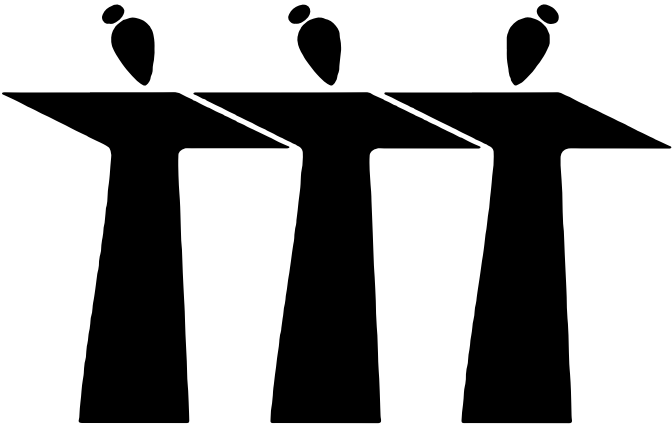


IWA
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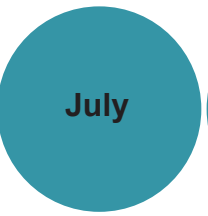
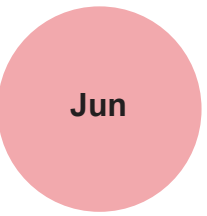
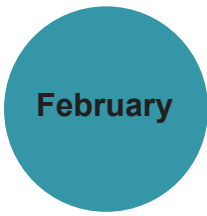
There are no strangers, just friends we haven't met yet!



IWA
MAGAZINE
SPRING 2016
19.05.2016



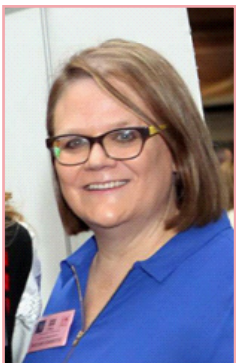
www.iwabucarest.ro



NOMINEES FOR 2016-2017 BOARD

- President: Terry O'Donnell Parsons (American)
- 1st Vice President: Maria Raets (French/Romanian)
- 2nd Vice President: Ximena Alexandra Reyes (Chilean/British/Ecuadorian/Swedish)
- Treasurer: Carmen Barta (Romanian)
- Secretary: Özge Güneş Polat (Turkish)
- Charity: Lise Spriggle (American)
- Activities: Cristina Aguiar (Brazilian/American) job-sharing with Dana Abi Chahine (Romanian/Canadian) and Nicoleta Candea-Muntean (Romanian)
- Website: Amel Ben Khaled (French)
- Newsletter: Karine Lamy (French)
- Membership: Banu Demir (Turkish) job-sharing with Karima Radwan (American/Egyptian)

PRESIDENT: Terry O'Donnell Parsons



I'm an American and moved to Bucharest nearly three years ago with my husband and our two boys. (Our three daughters go to university and work in the US). We came from the US, and before that we lived in Thailand for 5 years. We've had a wonderful time exploring Romania and Europe!

I have worked in different areas over the decades, from refugee job development to teaching piano. Most of my time has been spent as a mother and volunteer, while following my husband from one city to another. I've served in many different capacities as a volunteer in many types of associations. In Bucharest last year, I was on the PTA of the American school, helped Sister Rose teach English, and developed the new website for IWA.

This year my time has all been about IWA. It's been a lot of work, but surprisingly it has also been a lot of fun. IWA has many wonderful women and I had an absolutely outstanding team of volunteers with me on the Board. We look forward to another year!

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Maria Raets



I am a Franco Romanian woman in her early 30s. I was born and lived in Bucharest till I was 21. Then I moved to Paris for studies and lived there for 11 years and became a "true Parisian". I am now back in Romania with my husband.

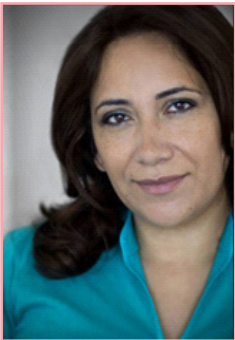
I have a degree in financial controlling and reporting, but I also developed skills, through my previous jobs, in IT project management and information systems general management. I have worked for 10 years in French corporations and hold middle management positions. I am now an entrepreneur and I have a wine school in Bucharest. I was IWA website manager last year, and helped with the Christmas Bazaar and other activities of the Board.

My greatest passion is travelling. I've seen many places and I still have a lot to see and I can't wait to plan my next trip! My life in France also refined my knowledge in wines and gastronomy. My husband is a Belgian Australian, who has lived "all over the world" as our friends like to say. So we are a very international family with relatives or connections to almost all the continents. Family reunions are a challenge!

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

for 2016 - 2017

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: Ximena Alexandra Reyes



I have roots in Chile, Ecuador, the UK and Sweden. I arrived to Romania in 2013. It's the ninth country I've lived in: a new place to discover, a new language to learn, new friends to meet.

Professionally, I am an Intercultural Consultant. I also volunteer with different groups, including helping coordinate Bucharest Spouse Professional Network and Bucharest with Kids. I like to create activities where people can share tips and info. I am passionate about finding the hidden treasures of Bucharest and places where I can take my kids.

TREASURER: Carmen Barta



I'm finance professional with more than 17 years of experience in different accounting positions. During these years I gained insights on both non-governmental finance accounting, as well as governmental accounting as an employee of US Embassy in

Bucharest.

A few years ago, I decided to take a break from the professional life and focus on my personal life. During this break, I've decided to spend my time in supporting different causes with a couple of organizations. I've got in touch with IWA for the first time in 2014, when I volunteered for the Christmas Bazaar. This offered me the chance to meet and work with the wonderful ladies in the Bazaar Committee and with the participants of the entertaining program.

Based on my involvement, I was proposed and elected Treasurer. This position offered me the possibility to bring my contribution to the work that IWA does through a team of dedicated and exceptional people. I'm very happy that I'm part of IWA family and honored to serve as Treasurer again this year.

SECRETARY: Özge Güneş Polat



I'm from Turkey. I was born in the capital city, Ankara, but I lived in Istanbul till I came to Bucharest. Like many of you, I'm here due to my husband's job; he was posted to Bucharest beginning of August 2014. I joined IWA shortly after I arrived which made my transition period to Romania easier. In

2014, I was the Country Coordinator at IWA Christmas Bazaar and I was in the Fashion Show Committee. In 2015 I volunteered as the Secretary.

I graduated from the Communication Faculty of Başkent University in Ankara. I started my work life in an advertising agency before I changed my career path to journalism. I was a chief editor in an online newspaper in Turkey in the economy and global markets section.

Coming to Bucharest after years of hard work, gave me the opportunity to get to know new people coming from different cultures which were a new experience for me. I can describe myself as a real bookworm. Another hobby for me is traveling to different countries with my husband.

CHARITY: Lise Spriggle

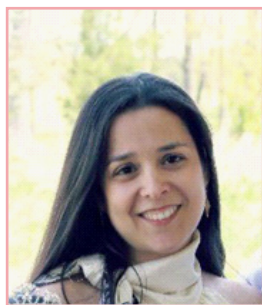


I am new to the ex-pat life, however I've have lived in 4 US states and have traveled to over 25 countries. My background includes 12 years managing programs that assist disadvantaged families, as well as 2 years coordinating teams that identified talent for US businesses.

IWA has helped make my transition to Bucharest smooth and I have already made many connections.

Every day I am reminded of what a small world the Bucharest community is. I have been pleasantly surprised by how great the produce is at the outdoor neighborhood markets and how easy it is to get around the city on the bus system. I'm embracing my Romanian experiences with humor and an open mind and look forward to working with an international diverse group of individuals.

ACTIVITIES JOB SHARE: Christina Rocha de Aguir

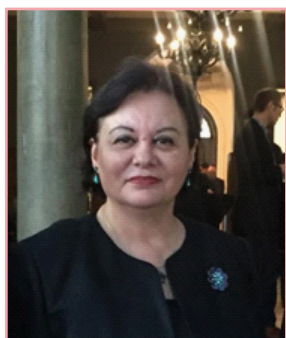


I'm a Brazilian naturalized American who lived 18 years in the USA before moving to Bucharest due to my husband work. I have a degree in Economics and a MBA in Finance from Penn State (USA). I used to be a Finance Manager while living in America, now I'm enjoying taking care of my family

and volunteering for charity activities. In addition, I'm the country representative (Brazil and Portugal) for new families arriving at the American School, and also teach Children's Liturgy at a Catholic Church on Saturdays. My family has been enjoying our posting in Romania; visiting the beautiful scenery of the country and the proximity of other countries in Europe. We love traveling and exploring every country.

I joined IWA last year and enjoyed all the activities and events provided by them. In specific, I was very impressed by the workings of the Christmas Bazaar where I was the Brazil country representative.

ACTIVITIES JOB SHARE: Nicoleta Candea-Muntean



I have been an IWA member since 2007. I am originally from Romania - Bucuresti. I am married and I have a son who graduated the Law University in Bucuresti.

I am a lawyer. Starting with 1990 I was involved in different national governmental and non-governmental projects as a member of working teams. I

was the founder of non-governmental organizations in the field of community care and juridical activity. At the international level I had a very good collaboration with NGO's in the field of education, health and human rights. I was also Chair of The International Regional Office of GIP and international editorial board member in UK. As international trainer; I was involved in educational projects in Albania, Bulgaria, Belgium, Republic of Moldova and Romania. During the years I had a very good collaboration with the ladies from IWA, the French Group and IWA Board members as an Activity Coordinator (2015-2016).

ACTIVITIES JOB SHARE: Dana Abi Chahine

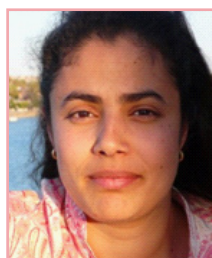


I'm Romanian after my father, Serbian after my mother, married to a Canadian of Lebanese origin, and have been living in Bucharest for the last 20 years. At home we speak Romanian and English with our daughters, Serbian, French and Arabic with our relatives or friends. So we are quite

international! I have a major in Psychology and have been working for 10 years in recruiting and head hunting but now I'm interested more about volunteering, social responsibility and teaching.

I have been an IWA member for the past four years now. I had a wonderful year last year chairing the Charity Committee, and I thank all of the committee members for their involvement. I have also arranged different IWA activities during the year, and look forward to sharing the role of Activities Coordinator next year.

WEBSITE: Amel Ben Khaled



I am French. We moved to Bucharest in September 2015. Since 2010, we had the opportunity to work and live abroad along different cultures (Romania, Iran and Portugal).

Until now I had a rich and varied professional life. I worked in different sectors at different positions: Health, Education (Economics), IT and Finance. My field of expertise is as broad and diverse as my professional life, with a real appeal for the project management.

I tried each time when we arrived in a new country: to learn the language; to discover the country by visiting different places and also to learn about it's history, people and culture; to find a job and to be involved in some associations.

I joined IWA from Sep 2015. I was a volunteer for the last Christmas Bazaar and it was great. I met and worked with nice ladies. Also, I was involved with Jessica in the membership activity. Unfortunately/fortunately, I found a job from last February. I am participating less than before to IWA activities but I tried to help by organizing some night events or to help the board by working from home. I am looking forward to sharing the role of Website coordinator with another member.

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

NEWSLETTER: Karine Lamy



I'm French and a happy mother of three. With regards to work skills, I am an architect and worked in France for 12 years before moving abroad. My clients were from everywhere and I was happy to conduct some projects in the United States and Russia.

I arrived in Bucharest nearly 2 years ago, from a former and first family expatriation in Istanbul where I was in charge of the French Association's communication, we had to deal with the remodeling of the entire French Newsletter. I hope to find a good team of members to assist me with the IWA newsletter for the coming year.

Since this year, I am part of the IWA's newsletter team and talking about personal motivation, it all comes down to meeting the fantastic team of IWA. The positive spirit I encountered motivates me to commit and carry out one share of the numerous projects of the association. I would be profoundly happy to be part of this very useful and flourishing human adventure.

MEMBERSHIP JOB SHARE: Banu Demir



I have a BA degree in Radio-TV and a master degree in Contemporary Business Management. I had worked in advertising business as an Account Director for 12 years and then completely changed the subject and became a franchise owner in children education for another 9 years. I have been writing travel articles in well-known websites and magazines in Turkey and thoroughly enjoy taking photos. I am a Reiki Master and love to attend any kind of spiritual trainings. I have two teenagers (14-16) who are in AISB.

Romania is my fourth country, lived in England, Poland and Germany before. Travelling is my passion so I love to live in different countries. I was job sharing to do newsletter this year and looking forward to another challenging year with wonderful ladies again.

MEMBERSHIP JOB SHARE: Karima Radwan



My family moved to Bucharest in August because of my husband's work with the World Bank. We have lived in many places and we are from all over. I am ethnically Egyptian, but I was born and raised in Raleigh, NC, USA. This is our third overseas posting with the World Bank, previously we were in Sri Lanka and Nigeria, and

Bucharest is by far my favorite! We have 2 boys and they are great travelers.

I am a college professor of Art History and I was lecturing in Washington, DC, before we moved to Bucharest. I am passionate about history, art and literature, and I love to bake. I enjoy reading, bridge and zumba!

I joined IWA in September and I am so happy that I became a member. Everyone has been very kind and I love the fact that if I ever wonder what I could be doing, I simply log onto the IWA website and find something fun or interesting to join. My favorite thing about IWA is that whether you are interested in books, films, mahjong, charity, web design, coffee, cultural tours, etc., you will find an activity for you.

Half-year Membership dues:

150 ron (from April to September)
(All memberships must renew in September)

One month free trial membership are also available please sign up via our website

Simple Reminder

Please remember that IWA is a social, cultural and charitable association. Longstanding rules prohibit giving cards or materials to promote your business or profession. You are welcome to place a paid advertisement in the IWA Magazine/Website.

IWA Magazine Advertising Fees (per issue):

1/4 page 50 Ron
1/2 page 100 Ron
1 page 300 Ron

www.iwabucharest.ro iwabucharest@gmail.com

JUNE 2015 - APRIL 2016

PRESIDENT– Terry O'Donnell Parsons

Last summer, I began my term worried about the future of IWA. Many wonderful women have volunteered with IWA over the decades, but IWA membership had shrunk as the world changed. In a Bucharest where every expat can find fellow nationals with a simple click on Facebook, IWA was no longer the place where everyone gathered by default. In order for IWA to not only survive, but also thrive, our primary goal had to be increasing membership among new arrivals and long-term residents. Therefore, we had to make changes.

I am very happy to announce that since September, our membership numbers have steadily grown until they are now 50% more than they were last year. Hooray!

At last year's General Assembly, IWA voted for a reduced membership fee. This has been a huge help in attracting members. It also meant we had to reduce some of our expenditures. We have continued to expand our use of our website and we've printed fewer newsletters. Most of our members are happy with this change, because it allows us to be up-to-date and "green." For those that are still learning how to use the website, we will continue to offer support.

Coffee Mornings have seen some of the biggest changes from previous years. Our September Coffee was a hugely successful kick-off to our membership drive. As the year progressed, we started asking everyone to pay in order to cover the cost of the venue/coffee. This is standard practice in many other international women's groups. Beginning in May, we plan to charge a set fee of 30 RON for our Coffees – which will still require IWA to subsidize the costs. We also will continue requesting registration for coffees, because venues like to know in advance how much food to prepare. Another change was the result of our survey last year, where members overwhelming indicated that they prefer to alternate locations. This year we ended up changing venues more than we had initially hoped, because we were not able to find a semi-permanent home that met our needs. We did, however, have our monthly Coffees in some wonderful spots. Though a few members complained, most ladies were quite happy with the variety. This coming year, we are happy to announce that we will have a new home for our Coffees on a semi-regular basis, while still exploring new places during the months in-between.

Our charity Christmas Bazaar was a success, thanks to

the hard work of Marina Coanda Bundac and our team. I wish to give a huge hug to Marina, to our Honorary Chair Adriana Ivama Brummell, to all the ladies on the Board who worked so hard, and to all of our Country Coordinators. We truly appreciate the support of all of our business and diplomatic sponsors, because the money raised helps improve the lives of those around us. As an organization, we should be very proud of donating the Verajet machine to Military Hospital, which is being used to provide ongoing treatment to survivors of the Colectiv tragedy, and will help many residents of Bucharest in years to come. In addition, I wish to thank all of the women who work with the Charity Committee, who continue to visit non-governmental organizations and find the best uses for our grants. I wish to remind all IWA members that all charity money is raised and spent separately from our general funds.

As a legal association, IWA is required to register our officers, maintain an office, submit our financial reports and more. I thank Christian Stanculescu and the entire group at Optim, as well as the accounting firm KPMG and the law firm Biris Goran, for their assistance.

You may have heard me say that I almost quit IWA at the end of my first year in Bucharest. I'm so glad that I didn't – the friendships I have made with Romanians and women from around the world are wonderful. I encourage you all to become more active participants in IWA, so that we can grow a vibrant group that will enrich all of our time here.

Kisses and thanks to my Board, for all of their hard work and shared laughter – I couldn't have done it without you: Manzar, Ximena, Carmen, Ozge, Maria, Dana, Nicoleta, Banu, Karine, Amel, & Jessica.

Best wishes to all of our members – let's keep growing!

1st VICE PRESIDENT – Manzar Huseynli

I joined IWA in 2012. I was the Newsletter Editor from 2013 September till 2015 June, and 1st VP in 2015-2016 till General Assembly. I tried to do my best. I was Country Coordinator for 4 years at the IWA Charity Christmas Bazaar, and helped with the IWA Charity Fashion Show.

This year as 1st VP, I helped with activities as well. I attended the charity meetings and board meetings,

BOARD REPORT

and helped board members. We are planning to make a Color Party for Charity. I am the organizer of event with our great team. I hope we will do a great job and be successful.

Finally, I would like to express my huge thanks to our lovely board and especially for our dear president, Terry O'Donnell Parsons, for their support of IWA. This year we did really great job by increasing members, finding nice activities and more. Thanks to all IWA members. I wish IWA and my lovely and hardworking board many successes in the future.

This is my last 3 months that I am with you in Bucharest. Time to go and follow diplomatic rules. But we have chance that we can come back for our next mission.

I learnt a lot of things in 4 years: different cultures, about religions, international holidays, international cuisines and more. I have kind friendship relations in IWA. Thanks to all IWA members. I am so happy to be part of IWA.

Good luck!
Wishing you all the best!
Hugs and kisses

2nd VICE PRESIDENT – Ximena Reyes

As the 2nd Vice president I have supported all areas where an extra hand is needed, including the Bazaar, Activities and Membership. We have coordinated numerous coffee mornings and activities, putting our hearts and minds into it. Together with the other members of the board we have strived to create a dynamic group that appeals to different interests, and reached out to other expat groups in Bucharest. IWA membership has grown significantly. There is a significant amount of time and effort behind the scenes, but with great company there's also lots of laughter.

SECRETARY – Ozge Gunes

I have had the distinct privilege of working with some of the most amazing ladies this year. As a secretary, I have had the opportunity with their help to contribute in various ways. My major tasks include taking minutes, helping with housekeeping, hospitality and lending a helping hand whenever possible. I also coordinated tickets for the Bazaar and was Turkey Country Coordinator.

During my term, the Board met regularly. Our business meetings were usually 2-3 hours long, covering all aspects of IWA. The April 2015 meeting was primarily for the purpose of knowing each other. In August; the Board met the second time to make an outline for the year. We also organized the kick-start, which was in September at Diplomatic Club, and started working on the Christmas Bazaar. In October, the Board renewed our contract with Optim. At that meeting, IWA had 77 paid members. The Board decided the newsletter would be printed seasonally. During that meeting, new monthly activities were added. In November, we discussed the budget and the country coordinator's meeting for our Christmas Bazaar. Unfortunately I couldn't attend december board meeting. In January, Board members discussed budget details, activities and more. In February, the Board started working for the General Assembly and most members volunteered to serve another term. In March, the Board started working for IWA's Color Party. Board who had attended the board meeting approved that 10% of Bazaar charity income transfer to the administrative account, following the standard practice of Romanian NGO's. Board met twice in March, planning the General Assembly, budget, Color Party for charity, activities, newsletter and more.

In closing, I want to thank IWA members and for giving me the opportunity to serve.

NEWSLETTER – Banu Demir - Karine Lamy

It was a huge decision to cut the membership fees into half at the beginning of this year so we had to cut our newsletter budget too. Therefore we had decided to publish only seasonal newsletters instead of monthly ones. And we are so pleased with this decision as we are also protecting our environment too.

IWA's activities are rapidly increasing this year so instead of newsletter, we think it is also a great opportunity to draw your attention to our new website where we have more chance to update our activities, photos, videos etc...

In this year's newsletters, we aim to publish more photos from the activities and give more space to our members to express themselves with the articles as well.

We had definitely had a great time while we were working together and looking forward to have new volunteers in our team next year.

JUNE 2015 - APRIL 2016

TREASURER – Carmen Barta

I am very honored to be the IWA treasurer and proud to share my experience and bring my contribution to IWA Board in 2015-2016. I am also very grateful that have the chance to help the people in need, through all the projects funded by IWA. IWA had an audit from KPMG, we are now in process to finalize the process and have the conclusions by May.

The role of Treasurer was made very easy by the ladies before me and by Optim Group. The transition of the treasurer duties from Optim to IWA was very smooth, thanks to the professional work of Cristian Stanculescu, Adriana Stefan and Iuliana Parvu. We continue to do online all the payments for charities and for all IWA regular bills, including the Bazaar expenses. Every month, our expenses are compiled and registered in the Romanian accounting system by Iuliana Parvu in Optim.

We have to thank; Georgiana Pogonaru, who introduced us to Biris Goran law firm. They kindly accepted to register the new board pro bono. This allowed us to save 1500 ron, amount that was redistributed for marketing materials.

The Christmas Bazaar was again a big success and I am proud being part of this wonderful event that raised funds for charity, together with Optim Group and the amazing volunteers from Alpha Bank who are participating in our Bazaar every year.

Thank you for offering me the opportunity to be part of IWA family and I am looking forward to bring my contribution further on.

Charity payments from June 2015 to March 2016:

Touched Romania Association 20,319 RON
 Sfantul Dimitrie Foundation – 20,000 RON
 Free Association – 4,500 RON
 Casa Ioana Foundation – 25,000 RON
 Sfanta Ana – 20,025 RON
 Casa Shalom – 25,000 RON
 ASMP – 9000 RON
 St Stefan – 25 000 RON
 Christmas baskets – 19,500 RON (6,500 per NGO)
 Chance for life, Asociatia Ana si Copiii, Fundatia Inocenti
 Versajet equipment and supplies for Military Hospital
 – 108,725.04 RON

Total Charity payments: 277,069.04 RON

IWA GENERAL BUDGET	Budgeted 2015-2016	Budgeted 2016-2017	Actual June 2015 - March 2016 RON
INCOME			
Membership	35000	40500	38850
Guest Fees at Coffee Mornings	500	0	0
Advertising, misc donations	500	500	850
Interest	0	0	0
Exchange Rate Income	0	0	0
Fashion show	24935	0	24935
TOTAL INCOME	60935	41000	64635
Draw on Surplus Funds	15000	0	0
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	75935	41000	64635
EXPENSES			
Optim (rent/accounting)	21200	19200	23195
Registration of Board	1500	0	0
Translator	400	100	40
Postage	200	200	102
Office Supplies	1500	500	0
Bank Fees	1000	1000	300
Exchange Rate Loss	1000	1000	0
Newsletter	5000	5000	5355
Website*	2700	350	3137
Marketing Materials	800	1000	1252
Monthly Coffee Mornings	9000	9000	6789
Newcomers Coffees	1000	1000	892
Thank You Gifts for Guest Speakers	500	500	38
Special Activities	1000	1650	2956
TOTAL EXPENSES	46800	40500	44056

CHARITY – Dana Abi Chahine

I am starting with an applause and congratulations to all the members of IWA, but especially to the charity committee volunteers! Without your support and dedication none of the activities/grants below would have been possible!

I'm still finding difficult to believe how quickly time has passed, it is almost a year now since I volunteered to chair the IWA Charity activity. But yet, so many wonderful accomplishments this team has made! I'm so proud of everything this little team has succeeded, even if sometimes we had also difficult times. But these accomplishments – and they are not little nor insignificant – are made with love and dedication and most of all time and big hearts!

At the IWA Christmas Bazar 2015, our biggest charity fundraising event, **IWA's net charity income was 121,443.41 RON**. And besides this, the following NGOs present this year at the Bazar together took home aprox 11,000 RON: Asociatia Datini Educatie Cultura-Gaujani, Asociatia Fecioara Maria a Milostivirii (Our Lady of Mercy in Romania), Asociatia Help The People, Chance for Life, Daruiesteviata, Fundatia Mereu Aproape, Health Aid Romania, Hospice Casa Sperantei Foundation, Nightingales Children's Project Romania, P.A.V.E.L, Second Chance Romania, Verita. It is also important to know that there were donations of leftover goods and food from the day going to Usa Deschisa (Open Door Foundation) and Nightingales in Cernavoda.

The IWA Charity Committee and Board have supported post-Colectiv needs by purchasing a Verajet machine for Militar Hospital. We continue to look for an appropriate way to support refugees in Romania, and of course the Charity Committee is receiving applications monthly from a variety of NGOs.

As you all know, IWA Bucharest is still a little Women's Organization but very big in its Heart! We are all very proud. If we look back at the interesting moments and activities which took place so far both within our coffee mornings where we made new nice friends, as well as part of a rewarding and pleasing feeling involving charity activities. For those of you who haven't been yet to Charity Committee – we kindly invite you to join! We are all Volunteers here and Volunteers don't necessarily have the time, but do have the Heart! I strongly believe it!

We began our term following and closing projects at NGOs funded by the previous Board:

- Fundatia Sfanta Irina works to improve the quality of Cancer patients. www.sfantairina.ro
- Fundatia Second Chance works to ensure the improvement of quality life for disadvantaged community from Berceni Village. www.secondchanceromania.ro
- Hospice Casa Sperantei develops palliative care services for patients with life-limiting and terminal diseases. www.hospice.ro
- Asociatia Datini Educatie Cultura Gaujani, a community development program, working on cultural heritage. www.facebook.com/asociatiadatinigaujani
- Concordia Proiecte Sociale Romania has many projects helping integrating children and young who are living on the streets in Bucharest. www.concordia.ro

We funded new projects:

- Touched Romania offers is a shelter which offers at risk mothers a place to live with their children for a limited period of time and offers them support and training. IWA granted aprox 20.000 Ron for building repair. www.touchedromania.org
- Fundatia Sfantul Dimitrie helps families in need in multiple ways. IWA granted 20.000 ron for materials to help the after school educational suport programs. www.fundatiasfantuldimitrie.ro
- In December 2015 The Following NGOs received Christmas baskets – 19,500 ron (6,500 Ron each) : Chance for life, Asociatia Ana si Copiii, FundatiaInocenti
- Asociatia Free, which helps sexually exploited women and children. IWA granted 4500 Ron for furniture, sofa, office desks, table, kids corner furniture and small appliances which improved the place they are spending their time and this way improving their self esteem. <https://m.facebook.com/asociatiaFREE/www.asociatiafree.org>
- Casa Ioana, providing temporary accommodation and support to women and children experiencing domestic violence . IWA granted 25.000 Ron for improving the new part of the shelter through its refurbishment. <http://casaioana.org/get-involved/>
- Casa Shalom, helping families and preventing risk of abandonment. IWA granted 25.000 Ron for new kitchen appliances in one of their most recent shelter. <http://www.casashalom.net/>
- Asociatia Sfanta Ana, providing help to children and young adults with neurological impairments. IWA granted 20.025 Ron for changing all windows, few doors and facilitating creation of exterior house insulation, which had a very big outcome to their heating cutting costs. <https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=153345941364870>
[Www.sf-Ana.ro](http://www.sf-Ana.ro)

JUNE 2015 - APRIL 2016

- Asociatia de Medicina pentru Sanatate Publica AMSP, providing help play therapies and counseling to children from Marie Curie Hospital. IWA granted 9000 Ron for small furniture and toys/recuzite for their mobile playground. <https://m.facebook.com/asociatiademedicinapentrusanatatepublica?fref=ts>
- Asociatia Sfantul Stefan, providing help and complementary therapies for children with autistic disorders. IWA granted 25.000 Ron enabling their special physical recovery through creation of equipments for the sensory room. <http://www.asociatiasfantulstefan.ro/contact.html>

We are very proud and happy to be able to help all these NGOs and we are looking forward to have more IWA members as volunteers to come and join the Charity Committee!

MEMBERSHIP – Jessica Yambor

The 2015-2016 year was a great time for IWA membership. We grew to 138 paid members, with an additional 14 Honorary Embassy members and 1 other Honorary member. The increase in membership can be attributed to each and every one of us. Representing IWA out in the community, spreading the word, and encouraging others to join has strengthened us as a whole. Once introduced to IWA, members can choose from a variety of activities in which they can participate. New Member Coffee Mornings, in particular, allow newer IWA members the chance to get to know each other in smaller group settings and explore different venues within Bucharest.

Individually, we represent 43 countries. Together, we are an association of women from around the world with the common goal of friendship.

Nationality		Nationality	
Argentina	2	Lithuania	1
Australia	1	New Zealand	1
Austria & Italy	1	Pakistan	6
Azerbaijan	3	Philippines	1
Belgium & Italy	1	Portugal	1
Brazil & Belgium	1	Romania	29
Brazil & U.S.A.	1	Romania & Armenia	1
Canada	2	Romania & Canada	1
Chile	1	Romania & France	3
China	1	Romania & Italy	1
Ecuador & Sweden	1	Romania & Syria	1
Egypt	1	Romania & Turkey	6
Egypt & U.S.A.	2	Romania & U.S.A.	2
Estonia	1	Russia	2
Finland	1	South Africa	1
France	4	Spain	1
France & Poland	1	Switzerland	1
Germany	4	Switzerland & Germany	1
Iceland	1	Turkey	13
Iran	1	Turkey & U.S.A.	1
Ireland	1	Ukraine	1
Israel	1	United Kingdom	6
Israel & Austria	1	U.K & Belgium	1
Israel & Azerbaijan	1	U.K & Pakistan	1
Italy	3	United States of America	10
Italy & Albania	1	U.S.A. & El Salvador	1
Italy & Greece	1	U.S.A. & Greece	1
Japan	1	Venezuela & Germany	1
Jordan	1		
Total Paid Members			138



BOARD REPORT

ACTIVITIES – Nicoleta Candea-Muntean

Together with my colleagues from the IWA Board, as Activity Coordinator I tried to evaluate the needs of our members to spend a useful and nice time in Bucharest and surroundings, during almost one year.

We spent beautiful, interesting and relaxing moments such as:

1. Cultural visits: National Art Museum; National Art and Collections; National Treasure Museum; Dali Exposition (Busteni); Romanian Parliament tours; Art tours
2. Art Lovers talks
3. Classical Musical Concert
4. Ceramic paintings
5. Latvian National Day
6. Trips: Castelul Cantacuzino (Cantacuzino Castle) - Busteni / Valea Prahovei; Conacul Bellu (Bellu Mansion) (organized but no participants from IWA);
7. Walks in City
8. Origami Club (monthly)
9. Mahjong (weekly)
10. Yoga activity
11. Cooking Club (monthly)
12. Bike and walk
13. Romanian conversation group (not to much interest from the members)
14. Mom & Tots meet-up (weekly)
15. Tour of Communist Securitate Archives
16. Monthly Movie Club
17. Monthly luncheon
18. Fashion & interior design
19. Decoupage
20. Book Club (monthly)
21. Gourmet dinner
23. National cuisine demo
24. Romanian Wine tasting
25. Stitching & knitting Club (weekly) and others

Thanks to our members who helped organize all these activities: Mihaela Gafton, Manzar Huseynli, Diana Zotescu, Terry O'Donnell Parsons, Amel Ben Khaled , Gertrude Stefan, Floricica Valeanu, Dana Abi Chahine, Alice Allsop, Iris Pungan, Kathy Locke, Cassandra Morgan, Ximena Reyes, Eiko Takagi, Florentina Donca, Daniela Gonzales, Ozge Güneş Polat and also to all participants at all these activities!

WEBSITE – Maria Raets Musat

I helped the Board with activities, sponsorship, coffees and events, and of course managing the website. This is the second year IWA uses the WildApricot platform for it is Website. It's a hosting platform made for non-profit organizations. We are highly pleased with it and we received a lot of good feedback from most of our members.

I was asked to be the Website coordinator for IWA early September and my role was to manage all the updates of the site and also to improve the information presented on the site. The greatest challenge was to create and update the activities in our Members' Calendar. Since last year we have doubled or even tripled the events and that required a quick call to action on my behalf. The event management system available on our website helps us a lot and so myself and all the IWA team encourages you to regularly check the Events Calendar and register on line for the events.

As part of my role as a Website Coordinator, I also managed the update of the Christmas Bazaar page and I coordinated with the IWA team to publish the photos and the sponsors' logos.

Recently, we have created a Discussion Board, which you can find in the Members' Corner section. Please have a look and contribute to its existence.

As for the expenses and the budget of the Website, we have paid already a 2 year subscription for the Wild Apricot platform (Feb 2015 to June 2017). The fee was 3000 Ron. We also have to pay for the hosting of our Website to our provider, Rohost. The fee is 350 Ron per year.

On behalf of the IWA team, we encourage you to regularly register for our events on the website, actively use the Discussion Board and also update your profile, if you haven't done it yet. The Website is a living thing only thanks to your contribution!

March 2016

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR RECEPTION



Our Christmas Bazaar Thank You Reception was graciously hosted by Mrs. Adriana Ivama Brummell at the British Residence in March.

It was a lovely evening. Thank you to Green Sugar, Tax Free, and Halewood Wines for supporting the event.

In addition to our on going support of various Romanian NGOs, following the Bazaar, IWA gave specialized medical equipment to Spitalul Militar.

The Director General of the hospital, Dr. Florentina Ioniță – Radu spoke at the Reception. We were happy to learn that this equipment, the Versajet, is already providing continuing care for victims of the Colectiv tragedy, and will be available as needed to residents of Bucharest in the future.

We wish to again thank all of the many individuals, embassies and businesses for your support of our annual charity Bazaar. Together, we demonstrate that people of different nations and cultures can unite for a common purpose. Together, we make a positive difference, both in our community and in the world.



In an effort to getting to know each other better we regularly introduce ourselves. All members are encouraged to update their details and add a photo to our online directory.

Işıl Özer



I have arrived Bucharest with my 6 year old daughter and husband in January. This is our first international assignment. I had my Bachelor degree from Environmental Engineering at ITU, afterwards I had my MBA at Koç University, Istanbul. I started my career in sales, I've worked for electronic and energy businesses for 12 years as a Sales Manager.

I was very curious about life in Bucharest. I really felt relieved after I had met many expat families. My friend Banu introduced me to IWA. I am glad she did, since people are very friendly and helpful in IWA. There are many people who had many international assignments before in IWA's meetings the experience is shared among people. Each person has different talents and interests in IWA, everyone finds her way to add something to the community. For example, I am planning to do trading business in Romania, IWA has a program called BSPN which inspires and helps women to start a new business when they are abroad.

Bucharest is a small, cozy city when compared to Istanbul:) There are nice restaurants and cafes all around Bucharest, here at rush hours it takes twenty minutes to go to a distant point. Every one says traffic is a mess but not for me after living in Istanbul :)

Most of the Romanian people can speak English and they are very helpful too. My first time in Bucharest was for business, 8 years ago. I wanted to take the bus to the center from the airport but I did not have change with me, 3 people on the raw, offered me free tickets; maybe that was a coincidence but I felt very good at that moment. Now 8 years has passed and we are in Romania and I am sure that my feelings were true.

The winter was really tough which I am not very used to. It scared me first but when I saw Baneasa Forest under snow, I was more than in love with the view and now I am looking forward to experience the view next year.

There are also some strange things that are hard to explain, like the Pipera road being under construction for years due to bad construction planning, but still I am happy that we are in Bucharest, because happiness is not measured with tangible things.

Mariana Villanueva

A year and half ago I moved to Bucharest, my nationality is Chilean, we arrived here with my family because of my husband's work; Romania is our fourth country as expatriates.

We live in the area of Pipera near the British school of Bucharest. I feel very comfortable living in Bucharest, it is a very friendly city, even though we don't speak Romanian.

I studied design, and made my specialty in Italy, in the city of Turin, and then returned to Chile and continued working in Exhibit Design and performing design classes at different universities.

After living and traveling in different countries, I have managed to continue with different studies related to my career.

In England I lived in London, and had the opportunity to take classes in fused glass and blown glass, with which I started to create glass objects, then in Mexico in the city of Monterrey, where I had the good fortune to live for four years, I worked at Museum glass, there I was able to learn new techniques to use glass.

From objects, I passed to make glass jewelry and silver, then I began to study the use of stones in jewelry and realized the energy value of this material through the years have deepened the study of energy, with workshops like reiki, vibration of chakras and meditation.

The design is part of my life, and I combined this 2 subjects and I created a new concept for work "Energy Jewelry". Which combines these two materials creating unique pieces, and that my work know.

Thanks to IWA, I had the honor of representing, in the last Christmas fair, my country, and show the work I did. I became an IWA member in January 2016. IWA has given me the opportunity to meet many women from different countries and cultures, and I was also able to participate in many interesting activities.



MEET OUR MEMBERS

Lucia Massacesi

This is my third year in Bucharest as a trailing spouse, devoted mum and free lance journalist. Before coming here we used to live in Milano.

Since last February I have been publishing my blog in English Romania Without Dracula (romaniasenzadracula.com).

The idea of keeping a blog about Romania has been with me since the very beginning as a sort of personal engagement, a debt I had pay back to the country hosting me so warmly. I really wanted to provide my little contribution to filling the embarrassing gap between Romania as perceived in our foreign countries and the country really met, with it's cultural variety, complex past and touching human encounters.

The blog had to wait till I had learnt enough Romanian to avoid as much as possible any form of condescending narrative: I longed for catching at least something of the real spirit of place and to do that I did not need to be in a hurry.

I am sure that my old academic interests in travel literature has influenced my mindset. I believe in a sort of spiritual nomadism that relies most on serendipity and empathy.

My daily life is made out of a variety of encounters and engagements at very different levels. Quite often my different social roles of wife, mother and free lancer, meet and even overlap. In fact, I like to mix environments and friends from a range of different social and cultural backgrounds - either foreigners or locals - and I frankly do not think of belonging to any specific environment.

Last September, I joined IWA and I regret to say that, as much as I would like to be more involved in it's wide range of activities, till now I have basically failed. Time management is currently my most demanding challenge.

What I most like in IWA is the variety of experiences each member brings along. In fact, I am very good friends with many IWA members.



Jessica Rey

I'm a French lady pregnant of a few months. It's my first baby.

I have been living in Bucharest for a year and half, with my spouse. He works here for a French company. It's our first expatriate position. Before we lived in Paris.

I was born in Paris but part of my family live in Corsica. A beautiful French island near Italia. We go there during holidays.

In Bucharest, we live in Herastrau area, one of the most beautiful park here, I like to walk around the lake, it's very good for my mind. My spouse run a lot but not just around the lake (half marathon, marathon...), here I found that Romanians peoples are sporty. I made lot of different sports: Pilates, fit ball, yoga...

When the weather is good in Bucharest, there are a lot places where you can drink or eat outside, around the lake and in the town. I like Eden café, Biutiful by the lake, Verona café...



I graduated of Studio Berçot, Paris and B.T.S Fashion Design, Marseille, I worked in fashion business abroad and in France.

But during the crisis, I was a Consultant and Project Coordinator in the professional insertion in Paris.

Now, in Bucharest, I start my business dedicated for future and young

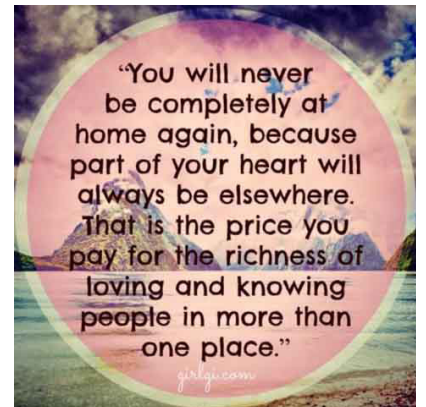
parents French and English speaker. Because for me, at the beginning of my pregnancy, it was difficult to find this kind of informations.

This blog is, I share free information from the web about the pregnancy and the baby life. Moreover I created which offers different activities for future and young parents in Bucharest. And I launched my new brand of unique French creation for mum and baby.

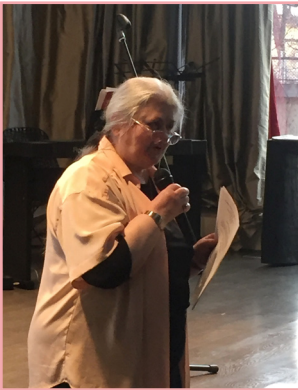
This blog is Baby in the city Bucarest, I share free information from the web about the pregnancy and the baby life. Moreover I created Event baby in the city Bucharest which offers different activities for future and young parents in Bucharest. And I launched my new brand of unique French creation for mum and baby BeCréa'C.

I am a new member to IWA. I like to meet international people, different culture and speak English, even I don't speak so fluent! I already made some activities with IWA, very fun, but I hope, next year, even I have my baby and my job, to join you and make a lot of new activities again!!! ;)

New in town? Wondering where to go and what to do? Ask your new IWA friends....



ACTIVITIES



The CNSAS

The Secret Police Tracked my Childhood

The Securitate was well acquainted with my parents. My father, in his 20s, found himself in terrible prisons at Jilava and Deva and at the Great Island of Braila labour camp, where he met some of the political dissidents who were systematically tortured there. In July 1964, my father and his friends were liberated in a general amnesty but the Securitate followed his every move, looking for any reason to discredit him and throw him back in prison. Suffocated and intimidated, in February 1965 dad bought a compass, binoculars, antibiotics, a few vials of caffeine, some cans of sardines, and a roll of salami. He made a heart-stopping escape from Romania in a blizzard. Dodging police and hiding in haystacks, they made it all the way to the Iron Curtain at the Bulgarian-Turkish border. The patrol squad showered them with bullets in no-man's land, just 400m from freedom, and sent them back to Romania. My father was sentenced to 11 years at the harshest prison of all, Aiud.

Part of the sentence was a five-month period of torture by solitary confinement and starvation while wearing 45kg of chains day and night, in the "special" wing of the prison at Alba Iulia. My father's own account of this period is hair-raising: he was fed once every two days, and allowed to wash three times in the entire period he was held there.

But, as dad puts it, there was an angel looking after him - he was transferred back to Aiud and freed in January 1969 as a result of changes to the penal code. Dad now attempted to live a normal life. He married and had children. Things didn't seem so bad on the surface. We had summer holidays on the Black Sea and built a lovely house in our village, Draganesti, near Galati, in eastern Romania.

But behind the scenes the Securitate pushed him to breaking point, following and spying on him. My mother, Mioara, was denied a career in teaching because she married a "political agitator" and was therefore likely to "pollute the minds of the younger generation". Told to choose between job and husband, she opted for the marriage, and they both began working in a grocer's shop.

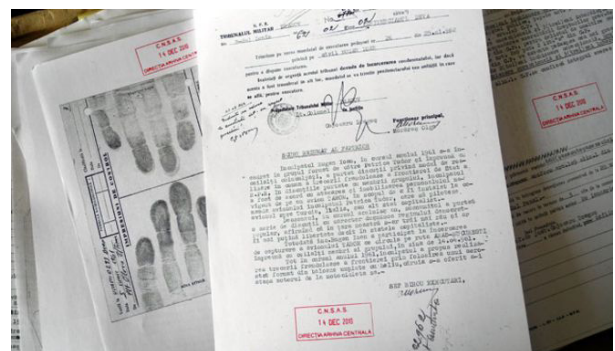
By 1981, however, there were not many groceries to sell. Hungry factory workers yelled at them: "What am I going to put in my bag for lunch?" Evening bread

queues often ended in fistfights. When the doors closed for the day, my father's angry outbursts at the back of the shop mingled with blasts of Radio Free Europe. One day he told my mother: "I don't want to spend my life just breathing air, and doing nothing."

They bought two typewriters, one of which they did not register with the police, and began making anti-communist flyers protesting against shortages and human rights abuses. They spent the nights typing and driving all over the country to put them in people's letterboxes, while my sister and I slept. The police kept coming to the house to check the prints of the legal typewriter, and to see whether they matched with the letters.

On 10 March 1983, my father took to the streets of Bucharest. On top of our red Dacia car, he mounted placards demanding human rights, and denouncing Ceausescu as a torturer who should be put on trial. Then he drove through the city centre, throwing leaflets from the window and blowing a whistle to attract attention. He had said nothing to my mother. She was in the hospital with Catalin, who was close to dying from an untreated lung infection. My younger sister Loredana was away at gymnastics school and I was at home, aged 12, with my grandmother.

This marked the beginning of hell for us.



Abridged from an article by Carmen Bagan:

"How the Secret Police Tracked my Childhood"

BBC News 2 April 2014.

*To learn more about the family, and Securitate, the IWA book club recommends her memoir **Burying the Typewriter***

SECURITATE ARCHIVES



WOMEN, SPRING AND ROMANIA

Women are paradoxical beings: they are beautiful, graceful, and delicate, they seem weak but they prove to be strong, resilient, and flexible. They are like a bamboo tree which bends but does not break. They are devoted, oriented towards the others, committed, tolerant. They concentrate on relationships. They build roots and structures and offer unconditional love. They have so many roles that every woman is not an individual, but a multitude.

Well, Romania is a woman too. In fact the earth is a woman – Terra Mater – Mother Earth. There are many ancient artifacts found on the Romanian territory representing her. Spring and women go together well, and before Romans changed the calendar in 153 B.C, people celebrated the beginning of the year in spring, the time of the year when nature renews itself.



In Romania we start this celebration in March. On the first of March, Martisor, women receive a small object tied with red and white threads, representing winter and spring.

After winter we need a lucky charm to protect us in a season of changes. Women wear the Martisor throughout the month of March and then hang it on a fruit tree. Weather in March is unpredictable and a Romanian legend says that there are 9 days governed by Baba Dochia, an old woman with 9 winter overcoats. She wants to keep winter, while her daughter-in-law wants to bring spring. In order to know how our year will be, we pick one day between 1–9 March, and depending on the weather of the chosen day we will know how our year will be. On the 9th of March women prepare a special desert called macinici or mucenici. We prepare flour dough in the shape of the figure eight or the sign of infinite. We boil the 'infinities' (aren't we philosophers?), adding crushed nuts and sugar. The same day people in the villages celebrate the fifuliga. They will make fires and jump over them. This is a purification ritual that is a reminiscence of the New Year, and it celebrates the victory of light over darkness.

We should be more aware about feminine sacredness and her myths. If you would like to know more about this subject you can read Mircea Eliade, a famous Romanian historian of religion, fiction writer, philosopher and professor at the University of Chicago.

The traditional Romanian blouse is called an "ie" and for the spring celebrations, each woman had to sew a new one. How beautiful and perfect they are! Romanian peasant women are creative. And no matter how difficult it is for us in modern life, we should be creative and discover our own way, as this is one of our assets.

I will tell you a joke about our nice lady – Romania: God and Saint Peter, who appear in many of our stories, discuss different countries. Saint Peter says to God that He has given too many nice things to Romania. And God answers, "Wait and see what leaders I will give her."

Women also should be careful about what leaders they choose – no matter if we have in mind husbands, administration or government leaders. Maybe we ourselves should become leaders.

I have lived a part of my life during communism, when nobody had rights. Now, I belong to a group of citizens who defend the park in our district against the mafia who cut trees without legal papers and started building in a green space helped by the corrupted administration. The leader of the group is a woman, Nina Iancu. We have 5 cases in court and until now we succeeded to suspend the construction work the leader of the group is a woman. If during communist times somebody had told me that one day we would receive an award for civic participation for our fight against the corrupt administration, and that this event would take place in the Parliament built by Ceausescu, I would have said this is crazy. But as you can see Romania, our nice lady, is changing.

I was born in a small village near Bucharest and my grandmother was a wise woman. When she died we found out about a very ancient custom. The village women brought her white gloves, because they said that the hands of the person who brings newborns to life deserve white gloves in the other world. But I think you deserve white gloves in this world for all the things you do for the others. I am offering them to you all.



by Silvia Margineanu

RECIPIES from our COOKING CLUB

Pear, Stilton and Watercress salad

From Mihaela Gafton

This heavenly combination is light and simple and only takes 10 minutes to make

Serves 6

3 tbsp olive oil

2 tsp wholegrain mustard

1 tsp honey

Salt and freshly ground pepper

3 ripe but firm pears, cored and cut into wedges

1 x 85 grams bag watercress

150 grams Stilton

To make the dressing, whisk together the olive oil, mustard and honey, and season with salt and pepper

Divide the pears and watercress evenly between six side plates and crumble over the Stilton

Drizzle with the dressing and serve immediately

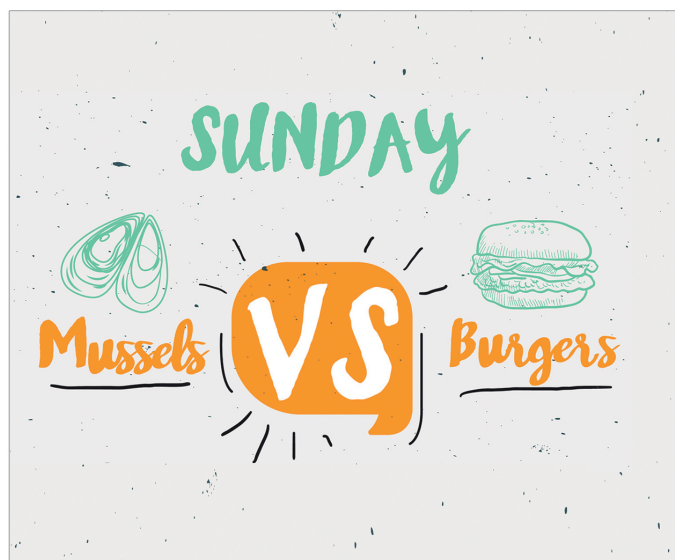




SUNDAY MUSSELS VS BURGERS

Calea Floreasca is hosting, at no 55, Chefs Experience, a fancy restaurant where you'll be wowed by the eclectic stylish and innovative food. Specialised in modern European cuisine, Chefs is the perfect place for casual dining in Bucharest. From meals out with friends, to date nights with your special someone, to business lunches with colleagues, this is the place to be.

Chefs Experience manages to offer unique experiences and new sensations in the context of location and the presentation of the restaurant, a combination between casual graceful, aesthetic and comfortable. Our place symbolizes the elegant evolution in the concept of restaurant in an area where we want to overcome the usual boundaries. Chefs Experience offers more than just food! As this is not just a regular restaurant, every Sunday you are invited to the event Sunday Mussels VS. Burgers (between 12:00-22:00), a new event concept in Romania, for those who wish to have a different and relaxing day surrounded by their friends and family. Furthermore, you will have the occasion to taste special mussels recipes, among which one made by Chef Catalin Scarlatescu, one of the most famous Chef in Romania. The restaurant is waiting for you also with several types of innovative homemade burgers like the one with the black bun, salmon and coriander or the spicy one with beef, tabasco, peperoncino and horseradish sauce.



If you come on Sunday, you must also try the special dessert, Sweet Burger Cake.

Have you ever seen a boxing match between these two dishes: Mussels and Burgers? If not, now you have the occasion.

The score will be shown on our scoreboard and the most tasty opponent will be designed the winner at the end of rounds. Be part of the jury and join forces with your friends, you can come dressed in your favourite pair of jeans or anything else that makes you feel comfortable.


Moreover, at the SUNDAY Mussels vs. Burgers you will also find some fun, little souvenir to remind you of a lovely Sunday afternoon spent in a really nice restaurant with your dear ones.

If this caught your attention you can check the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Chefs.Experience for details regarding the other events organised at Chefs Experience.

55 Calea Floreasca, 1st District, Bucharest

0723 856 916

www.ChefsExperience.ro

 Chefs. Experience



ROMANIAN ORTHODOX EASTER



Romanian Orthodox Easter is observed this year on the 1st of May, while the Catholic Easter was held on the 27th of March.

Orthodox Romanian religion, observes the rule established in 325 AC by the Council of Nicaea. Easter, would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the March equinox.

On Easter eve people go to church for the midnight service, which is held in the open air. A huge number of people will attend this service even if they are not regular church goers.

People will sing together with the priests and they will light their candles. It's a lovely night as everyone will try to keep the candles lit until they get home, so that their house will receive the Easter blessing. That's the only night during the whole year when you can see lit candles everywhere and the streets will be full. Buses and the metro will function throughout the night.

This is a family celebration and some of the people will have a midnight late dinner. Others will wait until the morning to receive the blessed bread called 'paste' at



the end of the service, which will finish at dawn and then have a family lunch.

In every house you will find traditional Easter dishes. First, there will be the painted eggs and before the meal, family and friends will knock the eggs – a funny competition

started by the eldest member. The person who hits first will say "Hristos a inviat" (Christ has resurrected) and the other will answer "Adevarat a inviat" (He has truly resurrected). The two sentences will replace the normal greetings for forty days, until the 'Inaltare' (Ascension Day).

Long ago the winner collected all the broken eggs but nowadays this custom disappeared.

Lamb is the traditional meat and it is prepared in different ways:

- "drob", made of ground lamb liver, eggs, parsley and green onion
- lamb sour soup with 'bors' (traditional fermented liquid added to soups)
- 'stufat', a delicious meat dish improved with tons of fresh spring green onion and garlic.
- 'chiftelute' (meat balls)

And for desert, "cozonac", a kind of panetone and "pasca", a cozonac with fresh cottage cheese and raisins. As for drinks we have 'tuica', a plum brandy at the beginning of the meal, or 'palinca', a Transylvanian double distilled tuica. Both open our appetite and make us speak against our will and louder than we want. During the meal wine is served.

In villages the tradition is still kept and children and teenagers should have new clothes. Food is first given to neighbors and friends for the soul of dead people and then families eat together.



In my grandparents village people will have a traditional rice and fish meal, with home made bread and red wine, on Sunday morning in the yard of the church.

In some regions the art of painting eggs is transmitted from one generation to the other and models require precision and patience.

Enjoy the Romanian Easter traditions!

by Silvia Margineanu

SUMMER ACTIVITIES



As the Chief Travel Artisan at the 5 Senses Romania travel agency, I keep wandering all around the country to discover the most thrilling and authentic Romanian destinations. Romania is a country of many superlatives and I can't ever decide upon a favorite season to travel, but this time I'm compromising on some of the loveliest summertime destinations adding a bit of flavorsome traveling magic.

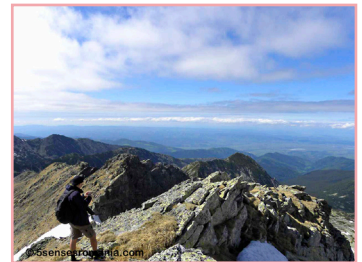
The magic of the perfect getaway; Whether you're new to Romania, a laid back sightseer or maybe you're having friends coming over, Prahova Valley seems to have all the right travel answers: the gorgeous king's summer retreat by its name Sinaia, Peleş Castle included, the Royal Winery in Azuga (great for sparkling wine tasting and professional cellar tour), culminating in a genuine revelation of the Dracula legacy at the Bran Castle. In case you're planning a single day escapade, you might be considering the less known but delightful and posh Cantacuzino Castle in Buşteni. At the foot of the Zamora Mountain this Neo-Romanian style castle was built in 1911. The impressive architecture and the wide domain are completed by the chic terrace facing the city and the blue mountains in a picture perfect summer day.

There were three main things that made me fall in love with the castle: the breathtaking view, the elegant interiors and on top of it, the exquisite Canta Cuisine restaurant. There is no one without the other therefore my recommendation would be to start with one of the hourly castle tours – English tours available upon prior request – then relax for a tasty meal on the terrace (weather permitting) or inside the cozy restaurant. The castle doesn't have any lodging facilities; however, if you already plan to spend the night in Buşteni or Sinaia, you might be interested in the recurrent art exhibitions and the cultural events such as the Moscow's Bolshoi Theater Classic Nights.



The magic of Brâncuşi and piedmont Oltenia. I must admit in all my traveling years, I have never seen such a splendid display of the sky as I enjoyed during my seasonal trips to Oltenia, home of master Constantin Brâncuşi. You should begin your journey of discovery with a stop at the public gardens of TârguJiu, the place chosen to host this unique open air exhibition: "The Gate of the Kiss", "The Chairs Alley", "The Table of Silence" and "The Endless Column". A trip to TârguJiu and the small village of Hobiţa, the sculptor's birthplace, is quite

meaningless without exploring the core inspiration of Brâncuşi's art: the mountain landscape. Imagine that he grew up at the foot of the Southern Carpathians, in an area that to the present day cherishes the last unaltered old-growth forests in Europe, such as those found in the Retezat massif and the Domogled-Cerna River Valley National Park. Brâncuşi Sculptural Ensemble in TârguJiu is part of the public gardens in the city center – free access, always open; however, there is an admission fee at the Constantin Brâncuşi Memorial House in Hobiţa and it would be best if you planned your visit ahead. Hiking and trekking in any of the National Parks (Retezat or Domogled-Cerna) is usually at tourists' own convenience, but I highly recommend hiring a local ranger, not only for the extra safety, but also for the firsthand information. In each location good value accommodation is available.



Horezu: pottery magic and more (plus two extra travel tips)

Among other wonderful things, Horezu is best known locally and abroad as the core of traditional pottery. The artisan potters organize year round workshops welcoming travelers (especially children) to take a seat behind the potter's wheel and turn their creativity loose. Do not miss Cocoşul de Hurez international pottery festival celebrated during the first week of June. While in Horezu, you should also visit the Hurezi Monastery, built in the late 17th century, now part of the UNESCO World Heritage. It is a wonderful display of the Brâncovenesc architectural style, also called the Romanian Renaissance.



If the Retezat Massif is a bit too much for your taste, Buila-Vânturariţa National Park and the Transalpina road are by far the cyclist heaven for the aficionados.

In case you're curious about the life in Romania by the end of the 19th century, you should find the Nicolae Bălcescu Manor most interesting as this time capsule is one of the perfectly preserved, full access museums of the country. Of course, no summer holiday would be complete without a trip to our very own replica of the Tuscan hills, the Vineyards Hill of Drăgăşani. Seven renowned wineries are waiting you for guided tours and laid-back wine tasting activities, a lavish experience to brag about.

www.5sensesromania.com.

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IWA Color Party
Saturday, May 21st, 2016
7:00 pm in the Iridium Ballroom
Sheraton Hotel, Bucharest

Dear Members, Sponsors and Friends,

We hope you will join us at the IWA Color Party on May 21st for a fun evening in support of charity.

IWA, the International Women’s Association of Bucharest, has supported the local community for many decades. We give grants to a wide range of non-governmental associations in order to improve the lives of disadvantaged Romanians. This year, following our successful multicultural Christmas Bazaar, which was attended by the 3000 visitors from the local and international community, we gave a piece of specialized medical equipment to Militar Hospital, which they use to provide ongoing care to victims of the Colectiv tragedy, and others in Bucharest.

Please also consider providing a cash grant to the IWA Charity Committee, or donating goods and services that we can use in our auction and raffle. Donors to our Color Party will benefit from media coverage and extensive exposure to the expat and local community.

Let us work with you to customize your exposure starting from these levels Logos must be received by 6 May in order to be on printed materials at Color Party		
Level	Donations Cash or In-Kind (Goods or Services)	Benefits
Gold	€1000+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 tickets to the Color Party - display your own roll-up at event - logo on all event media - advertise on IWA website to Oct 2016 - advertise in IWA fall magazine - distribute brochures in our goody bags
Silver	€500 – €999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 tickets to the Color Party - display your own roll-up at event - logo on all event media - advertise on IWA website to Oct 2016 - distribute brochures in our goody bags
Bronze	€200 – €499	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - display your own roll-up at event - logo on all event media - distribute brochures in our goody bags

For details, please contact:

Mrs. Manzar Huseynli, Color Party Chair: manzarahuseynli@gmail.com 0756.119.900

Mrs. Maria Raets, Sponsorship Coordinator: web.iwabucharest@gmail.com 0730.953.039

Thank you for your kind support,
Terry O’Donnell Parsons, IWA President

To purchase tickets and for more information please contact:
iwabucharest@gmail.com
www.iwabucharest.ro

IWA COLOR PARTY



a fundraiser for charity

International Women's Association of Bucharest
to purchase tickets, please contact us
iwabucharest@gmail.com

Save the Date

Saturday

May 21, 2016

7:00 pm



Sheraton
HOTELS & RESORTS

COLORFUL FASHION

KAREN MILLEN

WEEKEND

MaxMara

 **HISPANITAS**
JOY IS A CHOICE

SINGERS



Fabian Sanchez



Marian Vasilescu


RHEA COSTA

Anatolevsky

Raffle & Silent Auction

We are looking for donations:

- High Value items for our auction
- Items for our National or theme Baskets
- Vouchers for services (such as a day at the spa, jewelry, dinner for 2, tickets to an event)
- Vouchers for personalized services from our community (such as a home cooked meal or teaching a skill)
- Unique and interesting items

All ideas are welcome - please contact Manzar or Maria: iwabucharest@gmail.com

IRMA


TUDOR
PERSONAL TAILOR

IWA COLOR PARTY

MENU

COLOR PARTY MENU

CHOICE OF STARTERS (COLD)

Avocado Timbale topped w/ Cured Salmon
Goat Cheese & Red Beet Mille Feuillet (veg)
French Country Terrine w/ all the Necessary Compliments
Salad w/ Fennel & Sun Dried Tomatoes (veg)

CHOICE OF DURING (HOT)

Asian Duck Rolls w/ Cucumber, Onions & Hoisin Sauce
Vol-au-Vent w/ Baby Shrimps & Mini Greens
Warm Mille Feuillet w/ Chicken Breast & Green Peas
Flaky Mille Feuillet w/ Creamy Vegetables Ragout (veg)

CHOICE OF MAIN COURSE

Salmon Teriyaki w/ Fried Rice & Asparagus
Duck Orange w/ Gratin Potatoes & Vegetables
Singapore Noodles Rice Vermicelli, Asian Vegetables and Sauces
(veg) Beef Filet in Green Pepper Sauce w/ Potatoes & Veggies

DESSERT BUFFET

TICKETS

Price: 300 RON

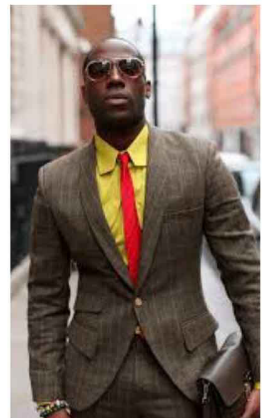
We challenge you to have fun color-coordinating your outfits with friends, and purchase tickets for an entire table (10 people). Or join one of our language tables (French speakers, German speakers etc.) or simply join us at one of our many IWA tables, by yourself or with husband and friends.

More information on purchasing tickets on our website:
www.iwabucharest.ro

**Let's have fun together and
raise money to support IWA Charity!**

DRESS

COLORFULLY





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www.iwabucharest.ro