for the organisation. A special tab for non-Inner Wheel members to collect information if they are interested

in joining our organisation is also available inside this App. The information collected is shared with District Chairmen to direct them to clubs associated with the geographical location of concerned women, leading to membership development. Association is also motivating other women entrepreneurs to join Inner Wheel to get free enrolment in the App based directory. This will lead to quality membership development because it is believed that independent women can take up more responsibilities and handle challenges more strongly, thereby contributing immensely to the growth of the organisation.

### Webinars for Inner Wheel Entrepreneurs

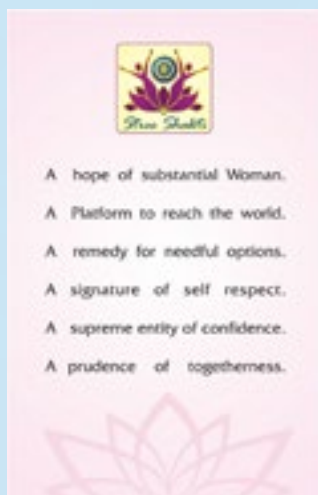
The second step was to organise a series of webinars and online sessions on embracing the challenges faced in business: ideas, concepts, and insights; how to take advantage of Government schemes, digital marketing, Facebook for business and e-commerce, and Amazon marketing. They have been conducted regularly to increase the knowledge of women, upscale

their business and support digital transformation and growth. Association President Saroj Katiyar is inviting the best of people in the country to guide *Shepreneurs* to learn skills and gain knowledge to develop their businesses. Thousands of women are joining and learning to grow their businesses through them and are benefitting.

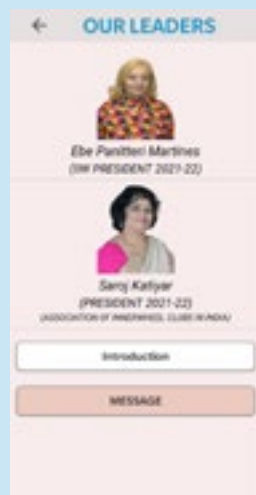
### Exhibitions and marketing

The third and final step is to organise physical and online exhibitions to promote these women entrepreneurs. Clubs are regularly organising exhibitions and promoting them regularly, thereby making them economically self-sufficient.

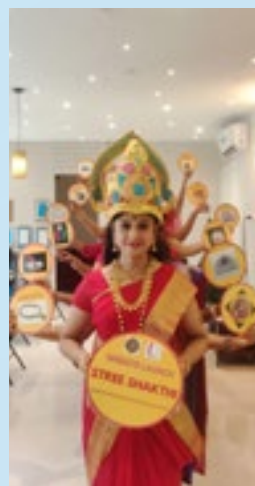
Inner Wheel is the largest women's voluntary organisation in the world. With such efforts in promoting women entrepreneurship, a difference in the growth, progress, and economy of the country can be made. Thus, progressive reshaping and helping in building a strong nation can be turned into reality.



Homepage of the Stree Shakti App



Landing page of the App



Website launch done in a unique way depicting "Streeshakti"



TULIPS: Online exhibition conducted to promote women entrepreneurs



Virtual bazaar lookout on the App



Tulips: Online exhibition to support female entrepreneurs



TULIP: event for the women entrepreneurs conducted on 16th October 2021



## Success Story of STREE SHAKTI APP

An initiative to empower women by encouraging the entrepreneurial streak in them!

Association President for 2021-22, Saroj Katiyar has given supreme importance to woman entrepreneurship as part of the goals and theme during her tenure.

The online exhibitions, workshops, webinars, mobile (downloadable) App and other refreshing initiatives serve as a boost keeping the spirit high and fueling the demand-supply chain which is vital for those in small-scale businesses.

Exhibitions serve as a great medium to connect and interact personally, for touch and feel of the products, when possible, as physical exhibitions. The virtual fairs have been an innovative concept, during and post-pandemic, showing that the reach and sales are possible when women stand up for each other. Meticulous planning, teamwork, and a never-say-die attitude have ensured that not one person but the entire band of women in a Club, indeed the entire nation, is uplifted through the spirit and vision of a single entity 'Inner Wheel'.

Workshops and webinars that I had the opportunity to attend (curated by District Chairman, Kamala Selvam, District 323) have exposed an array of knowledge-laden sessions for the benefit of participants to think 'Big'. Go local but Think Global... and why not... when you can benefit from the absolutely free sessions where ideas and assistance are shared by women for the benefit of one another.

The mobile App serves to bring everyone under one roof and is a one-touch wonder to unite entrepreneurs, encourage local craftsmen, find hidden treasures and showcase the true spirit of every Inner Wheel member across the nation.

In our personal journey, for my partner Sharmila Soundar (Member, IWC Chennai United) and me, it has been a fulfilling path, encouraged by friends, guided by seniors and supported by the entire network of Inner Wheel Clubs across Districts.

**Sowmya Natarajan**, President 2021-22,  
Inner Wheel Club of Chennai United  
Co-founder of Rawearthsecretz  
(vegan skincare & haircare)  
Instagram and FB: @rawearthsecretz



**Orchid: The Confident Business Woman**  
Oct 8, 2021  
6 pm on Zoom

**Topic:**  
Angel investors (Funding & Investing)

In the presence of Kamala Selvam,  
District Chairman,  
Inner Wheel District 323

**Vidya Ragu**  
Vice Chair EIG BYSTICBI,  
President India Finland Business  
Council WICC, District Co  
Chairperson Entrepreneurship III  
District 3232, Angel Investor  
with ISB investors IPV,  
Founder Himalaya calling & SOC  
International Speaker  
One of India's leading Behavioral  
& learning strategist, Certified  
business mentor

Participating Clubs:  
IWC Madras  
IWC Kambhampuran  
IWC Chennai United  
IWC Madras Coorpan  
IWC Madras Central  
IWC Chennai Central  
IWC Chennai West

Zoom details will be shared

ORCHID: Workshop on Funding & Investing



**Orchid - The Confident Business Woman**  
A Workshop on  
**"How to Start a Business?"**  
with  
Girija Raghavan  
Journalist | Entrepreneur

In the presence of  
Kamala Selvam  
District Chairman,  
Dist 323

17TH SEPTEMBER  
6 PM ONWARDS  
ZOOM PLATFORM

Meeting ID- 817 5098 6924  
Passcode- IWED323

PARTICIPATING CLUBS  
IWC CHENNAI UNIQUE, IWC  
CHENNAI VIKRAMAM, IWC MADRAS  
BAY CITY, IWC MADRAS CENTRAL,  
IWC CHEYVAH, IWC GUNDEY

ORCHID: Workshop on how to start a business



**ORCHID - THE CONFIDENT INVESTOR**  
A WORKSHOP ON FINANCIAL FITNESS  
WITH  
PIIWP KAMALA RAMAKRISHNAN

IN THE PRESENCE OF  
KAMALA SELVAM  
DISTRICT CHAIRMAN (D323)

MEETING ID: 817 5098 6924  
PASSCODE: IWED323

Workshop on financial fitness



## COURAGE-MAKERS: Look and act wisely

THE MEMBERS OF THE INNER WHEEL CLUBS IN MUNICH have been called courageous by the press. They have indeed become courage-makers and role models for many young women and girls at the Sankt Josef Girls' Secondary School in Schwandorf. The teachers of the school support Inner Wheel members in educating the young women to be more self-confident and independent.

Strong women with courage, civil courage and independent action are a prerequisite for successful and self-confident behaviour and action in society. Education in these aspects does not begin in the workplace but in school.

Such "empowerment" was publicly honoured by the **Munich Inner Wheel Award for Civil Courage**. The prize is endowed with a total sum of 5,000 euros and provides targeted support for activities, workshops, project weeks and extracurricular activities aimed at strengthening their personality and education, to maturity. The prize is awarded every 2 years.

**"Look and act wisely"**: Under this motto, experts were able to provide guidance on how to counter sexual violence against women, but also on how women can help and protect each other.

In Germany, 25% of women are victims of domestic violence. Accordingly, **for every 4th woman, her own home is the most dangerous place**. Alarming figures, behind which stand individual fates, destinies of women. The students dealt with this problem consciously and in detail in order to draw the attention of parents, classmates and teachers to a topic that is still taboo in many places.



Members busy at work.



Sanct Josef Girls' Secondary School, Schwandorf

**"WE WANT TO ADDRESS INJUSTICE IN THE FUTURE AND ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO LOOK AND HELP," CONCLUDED EMELIE AND LORENA (16 YEARS OLD).**

### Heroes of the COVID-19 Crisis

When teachers show special commitment even in difficult times and courageously go their own, creative and special ways for the benefit of the children, then this is worthy of appreciation. The Inner Wheel from Munich wrote a letter to 2,250 elementary schools in Bavaria and asked for applications for the Second Munich Inner Wheel Civil Courage Award — to honour those teachers who took measures and initiatives on their own responsibility, to help children and parents during COVID-19. Almost one in three children suffered from psychological problems almost a year after the pandemic, including worries and fears, depression symptoms and psychosomatic complaints. The Inner Wheel members are convinced that it takes committed teachers to strengthen these children.

## Empowerment through adversity The courage of a true Inner Wheel woman

Courage, will, security, decision, strength, and faith come to the fore when a situation or condition puts you on the edge and, there are only two ways: get ahead or sink.

The second was not an option for Yves Mariscotti de Caligaris because it would be victimising herself to escape responsibility for her own survival and her ability to do something for the community. For her there was no choice but to show her power.

Here I share the story of a woman who fought through thick and thin to always see a new dawn and share that hope with every person she came across in her life.

Acqui Terme is a town in Italy very close to an extinct volcano and, therefore, popular for thermal water treatments, mud baths and sulphur water. Born on 17 December 1915, Yves Caligaris lived her childhood and youth immersed in an environment of helping others as people came to seek a cure in that corner of the world.

Later, she studied in Nice at a boarding school away from her parents. It was a tough and lonely time for her. After graduating in interior decoration and mastering two languages, she returned to her hometown. It was difficult to get to feel, again, the warmth of home. Nevertheless; it was from her



Yves Mariscotti de Caligaris



Yves with Mexican Red Cross volunteers

father that she learned generosity. She attributes her sense of service to him. He would visit a couple of friends who were living in difficult situations. He used to visit them, on his bicycle, with a basket full of fruits and food. This is how she decided to join the volunteer corps of the Red Cross.

She fought with all her might against the customs of the time of negotiating marriage, the payment of a dowry, and heartbreak. Her mother was determined to marry her off to a "good match." But, luck smiled on her.. and she met the love of her life: Piero Caligaris. A man ten years older than her, a very successful transport industrialist, a citizen of the same hometown

although he was living in Africa. After overcoming the family vicissitudes, on the one hand the ambitious desire of her mother and on the other, the fear of Piero's father losing the economic support of his son. Finally in 1939, they married and left for Asmara Africa where they would start their new life together.

Yves never imagined the horrors she would see and experience in Africa. Racism, slavery, starvation and asthenia suffered by Africans in the presence of European colonisers and the terrible hostility of the climate.

When World War II came, her husband departed to Bombay as a prisoner of the English. She faced the death of her newborn daughter, loneliness, scarcity and poverty; in the midst of danger, insecurity and uncertainty.

Yves was surrounded by death, abuse and struggle, but held on to faith under the shelter of God. From there she drew the strength to move on, and the hope of one day reuniting with her husband.

Faced with the dark outlook and with the support of friends, she launched her own crusade to support Italian prisoners. Service to her fellow citizens filled her mind and heart. She recalled her days at the Red Cross in her native Italy and decided to rejoin the nursing corps to help Italians in concentration camps.

Time passed, and she met Piero. They flew to America, lived for a time in New York and later settled permanently in Mexico. Once in Mexico, her servility and experience led her to interact with great personalities and continue with her vocation of service.

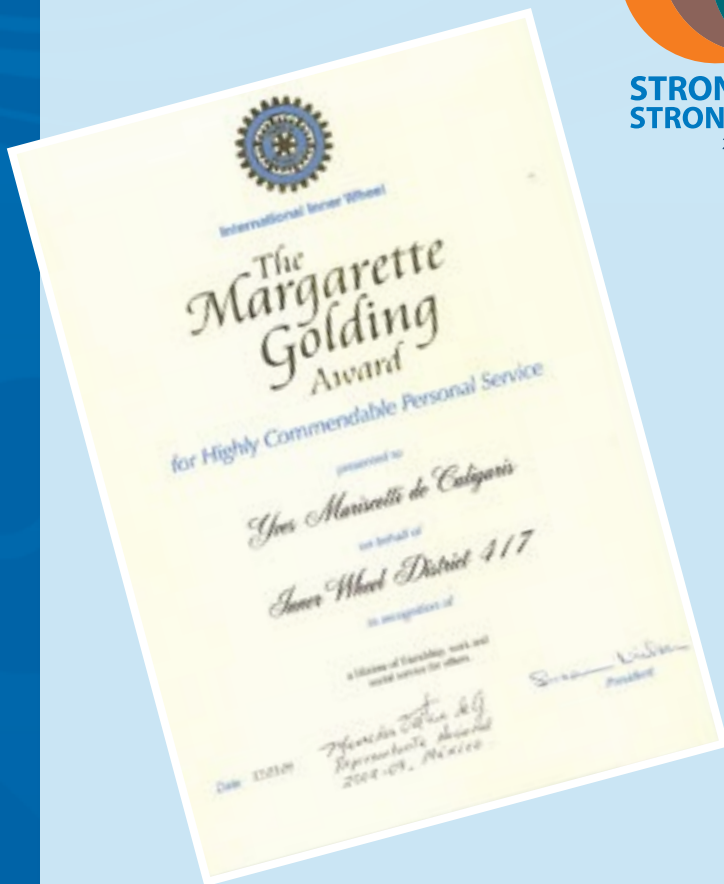
Once again, she joined the nursing corps of the Mexican Red Cross. It was then that she got to know about Rotary International and its magic.

Later she would meet Mercedes Velten, the first District Chairman of Inner Wheel District 417 in Mexico and who would encourage her to be a founding member of the Inner Wheel Club of Ciudad de Mexico.

Tireless, enthusiastic and always with a restless heart to help people in need, she came to lead District 417 as District Chairman, and to be worthy of multiple recognitions, among them was the recognition of Margarett Golding for her record of service and for being a woman of extraordinary human power and worthy as an example for many women, who even in the face of adversity can sustain their power.



District Chairman Pilar Salvadores and Yves Mariscotti Caligaris receiving an award.



From left, Mercedes Velten, Yves Mariscotti Caligaris receiving an award and District Chairman Cristina Cassaigne (District 417).

## Fire extinguishers for the longhouses in Sarawak

### Empowering womenfolk to safeguard their own homes

It was a warm and sultry day in the interiors of Sarawak on the island of Malaysian Borneo. In a remote village, nestled in this “Land of the Hornbills”, the elders sat along the common corridors of their wooden longhouses, each of which is home to 15 households. As they were catching up on the latest village news and watching the little children at play, the mothers were tending to dinner preparations.

Just as a late evening breeze brought a cool respite to the village, a piece of burning ember suddenly tumbled onto the kitchen floor from an unattended wood burning stove, where a young mother had briefly turned away from, to attend to the needs of her crying baby. All it took was a few minutes for the breeze to fan the embers into a flame, and soon, the dreaded shouts of “Api! Api!” or “Fire! Fire!” brought pandemonium to the village. As the womenfolk rushed to draw water from the nearest water source, the fire raged on and by the time the menfolk who were working in the nearby fields were alerted to the fire, all they could do was to watch the fire ravage what was once their home.

A recent news report highlighted that there were a total of **120 fire outbreaks over a span of 5 years between 2015 and 31st July 2020, at longhouses in Sarawak**. Many of the longhouses, especially those located in the rural and interior areas of Sarawak, are wooden structures, housing between 15 to 20 households, if not more. These villages may be several hundred kilometres away from the nearest town with a Fire Station and some are only accessible via dirt tracks or by river.

The causes of the fire outbreaks were reported mainly due to “electrical short circuits, followed by gas equipment malfunctioning, embers, oil lamps and candles”, among others. And most of the fire outbreaks that failed to be overcome were noted to occur between 6am and 6pm, when only women and children, and the elderly were at home. We were also given to understand from our interviews with several village heads that there is sadly, a lack of fire-fighting equipment in these longhouses, and as such, fire outbreaks were more often than not, difficult to contain.



A longhouse in the rural areas of Sarawak; and the long corridor of a longhouse with each door leading to a different household

## INNER WHEEL'S INVOLVEMENT

"The Fire Extinguisher Project" is an initiative by the three District 331 Inner Wheel Clubs of Kuching, Miri and Sibu in Sarawak which, together with the other Inner Wheel Clubs in Singapore and Sabah, and friends of Inner Wheel have rallied together to raise funds to purchase fire extinguishers for several selected villages in Sarawak.

## BENEFITS OF THIS PROJECT

By donating fire extinguishers to the longhouses, Inner Wheel hopes to:

- i. EMPOWER the womenfolk from the villages with the necessary fire-fighting skills, knowledge and equipment to safe-guard their homes and families; and
- ii. give the residents a fighting chance to put out any fire before it gets out of hand.



The newly formed **PINK FIRE SQUAD** from one of the longhouses in the village of Kampung Lebu Kulit, Sungai Asap



Fire Safety Manager Mr Norman Inga showing a volunteer from the **PINK FIRE SQUAD** how to use a fire extinguisher



Immediate Past President Anie Amat from the Inner Wheel Club of Kuching, handing over the first batch of fire extinguishers for one of the longhouses in Kampung Lebu Kulit to Village Head Bujang Bit.

## SELECTION CRITERIA OF THE VILLAGES

- The village of wooden longhouses must be situated in the rural or interior areas of Sarawak.
- The residents must be willing to maintain and service the fire extinguishers annually at their own expense; and
- The residents, including a team of the womenfolk from each longhouse, must be willing to learn basic fire-fighting skills from the Fire Brigade personnel as arranged by Inner Wheel and the respective village heads.

## SELECTED VILLAGES

Three villages have been identified for this Project, with Kampung Lebu Kulit being the nearest to the town of Bintulu, which has a fire station.

- a) Kampung Lebu Kulit, Sungai Asap (Community: Kenyah Lebu Kulit, about 140 km or 3 hours' drive from Bintulu)
  - Number of Longhouses – 14 blocks, with 15 households

each ie. a total of 210 households

- Population – about 2,000 villagers
- b) Kampung Data Kakus (Community: Kenyah Badang, about 6 hours' drive from Bintulu)
  - Number of Clusters – 13 groups of longhouses and mixed dwellings, with 299 households in total
  - Population – 3,000 villagers
- c) Kampung Uma Nyaving (Community: Kayan, 10 minutes' drive from Kg Lebu Kulit)
  - Number of Longhouses – 6 blocks with 15 households each, and 1 block with 10 households, giving a total of 100 households
  - Population – 680 villagers

## NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES

609 households, with a total population of about 5,680 villagers.

## TIMELINES FOR THE PROJECT

The Fire Officers have recommended the 9 kg Multipurpose Type ABC Fire Extinguishers for the longhouses, so that the womenfolk will be able to handle them.

Although fundraising efforts are currently ongoing, the first batch of fire extinguishers have been purchased and delivered to the villagers of Kampung Lebu Kulit in early January 2022 to mark INNER WHEEL DAY 2022. It is hoped that all three villages will be fully equipped with fire extinguishers by the end of March 2022, and their "PINK FIRE SQUADS", comprising the womenfolk from each village, not only competent in firefighting skills but empowered to protect the safety of their homes and the well-being of their families!



# Empowerment Philippines

by Michelle Reyes, Charter President, District 381

## District 381 inks agreement with PBEEd and RI 3830 for **YouthWorks PH**

District 381 in the Inner Wheel Clubs of the Philippines, Inc., led by District Chairman Lulu Yambao and Rotary International District 3830 led by Governor Joji Tan, came together to support the training efforts of the private sector-led initiative called **YouthWorks PH, a workforce development project implemented by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Philippine Business for Education (PBEEd).**

On 27 October 2021, the agreement was signed by lead clubs—the **Inner Wheel Club of Manila Bay EDSA** President Anna Chan Lao and **Inner Wheel Club of Metro South** President Arlyn Gregorio. This paves the way for the amplification of recruitment and training efforts in the project's flagship programme called **Flexible Training for Work (FTW)**. The partnership is committed to providing training subsidies for 50 FTW trainees for the whole duration of the partnership, initially, giving the first 15 trainees a total of PHP 90,000 in training support.

"The thrust of the International Inner Wheel's social projects campaign for the next 3 years is 'Strong Women, Stronger World'. Our district is proud of our two clubs, the Inner Wheel Clubs of Manila Bay EDSA and Metro South, because they heed the call of empowering women through this training as an initiative towards developing employment with YouthWorks PH."

Lulu Yambao,  
IWCPI District Chairman.

The programme will also identify potential youths, unemployed 18 to 30 years old, who are neither in training nor education. They will then be qualified based on employment requirements of the companies. This is also in partnership with PBEEd in YouthWorks PH.



"THESE KINDS OF PARTNERSHIPS ARE OUR BEAM OF HOPE DESPITE THE BLEAK SITUATION THAT WE ARE GRAPPLING WITH. PARTICIPATION AND COLLABORATION ARE PART OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT."

SEAN CALLAHAN,  
USAID PHILIPPINES,  
ACTING MISSION DIRECTOR.

"I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING BENEFICIARIES ATTEST TO HOW THE PROJECT HAS HELPED THEM IMPROVE THEIR LIVELIHOOD. THIS WILL FURTHER INSPIRE THE REST OF OUR DISTRICT TO SUSTAIN OUR THEME OF PINK FIRST – WOMEN HELPING WOMEN."

LULU YAMBAO,  
IWCPI DISTRICT CHAIRMAN



The Inner Wheel Club of Manila Bay EDSA President Anna Chan Lao and Inner Wheel Club of Metro South President Arlyn Gregorio, with PBEEd and Rotary International District 3830.

**FTW components** include **Remote Mentoring and Employability Skills Training**. For a period of two months, trainees are grouped into cohorts of fifteen trainees and are assigned a mentor whose responsibility is to carry out online modules on core skills, such as communication, professionalism, critical thinking and interpersonal skills. The trainees' employability skills are honed using the Skills to Succeed platform through PBEd's partnership with Accenture. Trainees are provided with communication allowance while learning devices are loaned to trainees. The learning devices will be donated to the trainee upon completion of their programme.

The second component is the **Technical-Vocational Learning via remote mentoring**. Trainees can choose to learn through the TESDA Online Programme or be trained on a blended modality for specific sites and/or sectors that allow and/or require face-to-face training. TESDA scholarships are utilised in technical-vocational institutions for some technical-vocational courses. TESDA is the Technical Education And Skills Development Authority, a Philippines government agency.

The third component is the **On-the-Job Training with partner companies**. After their technical-vocational learning, trainees are deployed to partner companies to undergo on-the-job training for a maximum of three months. A company who is interested in training the youth signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which includes, but not limited to, the following commitments: (a) shoulder the trainees medical/health checks, uniform and protective garments, and/or logistical-transportation support as they start training; (b) provide each beneficiary with basic accident insurance and daily training allowance not lower than 75% of the regional minimum wage for the duration of the on-the-job training; (c) ensure that the trainees have the necessary tools, instruments, machines and other safety equipment to perform the tasks; (d) PBEEd to provide trainees with support for competencies/skills assessment and certification and other pre-employment requirements as may be necessary; and (e) during the course of the training, beneficiaries are considered as trainees and not employees of the partner company. However, the partner company shall prioritise the beneficiaries in hiring should a position become available.

#### About USAID

The U.S. Agency for International Development administers the U.S. foreign assistance program providing economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 80 countries worldwide.

#### About PBEd

A non-profit organization founded in 2006 by top CEOs in the country, PBEEd is the business community's response to the need for greater education and economy alignment. Its advocacies include teacher quality improvement and workforce development.

#### About YouthWorks PH

Launched in 2018, YouthWorks PH is a P1.7-billion workforce development project of the United States Agency for International Development and Philippine Business for Education. It aims to make education and training more responsive to the needs of the economy by working with the government, industry, and academe to provide opportunities to youth, not in education, employment, or training.



## Labvanvitelli Project: business incubation for students

The **Inner Wheel Club of Caserta Luigi Vanvitelli**, in line with the PINK FIRST priority on empowerment, has decided on a project called "Labvanvitelli". It is an ambitious project commissioned by the Club, chaired by Club President Maria Colasanti who has been working for several months under the careful guidance of the District 210 Chairman Liliana Del Grosso.

The project consists of setting up a "laboratory" to be activated in secondary schools. The idea is to inform, train and support, free of charge, young people who want to develop an innovative idea and then handhold them in creating their start-up.

It is not an information desk. The school managers of the various institutions involved will be the ones to notify young people's business ideas.



Once the "business idea identification form" is filled in, the professionals in the Inner Wheel Club of Caserta Luigi Vanvitelli (e.g. accountants, architects, engineers, experts in finance, as well as in the legal field) will support the young people in developing their idea through market analysis, feasibility studies as well as drawing up business plans to verify the feasibility of the idea.



District Chairman Liliana Del Grosso Russo and Club President Maria Colasanti.

The project consists of two steps: the first involves training young people interested in corporate topics and start-up opportunities. The second step will be much more practical where the young people will be accompanied and supported from its establishment up to the end of the first year to ensure its survival.

It is an ambitious project that will extend beyond the current year. At the moment, the Club has drawn up a network agreement which, in addition to the leading institute, includes seven high schools from Caserta and the Province. The agreement is scheduled to be signed at the end of February 2022.



# Empowerment Malaysia

by PADMINI PILLAI, District Editor, District 330

## Clubs in District 330 educating and uplifting women

In the 2021-2022 Inner Wheel term, in line with putting women and children first, Clubs have been focusing on the four main areas as espoused by Inner Wheel, one of them being empowerment of women. What exactly does empowerment mean? Empowerment has been defined in several ways, but to me, what stands out is the effort to raise the status of women through greater awareness, which can be acquired through education, literacy and training. An enlightened and empowered woman would then be able to make her own choices and decisions, which previously may have been denied to her; this will then ultimately give her a purpose and direction in her life.

Why has empowerment become such a significant topic of discussion? Many have argued that sustainable development of any country is not possible without gender equality, which currently is largely absent globally due to the lack of empowered women. Many factors contribute to this situation, including economic, social, cultural, psychological, political and racial issues. For example, in the workplace, women face a whole gamut of barriers, like sexual harassment, unjust recruitment practices and lack of career progression, as well as unequal pay for performing the same job as their male counterparts. **We hear too many stories of women becoming victims of human trafficking, and other forms of abuse. Something seriously needs to be done to help break this cycle of injustice towards women in so many parts of the world.**

The United Nations itself has come up with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), of which SDG 4 and SDG 5 have a special focus on women. The former is on access to education for all, while the latter focuses on empowering women and girls to achieve gender equality via equal access to health care, education, work, and other vital opportunities. Even though in the current digital era, accessibility to the Internet can be a source of education and empowerment for women, nonetheless, many women are bereft of this enabler to education, and hence, continue to live their lives the way they always have and are resigned to being a 'lesser human being' than men. Gender inequality continues to persist and be all pervasive.

Taking cognizance of the importance of education and knowledge to combat the scourge of the lack of empowerment and gender inequality, the Inner Wheel Clubs of Subang Selangor and Alor Setar organised two timely webinars – one on how to develop strong empowered women and the other on coping with depression, one of the key reasons for the lack of empowered feelings among women.

IN THE WORKPLACE,  
WOMEN FACE A WHOLE  
GAMUT OF BARRIERS, LIKE  
SEXUAL HARASSMENT,  
UNJUST RECRUITMENT  
PRACTICES AND LACK OF  
CAREER PROGRESSION, AS  
WELL AS UNEQUAL PAY  
FOR PERFORMING THE  
SAME JOB AS THEIR MALE  
COUNTERPARTS

## STRONG WOMEN IN A CHALLENGING WORLD Inner Wheel Club of Subang Selangor

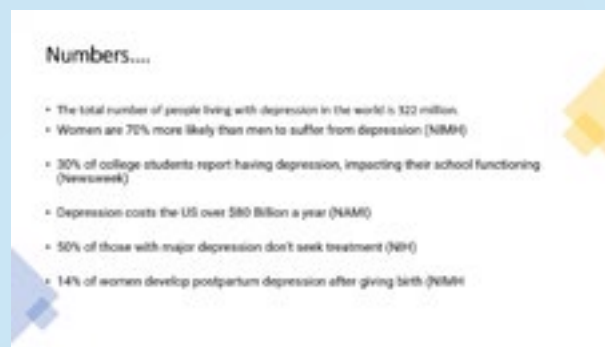


The above webinar was conducted by Sitpah Selvaratnam, an eminent advocate and an international arbitrator. Her talk on 'Strong Women in a Challenging World' was very apt to address the despondent situation that many women find themselves in. There is now more isolation and loneliness and this has significantly affected the overall mental well-being, specifically of women and girls, who are more vulnerable.

Sitpah stressed that **women have to realise that they have higher emotional intelligence and an inbuilt ability to lead, manage conflicts and build positive relationships.** Strong women can face their emotions with courage and self-assuredness and know that kindness and compassion are strength, which stem from having the right attitude to face adversities and daunting challenges.

It is important, Sitpah continued, that despite the vulnerability of women and girls, they have a strong ability to face the emerging challenges with their inner strength, and this in turn, will emit positive energy, gratitude and hope. **Empowered women can have a rippling effect on their family and society, and ultimately, the nation.** Women can find formidable courage and confidence even in troubled times, which can only be possible if they feel empowered enough to do so.

## SUFFERING IN SILENCE: COPING WITH DEPRESSION Inner Wheel Club of Alor Setar



Recognising the mounting levels of depression, which lead women to feeling worthless, Dr Tesini Paramannantha Veloo, a psychiatrist, delivered a talk on coping with **depression, one of the key factors which has led to women feeling disempowered.**

Depression can be very debilitating, draining one's energy and hopes, and often, making it difficult to take that first small step towards recovery. When one feels depressed, the tendency is to withdraw, isolate and keep away from even close family members and friends.

Although taking the first step may be the hardest, like relaxing, going for a walk, reaching out for help, listening to music, etc., practicing these simple but positive steps day-by-day, can lift the dense fog of depression people can find themselves in. Dr Tesini said that if people feel depressed, they need to do things that relax and energise them. This may not lift depression immediately nor entirely, but it will ultimately make people feel more upbeat and energetic. **Once people with depression identify the destructive thought patterns that are causing the symptoms, and deal positively with it, they can be well on their way to feeling more empowered and attuned to a balanced perspective of life.**

## MYTHILI: AN EMPOWERED WOMAN Inner Wheel Club of Subang

IWC of Subang had been assisting a housewife, Mythili, who had been finding it difficult to manage her household expenses as her husband had lost his job due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Upon reflection, the Club felt that it would not be of much help to her to merely help her sporadically with cash donations every time she asked and decided that there must be a way for her to be more self-sustaining. It was then decided that Mythili should empower herself and learn to stand on her own two feet, as she was young and healthy – all she needed was a morale booster to be more confident of her own capabilities.

After a discussion with her, the idea slowly sank in as she realised that she could use her cooking skills to open up a food stall. To start her off with her business, IWC of Subang contributed towards the purchase of the necessary equipment. Following this, she set up a stall to sell breakfast items and soft drinks. It only took a month for her efforts to be rewarded, and Mythili is now earning a tidy sum which comes in handy to defray her household expenses.

This resourceful housewife is happy and self-assured. For IWC of Subang, **her story is one of perseverance, a never give-up attitude and determination, all of which are key ingredients to succeed.** The Club feels very fulfilled in meeting one of the goals set by IYW President Ebe Martines, by empowering a woman to take charge of her life, and in the process, of the family members who depend on her.

**No amount is too little.** Let us come together to do our bit so that we can build a nation of strong empowered women towards building a stronger world for our children and the future generation. Empowered women contribute to the well-being and prosperity of the nation. **There must therefore be a more focused and concerted effort to identify and redress imbalances so that women have more control over their own lives, and in turn, feel empowered to forge ahead with renewed enthusiasm and vigour.**



Mythili with customers



Mythili at her stall

EMPOWERED WOMEN  
CONTRIBUTE TO THE  
WELL-BEING AND  
PROSPERITY OF  
THE NATION

We ♥ Inner Wheel!

*Celebrating 98th Anniversary*



*10 January 2022*



# A beautiful legacy to the world

On 15 November 1923, twenty-seven Rotary wives, led by Mrs. Golding discussed the possibility of forming an independent ladies' group run on Rotary lines. Mrs Golding was a nurse, businesswoman and the wife of a Rotarian. At that time, wives of Rotarians in many cities and towns were concerned for public welfare, and had been volunteering in the background, giving their time and energies to help in any service being undertaken by their menfolk.



The objects of the Club, they explained, would be to foster friendship and to offer much more in the way of service. The next meeting on 10 January 1924 marked the actual commencement of the **Inner Wheel Club of Manchester**. Mrs Golding became the first President.

In 1928, with the formation of four more clubs, the "No. 5 Inner Wheel District Committee" was formed. Now known as **Inner Wheel District 5**. On 6 May 1934, there were 79 clubs in 8 Districts and they formed The Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in Great Britain and Ireland", fondly called to this day as the "**79ers**". Mrs Golding became the first President. She passed on in 1939, having seen the formation of the 100th club.

## Formation of International Inner Wheel

Based on the same objects, several clubs were formed overseas:

- 1931 Ballarat, Australia
- 1935 Bergen, Norway
- 1936 Napier, New Zealand
- 1938 Port Elizabeth, South Africa
- 1943 Winnipeg, Canada
- 1946 Apeeldom, The Netherlands (formerly Holland)
- 1946 Singapore (former British Crown Colony)

With the inclusion of overseas clubs, the **Association of Inner Wheel Clubs** was formed in 1947. Growth continued speedily, to name a few:

- 1948 Ipoh, Malaysia (formerly Malaya)
- 1948 District 26. Six clubs in The Netherlands. The first overseas district to be formed.
- 1949 Manila, The Philippines
- 1949 Filipstad, Sweden
- 1951 Stamford-Hobart, USA
- 1955 Ahmedabad, India
- 1960 Accra, Ghana
- 1960 Valenciennes, France

On 1 July 1967, under Mrs Lavender Weightman as President, the **International Inner Wheel** was formed. National Governing Bodies as an umbrella of districts were also structured in 1967. Our organisation has now over 104,000 members in nearly 4,000 clubs and growing currently in 100 countries.

## Celebrating "World Inner Wheel Day" (also called Inner Wheel Day)



Sitting in Berners Hotel (London) late one night, Vice-President Helena Foster said to the Executive, including Secretary Adelaide Lack and Treasurer Margaret Cross, "I would like to have one day in the year when all Inner Wheel members would do something special and think of their fellow members around the world." She continued, "...but as well as thinking of

other members, to do some kind of personal service." In her book "The First 25 Years", Helena wrote, "This was discussed and it was decided the day should be January 10th (our foundation day in 1924). On that day in each year all members throughout the world of International Inner Wheel should unite in personal service and celebration, the idea being one of unity. That night, we had an embryo **World Inner Wheel Day**."

President Helena Foster (1969-1970) then wrote a letter to all clubs worldwide in which was said, "I am sure that there are inspiration and encouragement to be gained by the knowledge that your fellow members throughout the world are at that moment joined together to extend service and friendship."

# 52<sup>nd</sup> Inner Wheel Day

10 January 2022

## IIW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After the first Meeting held on 15 November 1923 at a Cooling room at Herriot's Turkish Baths, 27 Rotary wives held a second meeting at the Social Club in Lower Mosley Street, Manchester, and officially formed the Manchester Club, President Mrs Margarett Oliver Golding and Mrs W.A. Nixon as first Secretary and Treasurer. The objects of the Club would be to foster friendship and encourage personal service.

Excerpt from the Minutes of the second Meeting on 10 January 1924: *"The name of the Club to be the Inner Wheel. Meetings to be held on alternate Tuesday and to continue throughout the year"*. The meeting marked the commencement of Inner Wheel!

The first District IW No. 5 was formed in 1928, the Association was born in 1934 and 36 years later Mrs Helena Foster, IIW President 1969-70 had the brilliant idea to suggest to hold Inner Wheel Day annually on January 10<sup>th</sup>. She wrote a letter to all Club Presidents asking them to link together in action on January 10<sup>th</sup> to extend service and friendship.

This year 2022, the 98<sup>th</sup> Inner Wheel Year, the Inner Wheel Day will be the 52<sup>nd</sup> since its creation.

Sharing the initiative taken by my predecessor Helena, the second IIW President, in my capacity as the 54<sup>th</sup> IIW President, I sent a letter to National Representatives, Districts and Non-Districted Clubs, asking them to support, in the first ten days of January 2022 ending on the date of the Inner Wheel Day, the **"Wheel Can Cerv"** campaign launched by the Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in the Philippines Inc. to help eradicate cervical cancer, thus honouring the first priority of my Presidential Theme "Pink First": Women's Health. "Women helping Women" will then result into "Women Saving Women".

But what I have just written to you was possible thanks to the farsightedness of our Founder Mrs Margarett Oliver Golding, the wife of a Manchester Rotarian, a capable business woman, a great philanthropist and an excellent speaker. She worked for Inner Wheel from 1923 until 1939, the year of her death, after having seen the 100<sup>th</sup> Club formed. Since 2000, her name has been honoured by the inauguration of the Margarett Golding Award, in the form of a floral brooch, a marguerite, given to Inner Wheel Members or Members of the general public for highly commendable service on a regular basis in the community, implying personal sacrifice for the benefit of others. It was decided at the 11<sup>th</sup> Convention in Stockholm in 2000.

The merit of Mrs Golding was to breathe life into a new organisation, to guide it through its formative stages and to see it solidly established.

On 17 June 2014, an asteroid was called "Golding" and dedicated to Margarett thanks to the Club of Torino Europea, District 204, Italy.

In April 2010, when I was the 26<sup>th</sup> Chairman of District 206, Italy, with a few Officers and husbands belonging to my District, I visited the Inner Wheel Club of Manchester, the Founder Club, a visit that I considered as a pilgrimage that every IW member should make once in her life.



(Left) A photo taken at the Manchester Club's meeting during which I addressed a speech to the Club's President and Members. From a photo held in a picture frame on the table, Margarett was looking at the attendants to constantly remind all of us about the main objectives of Inner Wheel: Friendship, Personal Service, International Understanding.

## Message from President Ebe Panitteri Martines (continued)



Inner Wheel Club of Manchester President, Secretary and D206 Members



At the previous IIW Office in Sale



2019-2020, when I was IIW Board Director, under the plaque showing the site where the IW Founder Club of Manchester held its first meeting on January 10th, 1924.



Visiting the Church where IWC Manchester Members attend services

I hope this flash-back will encourage you to visit the Founder Club on the occasion of the Convention which will take place in Manchester in May 2024, during which also the Inner Wheel Centenary Year will be celebrated.

Happy 52<sup>nd</sup> Inner Wheel Day 2022!

In friendship

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ebe".

**Ebe Panitteri Martines**

*IIW President 2021-22*



# IIW President Ebe Panitteri Martines celebrates Inner Wheel Day with District 192 in Austria & Czech Republic



On 23 January 2022, Inner Wheel District 192 (Austria & Czech Republic) celebrated the 52nd Inner Wheel Day. Due to COVID-19, it was an online meeting.

It was a great honour and pleasure for the members of District 192 that IIW President Ebe Panitteri Martines accepted an invitation to this event and took part in the celebration!

In her speech, the honourable IIW President Ebe called to mind the history of Inner Wheel and the celebration of the 1st World Inner Wheel Day on 10 January 1970.

After the President's speech there was a lively discussion focusing on her four issues Health, Education, Empowerment and Opportunity for women and girls. President Ebe also suggested the social project "Wheel Can Cerv".

District Chairman Edith Moser said that she considers it important to raise awareness concerning cervical cancer.

National Representative Ingeborg Ibler expressed her gratitude to IIW President Ebe and to all persons present for attending the meeting and for an atmosphere full of Inner Wheel spirit and friendship.

Finally, District Chairman Edith Moser announced the formation a new club in District 192, the Inner Wheel Club of Linz. IIW President Ebe heartily congratulated!

The celebration ended with the Inner Wheel Song.

~ **Ingeborg Ibler**  
National Representative 2020-2022



## IIW President Ebe Panitteri Martines celebrates Inner Wheel Day with GB&I

On 10 January 2022, an online conference was held by District 18 to commemorate Inner Wheel Day. It was attended by 46 members including 2 special guests and a speaker.

Our two special guests (in photo from top) were **International Inner Wheel President Ebe Panitteri Martines** and **President of the Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in Great Britain and Ireland ("IW GB&I"), Betty Roberts**. The speaker for the night was **Gethin Davies OBE** on Eisteddfod an International Festival of over 75 years.



President Betty for IW GB&I, also spoke about our founder, how together we can keep our organisation going for many more years to come, and build on our friendship and service to the communities.

Gethin, our speaker, spoke on how 75 years ago the Eisteddfod was born and how over the years it has branched out to become an International Festival. He spoke about the troubles on the way but also the determination of the people to keep the festival going. The festival is now supported by many countries around the world from choirs to musicians, speakers and dances.

The evening started off with our **District Chairman Carol** welcoming all members and guests. The Inner Wheel Prayer and objects were read out.

The celebration of Inner Wheel Day finished with us all singing along to the Inner Wheel Song. It was a great evening of fun and friendship.

IIW President Ebe brought greetings from IIW members as IIW were celebrating 52 years and IW GB&I 98 years. President Ebe spoke about our Founder Mrs Margarette Oliver Golding and how we should all be inspired by the work she did and how we should continue to be proud members and keep the Inner Wheel turning as we approach the 100th Anniversary. She also spoke about PINK FIRST, our IIW theme for the year – empowering women and girls, strong women for a stronger world.



Distinguished members at the District Rally on 2 Sep 2021.

**About District 18:** Inner Wheel District 18 is one of 29 districts in IW GB&I. It is in the north-west of England and covers the area from Chester in the south up to Southport in the north and then the northern area of Wales down to Welshpool. This means that by covering two countries, District 18 has two languages, Welsh and mainly English. The District has 20 clubs and

a membership of around 430. The oldest Club is the Inner Wheel Club of Bangor, chartered in 1934 (87 years old this year). All clubs meet once a month either at lunchtime or during the evening and enjoy fun and friendship over a meal.

Having been in lockdown since March 2020, it was great to be able to hold the

District Rally on 2 September 2021. 110 members from all Clubs in the District attended. Association President Betty was present along with 3 other visiting District Chairmen along with the District Governor of Rotary.

Much fun, laughter and friendship was had by all. Looking forward to the next Rally in September 2022.

# Iceland celebrates Inner Wheel Day



The Icelandic women of Inner Wheel celebrate our organisation's Inner Wheel Day each year on 10 January.

The initial plan was to hold a large gathering in Hafnarfjörður but due to stricter COVID-19 measures in Iceland, it had to be changed to an online video conference. The event was a great success made even better with the help of many fantastic guests.

District Chairman Guðlaug Ásgeirsdóttir, a member of the Inner Wheel Club of Hafnarfjörður, welcomed the guests. Special guests were International Inner Wheel President Ebe Panitteri Martines, Iceland's First Lady Eliza Reid, and the Director of The Women's Shelter Sigprúður Guðmundsdóttir.

DC Guðlaug gave a presentation of the activities of Inner Wheel in Iceland. She related that there are six clubs and about 150 members. The work has been difficult in these last years due to the pandemic as there could only be a few gatherings, although Zoom calls were plentiful.

In her speech, First Lady Eliza Reid introduced her newly released book 'Secrets of the Sprakkar' (published in Icelandic, end of 2021). 'Sprakkar' in Icelandic means 'female trailblazers'. The book discusses various aspects

of the lives and accomplishments of women in Iceland. She had interviewed various women from different levels of society who had a lot to say, each touching upon a variety of topics such as gender difference, careers, motherhood, and more. The book paints a vivid image of modern Icelandic society, its advantages and disadvantages, and the current status of equality issues.

First Lady Eliza also spoke about her life-changing experiences which included emigrating from Canada to Iceland and becoming the First Lady of Iceland. This was very interesting and invited a lively discussion of her new book. It is worth mentioning that an English version of the book is due for release in early 2022.

IIW President Ebe was next to address the guests. She thanked the members for the invitation and praised their work during these trying times. She covered the history of Inner Wheel and mentioned some women which had carried out significant work for the organisation. In particular, she highlighted Margarete Golding who founded Inner Wheel in Manchester in 1924.

She also discussed various projects which IIW emphasises, including the project "Wheel Can Cerv" which

promotes the immunisation of young girls against cervical cancer. It is worth mentioning that 11-year-old girls have been immunised against cervical cancer since 2014 in Iceland.

It was very nice to have IIW President Ebe with us and hopefully she has enjoyed it despite the video conference being mostly in Icelandic. DC Guðlaug said to IIW President Ebe that many Icelandic women would hopefully attend Inner Wheel's 100th anniversary in 2024 in Manchester.

The last item of the programme was a donation of ISK 150,000 from the Inner Wheel Clubs in Iceland in support of The Women's Shelter. It was accepted by their Director, Sigprúður Guðmundsdóttir. Director Sigprúður related about the Shelter's activities in Reykjavík and Akureyri, including a halfway house which was recently initiated.

Two graduates from the Hafnarfjörður Music School performed to great acclaim at the conference. Lovely music by fantastic musicians.

DC Guðlaug ended the conference with the sentiment that better times were hopefully ahead so operations could flourish.

Best regards from the Inner Wheel women of Iceland!

## IIW President celebrates Inner Wheel Day with District 330, Malaysia



Top down: DISO Pathma, Vicky Changi, DC Shamini and guest of honour, IIW President Ebe

This year of 2022 marks 98 years of the establishment of the first Inner Wheel Club and District 330 took the opportunity to have an online celebration to mark this auspicious day. Held on Sunday, 9 January 2022, the zoom platform witnessed the attendance of over

100 participants, not only from District 330 but also by friends of other Clubs and Districts, including Singapore, India, Italy and Sri Lanka.

The hour-long event was ably organised by District International Service Organiser Datin Pathma Ramanathan and her team of effervescent ISOs who put together a programme that held the participants captivated and entertained. Emcee Vicky Changi, ISO of IWC Kuala Lumpur City Centre set the ball rolling with her introductory welcome, followed by the National Anthem, and the traditional loyal toasts to the King of Malaysia by Immediate Past District Chairman Shanti Menon and to IIW by National Representative Ambika Menon. IIW Editor/Media Manager Cheng Yeok San did the honours of lighting the Candle of Friendship and ISO Meeta of IWC Bangsar recited the poem.

In her Opening Address, DISO Datin Pathma thanked everyone who had contributed to the successful launch of the event, especially her team of ISOs who worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth and seamless flow of the programme. District Chairman Shamini Nair then delivered her Welcome Address and on behalf of all members, expressed her gratitude to IIW President Ebe Martines who had been so gracious to accept the invitation to grace the event, in spite of her busy schedule. DC Shamini explained that although plans had been put in place to carry out awareness projects related to Cervical Cancer, a key project of IIW, the plans had to be shelved temporarily to focus on helping communities that had been affected by unprecedented floods which had devastated huge parts of the country.

Then, members listened enthralled as NR Ambika introduced the guest of honour, IIW President for 2021-2022, Mrs Ebe Martines. President Ebe expressed her delight at being able to be together with District 330 on this memorable day and spoke briefly on the history of Inner Wheel, about the founder, Mrs Margarett Golding and the current theme of Pink First, as well as the focus areas of Women Helping Women via health, education, empowerment and opportunity. IIW Board Director Datin Seetha Lakshmi then took the floor to give a huge vote of thanks to President Ebe, accompanied by thunderous applause from the members.

# Inner Wheel Day in Malaysia



Candle of Friendship lit by IIW Editor/Media Manager, Cheng Yeok San



Delightful Malaysian dances, a show during tea break.



Cooking demo of 'char koay teow' and nasi lemak



An audience of over 100 including Singapore, India, Italy and Sri Lanka.

Following this, as members sat back in their own homes to enjoy a cup of tea and snacks, they were entertained to a repertoire of traditional Malaysian dances as well as a demonstration on how to make 'char koay teow', a delectable dish enjoyed by most. Members also learnt about the quintessential 'nasi lemak', another favourite Malaysian dish and how an accidental spill-over of coconut cream into a pot of boiling rice led to 'nasi lemak' occupying a plump position on most menus. Members were also taken on a brief tour of some of the charitable projects carried out by Clubs over the first six months of the 2021-2022 term.



Members agreed in unison that Sunday, 9 January 2022 was an evening well spent which manifested that being in Inner Wheel is truly all about the spirit of camaraderie and personal service.

## E-flag exchange with clubs worldwide commemorating Inner Wheel Day



Since its formation, the **Inner Wheel Club of Padova Specola 4.0** has been pursuing an “international attitude”. Therefore, members started to look for new contacts with other Inner Wheel Clubs outside of Italy.

On the occasion of Inner Wheel Day celebrated every year on 10 January, the Club’s International Service Organiser Monica Bezzegato had the first virtual flag exchange (or “e-flag”) with a Club from India, the Inner Wheel Club of Indore Uptown (District 304). From that moment on, many other Clubs from different countries asked for an e-flag exchange.

To date, e-flags have been exchanged with 16 Clubs. They are the Inner Wheel Clubs of: Indore Uptown (D304, India), Koppal Karnataka State (D316, India), Balaju (D350, Nepal), Delhi Umang (D301, India), Alexandria East (D95, Egypt and Jordan), Colombo (D322, Sri Lanka), Rajshahi (D328, Bangladesh), Butwal (D350, Nepal), Ambarnath (D314, India), Delhi Sainik Farms (D301, India), Ipoh East (D330, Malaysia & Singapore), Jamshepdur (D325, India), Gurgaon Sushant Vatika (D301, India), Bombay Kandivli (D314, India), Duliajan (D324, India) and Matale (D322, Sri Lanka).

With the e-flag exchanges, members of the Club are happy to put in practice two fundamental ideals of International Inner Wheel, that is, to promote true friendship and to foster international understanding. We hope to strengthen these relationships and develop some projects together with Inner Wheel members from foreign countries.

In the last two years, sadly marked by COVID-19 and travel limitations, these online exchanges are encouraging and give a hope to go back to “normal life” as soon as possible.

~ Francesca Pregarra

## District 24 fundraises on Inner Wheel Day over lunch entertainment



The Ladybirds and (below) Association Betty (left) with DC Alison Monk.

Inner Wheel District 24, Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in Great Britain & Ireland usually have a fundraising lunch on or close to Inner Wheel Day. This year, we had a delicious three-course lunch at a venue in Chelmsford and Association President Betty Roberts came to join us. She is a member of the District and brought along her stall of home-made items for sale.



A raffle draw gave away a lot of lovely prizes to benefit the Association President's chosen charity for the Inner Wheel Year — The Stroke Association. Betty is pictured with District 24 Chairman Alison Monk.

After lunch, a local group of singers "Ladybirds" entertained us with songs from the 60s to the 80s and included a rendition of Eviva España. District Treasurer Carol is a singer in the group who delighted us with a solo of "Memory" from the musical show "Cats".

~ Penny Pilbrow, District Editor

### The President's Charity of the Year for 2021-22 is the Stroke Association

Stroke strikes every five minutes in the UK. It can happen to anyone, of any age, at any time. The Stroke Association believes that everyone deserves to live the best life they can after stroke. They provide specialist support, fund critical research and campaign to make sure that everyone affected by stroke gets the very best care and support to rebuild their lives.

Betty Roberts said 'I'm really pleased to be working with the Stroke Association as my charity for the year. I have first-hand experience of the amazing work they do as my mum had a stroke when she was 97 years old and was supported by Stroke Association staff and volunteers when she returned home. There are lots of ways we can get involved, so let's use our skills and talents to help this worthwhile cause.'



Juliet Bouverie, Chief Executive of the Stroke Association, said 'We are delighted that the Stroke Association has been chosen by Betty Roberts as the President's Charity for 2021-22. We are looking forward to getting to know you all better and working alongside you to support stroke survivors and their families across the UK and Ireland to rebuild their lives after stroke.'

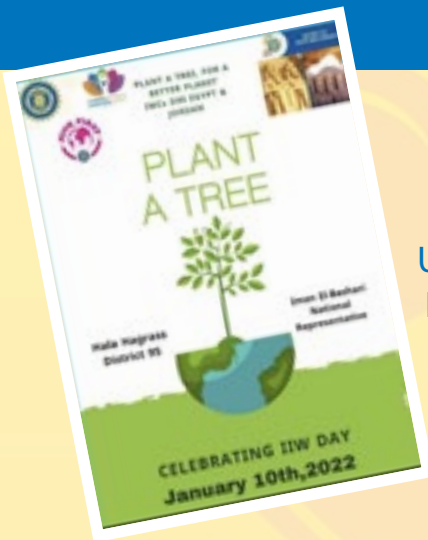
The Stroke Association will be providing every Inner Wheel Club with a Partnership Pack full of fundraising inspiration and information. The pack is also available to download here (include link to pack when available). You can read more about the work of the Stroke Association on their website <https://www.stroke.org.uk/>. If you have any questions, please email [innerwheel@stroke.org.uk](mailto:innerwheel@stroke.org.uk).

## Planting trees for a better climate

Under the initiative of District 95 in Egypt and Jordan, National Representative Mrs Iman El Bashari and District Chairman Mrs Hala Hagrass, a project on planting trees to preserve the environment was carried out. The Inner Wheel Clubs in Egypt and Jordan planted different kinds of fruit trees in numerous places in Egypt and Jordan in commemorating Inner Wheel Day which officially falls each year on 10 January. The Clubs of District 95 take the

initiative of planting trees every year because plant greenery is the source of oxygen, improving air quality, climate amelioration and guards us against the pollution of our environment.

~ Hanaa El Sadat  
Webmaster



The **Inner Wheel Clubs of Alexandria El Nozha and Alexandria Sporting** (in Egypt) planted six palm trees and twenty-one fruit trees at the College of Education for boys at Abou Qir.



The **Inner Wheel Club of Amman** (in Jordan) planted twenty trees in Madaba and Jordan Valley.



The **Inner Wheel Club of Giza** (in Egypt) planted a palm tree at the Green Sunbulah Association for Orphan Girls.



The **Inner Wheel Club of Philadelphia** (in Jordan) planted olive trees in the garden of Bishop's School for boys in Jabal Amman and at the Royal Automobile Club Gardens.



The **Inner Wheel Club of Cairo West** (in Egypt) planted hibiscus trees in the children's garden at El Gezira Sporting Club.



The **Inner Wheel Club of Sphinx** (in Egypt) planted a lemon trees at the Muslim Women Association in Abdeen.





## Five Inner Wheel Clubs in Athens jointly celebrate Inner Wheel Day

On 30 January 2022, the 98th anniversary of the formation of Inner Wheel was celebrated in a friendly atmosphere at the Oasis Hotel in Glyfada by members from five Inner Wheel Clubs in Athens! The event was jointly organised by the five Presidents from the Inner Wheel Clubs of Athens North, Glyfadas, Ilioupolis, Kifisias, and Chaladri.



Inner Wheel Club of Glyfadas with National Representative and District Chairman.

Interesting speeches were presented by President Eleni Giannidaki and National Representative Yianna Gravia-Kalyva. This was followed by a talk on the importance of preventing uterine cancer by the gynecologist-oncologist Dr Long. It was a special Sunday morning enjoyed by all the members.



District 247



Inner Wheel Club of Athens with National Representative and District Chairman.

# Mexico celebrates Inner Wheel Day with the charter of a new Club and induction of new members



District 418, Mexico, during the District Annual Meet

On 8 January 2022, District 418 celebrated the 98th anniversary of Inner Wheel at Cuernavaca, Morelos. During this event, it was essential to highlight the values and objectives of our organisation.



The Charter President of the Inner Wheel Club of Los Angeles de Puebla



Acknowledgement to the President of the Inner Wheel Club of Puebla Angelopolis



Friendship cake



Pledge by new members of IWC Los Angeles de Puebla



Pledge by new members of the IWCs of Cuernavaca Norte and Puebla Angelopolis

The **Inner Wheel Club of Puebla Angelopolis**, gave a presentation, a tour of the life and work of Margarete Golding, founder of International Inner Wheel.

In following the exemplary life in service of Margarete Golding, District Chairman Mrs Maria Elena Oliva de Gallardo had the honour of inducting **11 new members**, 7 of them in the Inner Wheel Club of Los Angeles de Puebla, 3 in the Inner Wheel Club of Puebla Angelopolis and 1 in the Inner Wheel Club of Cuernavaca Norte. In addition, the President's regalia was presented to the founding President of the **new Inner Wheel Club of Los Angeles de Puebla**. With this, we reaffirm our mission as members.

This event shows the importance of our first objective "To promote true friendship". We ended our event sharing food and enjoying a wonderful time together with a delicious cake.



## Inner Wheel Day celebrated across New Zealand

With January 10<sup>th</sup> falling in the middle of our summer holidays in New Zealand, there are not usually Club meetings held during January. However, we always try to make an effort, and some Clubs manage to create small gatherings of friends. Here is a brief overview of some of the activities held to celebrate the 98<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Inner Wheel across New Zealand.



IWNZ President and National Representative Michelle Atkinson, Past President Dot Anderson-Lee, Vice-President Alyssandra Skerrett, Board Director Carol Haskett and Membership Facilitator Joanne Gaudin enjoyed a week of friendship together in Queenstown. They all travelling from the four Districts of New Zealand to share time together in friendship.



The **Inner Wheel Club Auckland East**, NZ291, walked part of the Orakei Basin for Inner Wheel Day.



The **Inner Wheel Club of Fairfield**, NZ291, shared a summer BBQ at a members home for Inner Wheel Day

## Inner Wheel Day in New Zealand



The **Inner Wheel Club of Orewa and Whangaparaoa**, NZ291, held a coffee morning at a members home.



The **Inner Wheel Club of Matamata**, NZ291, enjoyed celebrating Inner Wheel Day. They couldn't travel internationally, but travel they did – by bus... to neighbouring town Morrinsville (34 km distant) where we enjoyed lunch and, for some, a wee bit of shopping.



The **Inner Wheel Club of Opotiki**, NZ291, met at Club President and IIW Past President Carole Young's home for their annual IW day afternoon gathering.



The **Inner Wheel Club Ahuriri**, NZ294, met for a picnic in the middle of Club Square in Napier.



The **Inner Wheel Club of Noumea Plaisance**, NZ291, celebrated Inner Wheel Day as well as Epiphany with the galette des rois. The Club are participating in a major project in association with New Caledonia's Southern Province themed "violence against women".



A beautiful sunny afternoon for lunch at a member's home for the **Inner Wheel Club of New Plymouth North**, NZ294.

## Inner Wheel Day in New Zealand



The **Inner Wheel Club of Riccarton**, NZ297, enjoyed an afternoon celebrating Inner Wheel Day at District Chairman NZ297, Barbara's home.



Both the **Inner Wheel Clubs of Balclutha and Mosgiel**, NZ298, once again joined to celebrate Inner Wheel Day on 10 January 2022. They met at the Kink in the Road restaurant in Milton for lunch. The ladies enjoyed a time of friendship and fellowship. Although they are small in numbers they continue to appreciate being members of our amazing organisation. (Photo courtesy of District Chairman, Pam, who was the photographer.)

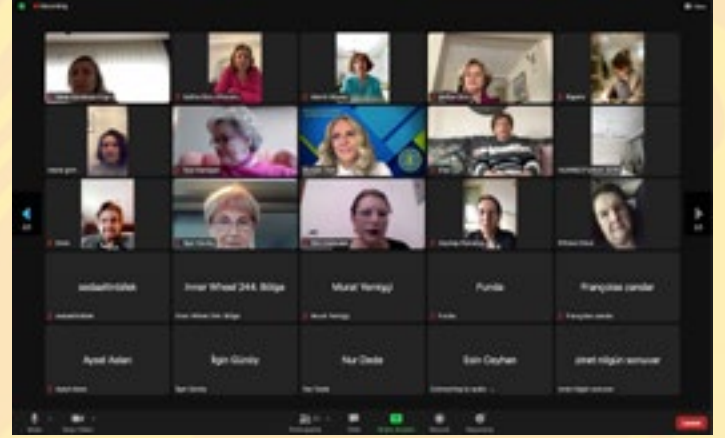
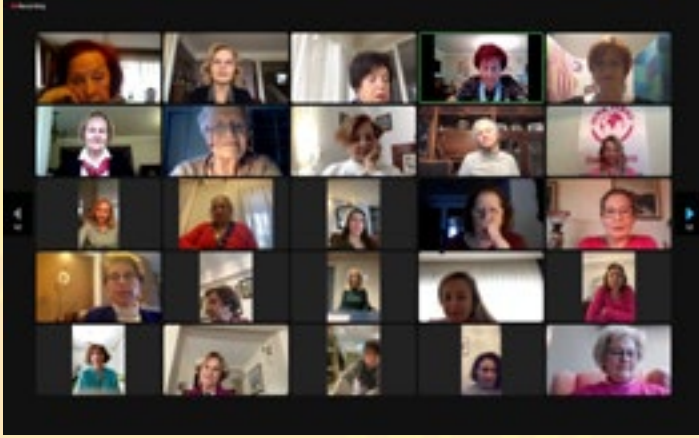


The **Inner Wheel Clubs of Marlborough and Stoke Tahunanui**, NZ297, combined for Inner Wheel Day at Pelorus Bridge. A lovely hot day was enjoyed by all for a delicious lunch.

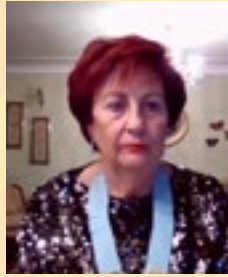


The **Inner Wheel Club of Invercargill North**, NZ298, celebrated Inner Wheel Day with a picnic at Waikawa, at a member's holiday home.

## Districts 242 and 244 gather online to celebrate Inner Wheel Day



National Representative Siren Toksoy, District 242 Chairman İlay Yılmazlar, Past Board Directors, Past Chairmen of District 244, Presidents of Inner Wheel clubs and members of District 244 and 242 was honoured on the occasion of Inner Wheel Day celebration in Turkey. Inner Wheel District 244 Executive Committee was the organiser of the event on January 10, 2022.



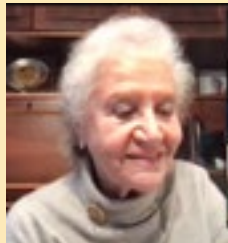
Recently, in promoting awareness, the Inner Wheel Club of İzmir, District 244 organised an online seminar on the subject to inform IW members and friends.

District 244 Chairman Melek Gösar opened the meeting by explaining the history of the Inner Wheel celebration day.



The meeting continued with the past chairmen recounting their memories. It was an emotional and nostalgic meeting of collections of past events and experiences concerning Inner Wheel days shared by the members. The memories told by the past chairmen were also very interesting and encouraging for the new members.

National Representative Siren Toksoy talked about the important issue as suggested by the honourable Inner Wheel President Ebe Martines which is the Awareness of Cervical Cancer.



The meeting ended with the wishes of celebrating many more years of IW Day.

NR Siren Toksoy drew attention to the importance of the subject and explained that the Inner Wheel Club of Ege, District 244 has chosen this subject as their club project for this year. They have organised online seminars through the year for IW members, friends and university students. They have scheduled vaccination programmes for the university students.

From top:  
Melek Gösar, Chairman, District 244  
Özge İşcan, Vice-Chairman, District 244  
Özgül İyigün, District Chairman 2000-2001

## Clubs in Bangladesh celebrate Inner Wheel Day together

Inner Wheel day was celebrated by all Inner Wheel Clubs of District 345 at Doreen Hotel, Dhaka. 120 members from different clubs, District Executive Committee members and dignitaries joined this programme with much zeal and enthusiasm.

All clubs in the district jointly hosted this programme. The objectives of Inner Wheel, our history and the significance of Inner Wheel Day was explained by Past National Representative Khaleda Awwal.

The Inner Wheel's history was shown by a PowerPoint presentation created by Past National Representative Sharmin Hossain.

Presentation of projects was shared on the big screen by the respective Clubs to mark Inner Wheel Day.

On behalf of District 345, Chairman Angela B. Mendes recognised and honoured 12 senior members who have been active Inner Wheel members for more than 40 years. The programme started with floating balloons and a cake cutting. New members were inducted by the Chairman on this auspicious day. The programme ended with cultural programmes performed by the members as well as a professional singer and a band.

The news of the event was published in the national dailies. After more than one and a half years, members finally could meet physically with the necessary precautions and could enjoy wholeheartedly. It ended with lots of fun and folic.





## Super Typhoon Odette cannot stop the Inner Wheel from turning it into a flood of kindness and generosity!

10 January 2022 is Inner Wheel Day and Inner Wheel Clubs all over the world are celebrating the significance of the founding of the first Inner Wheel Club in Manchester, England on 10 January 1924 and to honour the memory of Margarett Golding, the founder of Inner Wheel, by performing some acts of service and friendship.

This year's celebration is particularly poignant and meaningful for **District 386** having experienced the onslaught of Super Typhoon Odette (International name Typhoon Ri) last 16 December 2021. Twenty days after Typhoon Odette wrought havoc in Metro Cebu and Southern Cebu, causing major to severe damages to their homes, without electricity, water, gasoline, and means of communication.

In the midst of this unfortunate situation and in the context of service to humanity—healing and rebuilding—the Inner Wheel Clubs of the Philippines Inc (“IWCPPI”) District 386, in spite of the fact that many of its members are also in the process of recovering, initiated its Operation Paglingap (Operation Care) for the typhoon victims in Lapu-Lapu City and Cebu City. Sacks of rice and gallons of water were distributed to 200 families in Barangay Soong, Lapu-lapu City and 15 families in Barangay Sambag, Cebu City.

Present during the activity were District officers led by District Chairman Evelyn Toledo-Dumdum, officers and members from **Inner Wheel Club of Cebu Central** and **Inner Wheel Club of Cebu Lapu-Lapu** with Charter President Sunshine Lim and the First Lady of Lapu-Lapu City Madam Cindi Chan.

Heartfelt gratitude to the **IWCPI National Board of Trustees** IWY 2021-2022, **Districts 377, 379, 380, 383, 385** and **Inner Wheel Clubs of the Philippines Foundation, Inc.** for their support and concern for the situation in Cebu with their immediate response in sending help. Instead of having a Christmas Fellowship, six clubs of District 386 contributed to Operations Paglingap. The teachers and students also extended help by doing the logistics preparation for the venue and identification of beneficiary families.

### Operation Paglingap (Operation Care)



## Culture, music, literature and service, an enriching celebration of Inner Wheel Day

98 years ago, a group of very active, motivated and tireless women led by Margarette Oliver Golding laid the foundation of this Association. The Inner Wheel has been kept actively alive thanks to the work of tens of thousands of tenacious and admirable women all these years.

In 1970, Helena Foster (International Inner Wheel President 1969-1970), came up with the idea of making 10 January a day when members all over the world could celebrate its formation.

The Inner Wheel Club of Rovereto decided to pick Sunday, 9 January, to celebrate this occasion so as to give our working members the opportunity to join the event. That afternoon, many of us met in the small but culturally rich city of Ala.

Firstly, Club member Maria Andreolli guided us deeply through the history of this city and wonderfully immersed us in the beauty of its baroque palaces, and lastly in the marvelous music room of Palazzo Pizzini where we were hosted by the Mayor of Ala, Mr Claudio Soini.



Club President Carmen Maria Sacchiero Ballotta gave us a small briefing of the history and importance of Inner Wheel Day.

This was followed by the incredible nonetheless touching story of the book *Angelitos*, presented by the writer Martina Dei Cas where she describes the adventure she experienced in Guatemala. Delightful South American dancing melodies enveloped us in an ambience of the book, performed by Angela Modena on the guitar and Marco Salvetti on the accordion.



Club member Maria Andreolli guided us through the history and the beauty of the baroque palaces within the city of Ala.



City of Ala's Mayor, Claudio Soini, welcoming members of the Inner Wheel Club of Rovereto.

This year, as part of the Inner Wheel Day celebration, the International President Ebe Martines suggested that all clubs during the first ten days of January launch the project "Wheel Can Cerv" to prevent cervical cancer in women and girls. To honour our International President's request, the Presidents of the Inner Wheel Clubs of Trento, Trento Castello and Rovereto decided to jointly publish some articles in the local newspapers to increase the awareness on this important and delicate matter that concerns all women.

~ Carmen Maria  
Sacchiero Ballotta

## WE TEAL AS ONE

Philippine's cities light up monuments in "teal" to end cervical cancer

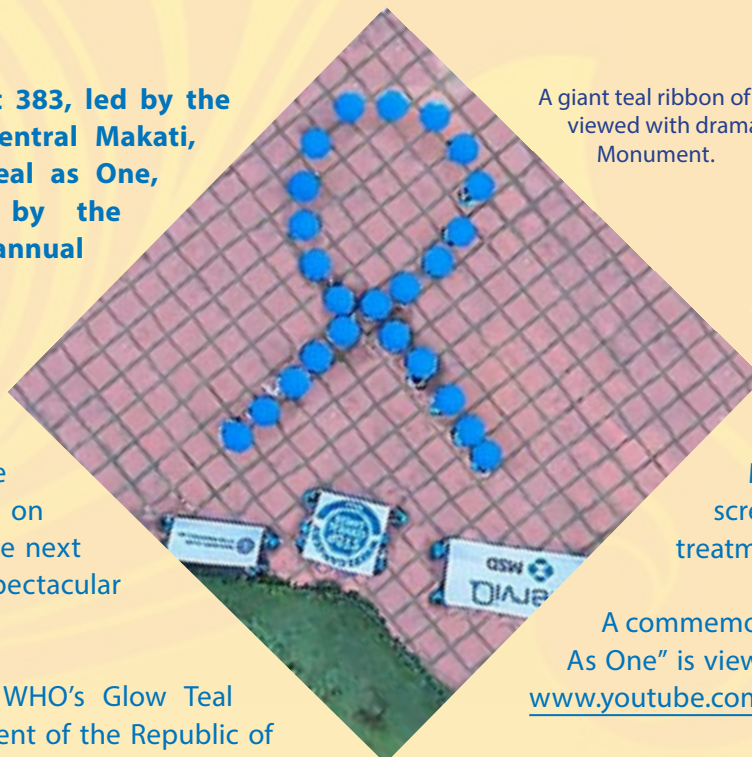
On the first anniversary of the World Health Organisation's Assembly to eliminate cervical cancer worldwide by 2050, leaders and members of the **Inner Wheel Clubs of the Philippines, Inc.** lighted up 15 public monuments and buildings in at least 8 cities and municipalities in the 3 main islands of the Philippines. "WE TEAL AS ONE to end cervical cancer by year 2040" is the Philippine's annual visual project aligned with the WHO'S Glow Teal campaign.

**Spearheaded by District 383, led by the Inner Wheel Club of Central Makati, IWCPi kicked off We Teal as One, as the participation by the Philippines in WHO's annual Glow Teal campaign.**

Inner Wheel national and district officers, as well as club presidents and members witnessed the simultaneous lighting up on 17 November 2021. See the next page for photos of a few spectacular lightings:

In committing IWCPi to WHO's Glow Teal campaign, the Vice-President of the Republic of the Philippines Maria Leonor Gerona Robredo, and the Director in the Philippines Department of Health Dr Enrique A. Tayag, pledged support to the WHEEL CAN CERV programme of the Inner Wheel.

Very meaningful and heartwarming messages were also shared by IWCPi's **District 383** Chairman Jovita de Jesus, **District 385** Chairman Gladys Barbosa, **District 386** Chairman Evelyn Toledo Dum Dum, **National Representative** Belen Go, **National President** Yolanda Wycoco, and **International Inner Wheel's Vice-President** Zenaida Farcon and **International Inner Wheel President** Ebe Panitteri Martines.



A giant teal ribbon of members with umbrellas viewed with dramatic effect from above at Quezon Monument.

IWCPi also formally signed a partnership contract with CerviQ Med for affordable cervical screening, HPV vaccination and treatment of Filipino women.

A commemorative broadcast of "We Teal As One" is viewable on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHuKT0IJ458>

**International Inner Wheel** has also adopted IWCPi's national project **WHEEL CAN CERV** to end cervical cancer in a letter of announcement to all clubs by IIW President Ebe Panitteri Martines in October 2021.



## Wheel Can Cerv in the Philippines

**We Teal as One** is the participation by the Inner Wheel Clubs of the Philippines, Inc. in WHO's annual Glow Teal campaign. On 17 November 2021, 15 public monuments and buildings in at least 8 cities and municipalities in the 3 main islands of the Philippines were simultaneously lighted up.



The 55 m tall Quezon Monument trilon in the heart of Quezon City



Naga City, Cebu Province



Dancing water fountain of Plaza Rizal in Lapulapu City, Cebu Province



Fuente Osmeña Circle, Cebu City



Cebu City Hall



Marcelo Fernan Bridge in Mandaue City, lighted on both entrances



Mactan Shrine, Mactan Island, Cebu Province

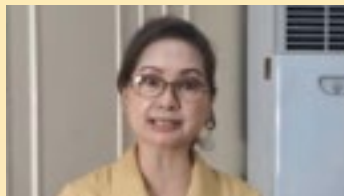
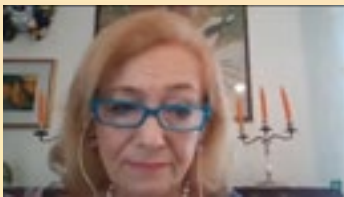


Governor Ysalina Bridge, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental

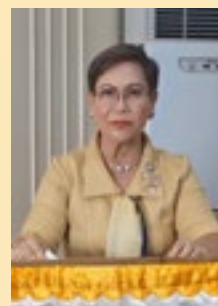
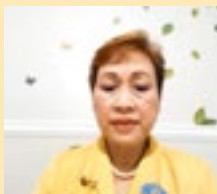
# Wheel Can Cerv in the Philippines



We Teal As One in Cebu City on 17 November 2021.



Speeches (top down, from left): IIW President Ebe Panitteri Martines. The Honourable Vice-President of the Republic of the Philippines, Leonor Gerona Robredo commended IWCPi for leading the cervical cancer awareness campaign. IIW Vice-President Zenaida Farcon. IWCPi President Yolanda Wycoco. National Representative Evelyn Go. Dr Eric Tayag, Department of Health Secretary shared important facts about Cervical Cancer.



Top down, from left: District 385 Gladys Barbosa from Cagayan de Oro addressing members in the Mindanao area, District 386 Chairman Evelyn Dumdum from Cebu City addressing members in the Visayas area. National President Yolanda Wycoco led the MOA signing with CerviQ Med for an affordable Cervical Screening. Organising District 383 Chairman Jovita de Jesus gave a brief background of the project.

# “WHEEL CAN CERV”, building awareness of cervical cancer in the Italian local papers

Local paper in Trento, Italy: l'Adige • Date: martedì 11 gennaio 2022 (Tue, 11 Jan 2022)



After two years of media alert on the COVID-19 pandemic, which unfortunately has caused so many deaths, the service proposed by IIW President Ebe Panitteri Martines reminds us that women can also die of other terrible diseases.

She has brought our attention to cervical cancer, a disease affecting women worldwide, especially in developing countries where prevention and vaccinations are rarely practised. The leading cause is by the human papillomavirus (HPV). The serious alarm came from the Inner Wheel Clubs in the Philippines. **In Europe, cervical cancer is the fourth highest among the most common cancers.**

The gathering was coordinated by the Presidents of the three Inner Wheel Clubs in Trento, District 206, Italy: President Angela Mazza Colella (**Inner Wheel Club of Trento**), President Loredana Bettonte Defant (**Inner Wheel Club of Trento Castello**) and President Carmen Sacchiero Ballotta (**Inner Wheel Club of Rovereto**).

The Clubs agreed to bring this vital issue to the attention of the local public, by highlighting the data published by the Italian Ministry of Health. These data show that in District 206, vaccinations against HPV had reached a significant coverage among the young population in recent years, varying between 65% and 75%. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the percentages of vaccinations and control tests have suffered a dangerous drop in the last two years. Therefore, it appears worthwhile and necessary to raise the voice on this issue and create awareness to foster prevention and increase vaccination coverage, especially among young people.

The initiative of the three Inner Wheel Clubs has been published by the leading local newspapers, “**L’Adige**” and the two online newspapers, “**L’Adigetto**” and “**Opinione**”. We hope local authorities, who have always been attentive to health monitoring, will respond to our solicitation to resume the awareness and vaccination campaigns to prevent cervical cancer.

## District 244 in Turkey carries out HPV vaccinations for university students

“Vaccination” has been a bit of a problematic subject recently, after COVID-19 in Turkey. Unfortunately, the HPV vaccine is not supplied for free by the government.

President of the **Inner Wheel Club of Ege**, Ekin Kalender together with club member Professor Dr Ege Nazan Tavmergen Göker had long discussions about the subject. The Professor works in the Department of Gynaecology, Obstetrics & Reproductive Medicine of Ege University. It was decided to target the female students of the Faculty of Medicine who have not been vaccinated due to lack of money. These students will be the medical doctors of the near future and the ones to be well aware of the importance of the vaccination. The Pr

The project was presented in December 2021 to National Representative Siren Toksoy, District Chairman Melek Güsar, District Vice-Chairman İlgin Günöy and the Executive Committee of the Inner Wheel Club of Ege. Following that, online talks were held with the students under the charge of Professor Dr Aysun Doğan, Head of the Department of Psychology at Ege University. The first dose were administered on 7 January 2022. The second and third doses have been scheduled for March and June. IWC Ege Member, Özlem Sayiner, a pharmacologist, assisted with supplies of vaccines through a medical company.

After the message of International Inner Wheel President Ebe Panitteri Martines, calling for the clubs worldwide to increase awareness about HPV, President Bijen Tösgel of the **Inner Wheel Club for İzmir** contacted the President of the Inner Wheel Club of Ege to join forces for a better impact in helping the women of İzmir.

President Bijen Tösgel immediately organised an informative zoom meeting about HPV for forty members of District 244 on 5 January 2022. Dr Şebnem Altunyurt, a gynecologist and new member of the Inner Wheel Club of İzmir was the speaker. She briefly explained the medical aspects of HPV and vaccination.

Saying “Pink First”, İzmir Inner Wheel Club will be organising more meetings for the mothers in March and April. Professor Dr Aysun Doğan and Dr Şebnem Altunyurt will be the speakers, explaining both psychological and medical aspects of HPV.



President Ekin Kalender collecting the pre-ordered vaccines.



From left: Professor Doctor Ege Nazan Tavmergen Goker, 4th year Student of Medicine, IWC Ege President Ekin Kalender



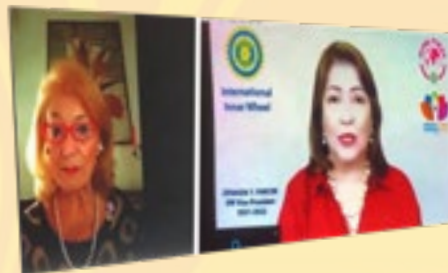
In Turkey, prevalence of cervical cancer is approximately 5.3 in every 100,000 women. For women, cervical cancer is the second most fatal type after breast cancer. HPV infection, is seen predominantly among women between the ages 15 and 24. Therefore university students, a high risk group to catch HPV infection and go through complications, is an important group which deserve to be informed as to the diagnosis, treatment and vaccination of this disease. Moreover, although there are

many sexual hygiene education programs for various age groups (adolescents and adults) have been developed, it is observed that programs oriented towards university students are insufficient and scarce. This is the reason an educational programme for university students under this topic will be organized. In this programme, information will be provided as to the risk factors (such as sexual intercourse towards the first menstrual period (menarche), having active sexual life in young age,

smoking habits, having a partner with polygynist practice), preventive measures and vaccination. Regarding the fact that university students after graduation assume an informative and pioneering role in society, it is contemplated that working with this group has high significance. Moreover it must be remembered that the university students are potential parents and are disposed to use these information for their children in future.

## Cervical Cancer Awareness Seminars

The **Inner Wheel Club of Dhanmondi**, District 328, Bangladesh organised a seminar on promoting Awareness of Cervical Cancer on 1 January 2022. Honourable District Chairman Yasmeen Alam (Chief Guest), National Representative Nayar Islam (Guest of Honour), Keynote Speaker of the Seminar Dr Naheed Rukshana (Senior Consultant Oncology, Delta Hospital and College, Dhaka), Past National Representative Naz Rahman, Past District Chairmen, members of the District Executive Committee, Presidents of Inner Wheel Clubs, and members of IWC Dhanmondi graced the occasion. Other members from different parts of the country joined the seminar by Zoom and attended the Seminar.



The Honourable International Inner Wheel President Ebe Martines and Vice-President Zenaida Farcon 2021-2022 sent their video messages. They encouraged us, Inner Wheel members, to work and spread the awareness of cervical cancer. We proudly presented their messages in the seminar in front of the august body.



Keynote Speaker Dr Naheed Rukshana gave an elaborate presentation to the participants on cervical cancer, symptoms, causes, detection of the disease in its early stage, medical treatments to cure it, risk factors, etc.



The Seminar began with a few valuable words from National Representative Nayar Islam where she elaborated the IIW President's vision and theme.

Speakers at the conference said that to avoid cervical cancer, we need to create more awareness; we should all make women aware of their risks so that strong prevention against it can be built. In order to make women aware about cervical cancer, more initiatives that are effective need to be taken in meetings and seminars.

The participants were given important information from the seminar and they will spread the word around. District Chairman Yasmeen Alam also shared her view and gave us guidance to spread the awareness by working together.



The seminar ended with a note of thanks by our respected PNR Naz Rahman.



## Wheel Can Cerv by Inner Wheel Clubs in Bangladesh

In January, Inner Wheel Clubs in District 345 celebrated Inner Wheel Day. It was also the cervical cancer awareness month.



An awareness programme on cervical cancer was initiated by the **Inner Wheel Club of Dilkusha** at the Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. It was a joint project with other Clubs, Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Evercare Hospital.



The **Inner Wheel Club of Blazing Stars** arranged two programmes. First was an awareness campaign to disseminate information regarding screening and prevention of cervical cancer. The awareness seminar was delivered by Professor Dr Mafruha Khanam Porag, Head of O&G at the Bangabandhu Memorial Hospital, Chittagong. Second was an all-expense paid cervical screening for fifty women conducted using the latest available high-performance procedure (AI-assisted VIA-Colposcopy).



The **Inner Wheel Club of Dhaka Radiant**, along with other clubs, Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital, and Beacon Pharmaceutical, jointly organised an awareness seminar on cervical cancer. Some donations were also given out i.e. a bed, a wheelchair and money for treatment purposes of a poor cancer patient.



The **Inner Wheel Club of Comilla** held a cervical cancer awareness rally.

## Wheel Can Cerv for the poor Prevention • Detection • Treatment

In Malaysia, cervical cancer ranks third in the number of cases recorded among the types of cancer. In heeding the call worldwide by International Inner Wheel President Ebe Panitteri Martines to stop cervical cancer, President Karamjeet Kaur of the Inner Wheel Club of Taiping spearheaded "Wheel Can Cerv. The project aimed to conduct free Pap smear screening of 30 ladies from the lowest-income group (Malaysian government B40 classification), including a talk on cervical cancer awareness to an audience of 50 ladies.



IWC Taiping Past President Dr Karen Jeet Kaur who is an obstetrician and gynaecologist, coordinated with staff of KPJ Medical Centre and Lablink to conduct the free pap smear tests in a hotel in Taiping. She also delivered an informative and interesting talk on cervical cancer.

The event, in commemoration of World Inner Wheel Day, was held on 23 January 2022. It was graced by the Guest of Honour, Ms S. Kavamma, the Director of the Perak State Women's Development Department. Also in attendance were District 330 Extension Organiser Mrs Peggy Lee and Webmaster Mrs Lucy Barrock.

"Yesterday, I was clever, so I wanted change the world.  
Today, I am wise, so I am changing myself."  
~ Rumi



Inner Wheel members

The participants gained much knowledge from the talk and were later treated to brunch.



Cheng Yeok San  
IIW Editor/Media Manager 2021-22

*We ♥ Inner Wheel!*

This bumper issue of IN THE PINK no. 5 is testimony of our love for this great organisation. The number of articles which I have received have been heartwarming. It was interesting working on this issue and at times, I wish I could be there to join in the celebration! I hope you have enjoyed, as I have, reading and looking at the photos of the celebrations of World Inner Wheel Day in friendship and in service. Please do visit the IIW website where you will also find more news. Thank you so much for sending in your articles and I am looking forward to working on the next two publications.

*Have you submitted for the NEXT and last issue of IN THE PINK?*

### **IN THE PINK Issue No. 6**

For this issue, I invite articles about **MEMBERSHIP**. One of the goals of IIW President Ebe is **“Activities that your club, district or national body carry out to invite and sign up new members.”**

Share some ideas and let's help each other build Inner Wheel. **Women Helping Women.**

**The deadline (extended) to submit is 24 Mar 2022.** Selected articles will be published in April 2022.

*Coming end of June 2022  
Submit (strictly) by 14 May 2022*



In IIW Magazine Issue no. 2, I will be choosing at least one piece of activity news in the second half of 2021-2022, from **each country** and **from the IIW website**.

SPECIAL REQUEST:

**If your country (or non-districted club) HAS NOT SUBMITTED so far for the IIW website,** please email your news **before 11 May 2022** to me at **[iiweditor@internationalinnerwheel.org](mailto:iiweditor@internationalinnerwheel.org)**