

# IWA MAGAZINE

SPRING EDITION 2018



**IWA**  
INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION  
OF  
BUCHAREST



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

# JOIN THE IWA BOARD IN APRIL!



**Spread your light! Join a great team and help IWA continue to grow and thrive. We are looking for women willing to roll up their sleeves and do a little work, while laughing often and getting to know more about our community. WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE JOB SHARING, because we all travel and have busy lives!**

**We are looking for women:**

- **of different nationalities**
- **who are organized**
- **who speak English**
- **who are friendly**
- **who like working as part of a team**
- **who bring different talents**

## **The Executive Committee**

### **President**

Provides general leadership of IWA and the Board. Represents IWA in public, ensures compliance with our Statutes, and represents IWA in public matters.

### **1st and 2nd Vice Presidents**

Responsible for providing continuity of leadership in the absence of the President, act as a voice for membership, and support Board activities.

### **Treasurer**

Maintains financial records and makes monthly reports, oversee payments, prepares an annual budget with Board members, and liaises with our professional accountant and auditors.

### **Secretary**

Assists with correspondence, Board meetings and the General Assembly.

## **Sub-Committees**

### **Charity Coordinator**

Oversees the work of the Charity Committee, according to its Policies and Procedures, and should be an active member of the Committee before assuming this role.

### **Activities Team**

Organizes and/or coordinates a variety of special events and ongoing activities, including online sign-up.

### **Fundraising Coordinators**

Responsible for assisting Board in maintaining and expanding funding. Sets the sponsorship package for the Christmas Bazaar.

### **Membership Team**

Recruits new members, manages membership database, holds monthly Newcomers Meet Ups.

### **Newsletter Team**

Responsible for the production of our print magazine.

### **Website Coordinator**

Manages the updates of the IWA website.

### **IWA's Annual General Assembly is in April. NOW is the time to talk with:**

- current volunteers, to find out more about their jobs
- the Nominating Committee, to ask questions and find out is considering volunteering for next year.

Email [iwabucharest@gmail.com](mailto:iwabucharest@gmail.com) or talk with Terry, Marina or Cintia.

# CELEBRATING ROMANIAN WOMEN

*International Women's Day was born in Europe and North America in the early 20th century. It is now celebrated around the world. In some countries it is an important social holiday, celebrated similarly to Mothers' Day and Valentine's Day. In many countries, it is a day of political advocacy, from the United Nations to the local community. Many Romanians celebrate by giving cards, flowers and gifts to the women in their lives.*



## ANGELA GHEORGHIU

An amazingly gifted opera singer, Angela Gheorghiu was born in the small Romanian town of Adjud. Her early childhood interest - music - would become her life and career. After graduating from the National University of Music Bucharest, she made her debut at London's Royal Opera house in 1992 taking on Mimi's character in La Bohème. The New York Metropolitan Opera and the Vienna State Opera followed during the same year.

To find out more about Mrs Gheorghiu, or to stay informed about her upcoming appearances, visit [www.angelagheorghiu.com](http://www.angelagheorghiu.com).

## OANA PELLEA

Romanian-born actress Oana Pellea - daughter of actor Amza Pellea - has won numerous accolades for her theatre and film work. She studied at the Romanian Theatre and Film Academy before going on to star in numerous stage and screen productions. In 1996, she won the International Theatre Critics' Award for Best Actress for her roles in Chekov's "Three Sisters" and Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar". Some of her film work includes Dreyer's "Where the Sun is Cold" and Gulea's "Satte of Fact"; for this latter film, she was awarded Best Actress at the Geneva Film Festival. To find out more about this accomplished actress, visit [Erudio's site](#).

## SIMONA HALEP

A Romanian professional tennis player, Halep is currently No. 1 on the World Tennis Association. Born in Constanta, she relocated to Bucharest at the age of 16 to further her tennis career. Her breakthrough came in 2013 when she won six WTA titles and was awarded WTA's Most Improved Player of the Year. Halep will be participating in the upcoming (March 2018) BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells, California where she will attempt the feat of capturing both the singles and doubles titles. Halep's fan site is in Romanian only, but you can keep up with her exploits by visiting her [Instagram page](#).

## CRISTINA NEAGU

A Romanian professional handballer for CSM Bucuresti and the Romanian nation team, Neagu has been considered as the best player in the world. She is the only handball player in history to win three IHF (International Handball Federation) World Player of the Year awards. In 2015, Neagu won her first Champions League trophy and she was also named MVP Player at the Handball World Championship in Denmark where she was the top goal scorer with 63 goals. Neagu has been recently nominated as the 2017 World Handball Player of the Year. For a complete list of the nominees, visit [www.ihf.info](http://www.ihf.info).



# WARNING

By Jenny Joseph,

who died this January, aged 85.



When I am an old woman I shall wear purple  
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me.  
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer  
gloves  
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.  
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired  
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells  
And run my stick along the public railings  
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.  
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain  
And pick the flowers in other people's gardens  
And learn to spit.

You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat  
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go  
Or only bread and pickle for a week  
And hoard pens and pencils and beer mats and things in  
boxes.

But now we must have clothes that keep us dry  
And pay our rent and not swear in the street  
And set a good example for the children.  
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.

But maybe I ought to practice a little now?  
So people who know me are not too shocked and  
surprised  
When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.

# MARTISOR MYTH

Legend says there was a time when the Sun decided to take the shape of an extremely beautiful woman and descend to Earth. Upon seeing such a lovely maiden, an evil dragon decided he wanted her to himself and locked her way in his castle. With the sun gone, the entire world was overcome with sadness and despair. Birds stopped chirping, children stopped playing, and all laughter and joy disappeared from the Earth. Witnessing the lack of joy on Earth in the absence of the Sun, a courageous young man started off for the dragon's palace to release the beautiful maiden. He searched high and low for an entire year. When he finally found it, the young man challenged the dragon to a fight. He was victorious and freed the maiden, who soared up to the sky to bring light to the world once more. Spring arrived and people rejoiced.

But the young man had been mortally injured battling the dragon. His blood spilt to the ground, and the hero took his final breath. When the snow melted, snowdrops - the herald of spring - sprung up where our young man had once rested. Ever since this time, people have worn red and white tokens in March during the first days of spring. Red stands for love of beauty and bravery, and white symbolizes the snowdrop - spring's first flower.

By Mary Stefan

SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA BE  
A BEAUTY AND A BEAST.

- NICKI MINAJ



# My Memory of Mărțișor

BY ANDREEA RUSU

My mum had a drawer full with “*mărțișoare*”. She admitted she found it a relaxing craft and started making these with us as an activity to keep all four children busy and happy at home. I’m thinking she meant “*quiet*”, as there were always “*fireworks*” when more than two of us were in the same room.

My favorite trinkets were the blue, red or brown cats and squirrels cut out velvet cardboard and eyes and whiskers made out of colored beads. Nothing fancy, exactly what it says, which is velvet glued on pieces of cardboard. We loved those because we got the chance to glue the beads by ourselves. And for a matter of fact we would glue everything we could get our hands on. Not sure how mum felt about that. Her most beautiful *mărțișoare* must have been though the flower bouquets crocheted out of silk thread. Most kids in school would bring shiny golden trinkets you could buy from the bookstore or the very few shops in town.

Girls were expected to offer trinkets at school to all teachers and “*the boys they liked*” on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, something specific to the region where I grew up, Botoșani county, as in most places in Romania boys would be the ones offering trinkets to the opposite gender on the 1st day of March. In my school in fact each girl in our class would offer a *mărțișor* to each of the boys in her class so that none would feel left out or offended. Each girl would in return get a red carnation on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March and maybe some sweets if the boy really liked them. Some got a chocolate candy or a chocolate bar. I guess it was a case of popularity. My childhood best friend got a toothbrush and some toiletries. She cried for a week. Some males do need a gift guide.

A thought that kept lingering in my mind about Mărțișor is a small bouquet of snowdrops left in my school bench by a secret admirer. It was easy to guess who he was by the small flicker of joy and boldness in his eyes and the complicity of a classmate who probably saw him hiding it in my bench because she kept teasing me about it. After getting red-faced as a tomato, I tried composing myself and I am ashamed to say that I have failed to respond to this nice gesture acting like I didn’t care, as I had the feeling that I was being mocked, plus he wasn’t on my “*sympathy list*”. Don’t think I have crushed his heart. There were so many girls in school and just a handful of boys. The word *love* was too abstract and yucky for me at the time. I was probably 11 years old.

That being said, the 8<sup>th</sup> of March was Women’s day and we would mostly celebrate mums with big festivities in kindergarten and school called “*serbare*”, an emotional though stressful event for most children who would have to dress up nicely and get the courage to say a poem or sing a song dedicated to their mum in front of an audience. Many tears were shed because of forgotten lines or lyrics or uncomfortable costumes. I do suppose mums were touched and proud by their little “*prodigies*” managing to put up two words together other than “*Mum, I’m hungry*” and “*Mum, X (or Y) is being mean to me again*”.

Mărțișor (which literally translates as “*little March*”) is Romanians way of celebrating spring and the nature coming back to life. We tend to “*hibernate*” and hide to warm up in our homes for the cold days of winter, so the first snowdrops and crocuses are reasons of joy, signs that spring is just around the corner. Days grow longer, sun gets warmer, trees start blooming, bees start buzzing. Birds return from their migration journey and the soil can be prepared for plowing and sowing. Spring brings new life and new hopes.

*O primăvară frumoasă cu iubire și prieteni dragi!*  
(Happy Spring with love and dear friends around!)



Since December 2017 the tradition of Martisor is listed among UNESCO’s Intangible Cultural Heritage. In Romania, but also slightly different in Bulgaria, Moldova and Macedonia, the beginning of spring is celebrated on March 1st.



# DISCOVER ROMANIA

## Golescu Museum

Today, I want to introduce you to a very old Romanian place, 110 kilometres away from Bucharest. This building is the first and the only fortified laic building in Romania, established in 1640, by an old Romanian noble family. In the second part of the XVIII<sup>th</sup> century, the owner is Dinicu Golescu, a very important person of Vallahia, when it comes to the modernization of this part of the country. Together with his wife Zoe, called Zinca, he had four boys and a girl, all of them important personalities of the Revolution of 1848, they had all studied in Western Europe.

Zinca Golescu was married to Dinicu Golescu when she was 13 years old and one year later, she gave birth to their first son. She was a very strong woman, who lived 89 years and buried all her kids. At her place, Karl von Hohenzollen-Sigmaringen, future King Carol I. of what was to be Romania later, had his first stop in Vallahia when he came travelling from Germany. He expressed his gratitude for her warm welcome to him in a very beautiful letter.

The place as we know it today, is a village museum, with the manor house of the Golescu family and a lot of annex buildings, and also with traditional wooden houses from that area: the hall, a school, churches, barns with animals. There are also open spaces for domestic animals, which live on that property even today! Being there, you can feel the rural atmosphere of the XIX<sup>th</sup> century, but in our days!

The museum was first established in June 1939 by an order of King Carol II, the nephew of King Carol I. The first restoration of the place to prepare it to be a museum was during the Second World War, in 1942-1943, and then during communist times, in the sixties. The last restoration was in 2014-2016, with E.U. funds. In my opinion, what is now, comparing with what it was, is worse. Luckily, I still have photos with the old facade of the building.

The manor house has the original furniture and goods of the family, all very well preserved. I've been in this place for six times, I think, and every time I see different things. After I read the book, 'In the intimacy of the XIX<sup>th</sup> century' in which the Golescu family has a central position, I've seen everything there with different eyes. New things were revealed to me and I understood better what was there in those days.

BY GABRIELA BALABAN MIHALCEA



The place is surrounded by huge land, with a lot of traditional houses. You can have a picnic at a designated place and your kids can have fun on a nice and safe playground. In the spring, it is beautiful there because there are a lot of trees in bloom. The trees of the orchard, which will give tasty fruits in the summer and autumn. This is my first recommendation for you. Quite close to Bucharest, a special and unique place in Vallahia, very old but very well preserved. You just have to drive about one hour and spend a few relaxing hours to refill yourself for the next week!

*Gabi Balaban was born and raised in Romania but is also well travelled. She also travels her own country a lot and IWA magazine is happy to have her share her treasures with the IWA community.*

Do you want to recommend a place, too? Please let us know! [newsletter.iwabucharest@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.iwabucharest@gmail.com)

## MEET THE MEMBERS

### MIEKE STILL

I am born and bred in the Netherlands in a small town called Schiedam. We now have a house in a lovely little town called Delft. I am married to my Scottish husband, Iain, who works for OMV Petrom. We have two adopted daughters from China, Kayleigh, 17 years old and Meghan, 14 years old. They both go to the AISB.

In 2013 we moved to Aberdeen, Scotland, for our first Expat experience. That was great because Iain's family still lives there. We had a wonderful time there and the girls loved their school. We were lucky as we already spoke the language. In 2017 we moved to Romania where we now live in Voluntari.

I love to go painting on Monday morning with Ramona Pinthea and on Thursday evenings I play volleyball at the school. I enjoy going to markets, especially Dragonul Rossu (Red Dragon) the Chinese market! We like going out for dinner at Sarbului, or at il Calcio by the lake. Love the cocktails at the Urban kitchen and walking in Herastrau Park. And the Hard Rock Cafe. I also love to go on trips with the IWA and their coffee mornings. Please join us some time! Every other Wednesday, I go with some students of the AISB to the children's hospital Fundatia Inocenti. It is such a pleasure to see the children's faces when we come and play with them. They do not have much and are very often handicapped but they love it when we play and bring bananas and yoghurts. The hospital needs donations to help these children so we often bring nappies porridge or little gifts with us. Sometimes it is heartbreaking but mostly it is great fun.



### ANDREEA RUSU

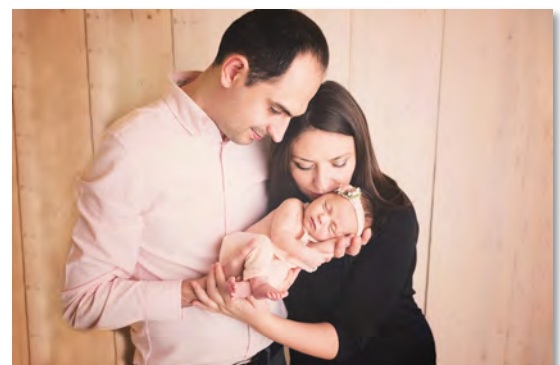
I was born in Botoşani county, the northeast part of Romania, close to the borders of historic Bucovina, Ukraine and Moldova Republic. I am married to a Romanian husband and have a precious two-month-old baby girl.

I speak English, Norwegian and Italian. I would love to tell you that learning Norwegian and Italian was a breeze, but that would be a big fat lie. It was about as frustrating as you ladies feel studying Romanian. While Italian is one of the most beautiful, melodic, romantic languages in the world that most Romanians speak with no difficulty, its grammar wasn't my cup of cappuccino. It was more like a strong espresso shot.

I've made many friends from different countries all over the world and have learned so much about their cultures in the process. It has definitely broadened my perspective of life and I am now eager to learn more about other cultures and mentalities, which is why I absolutely love IWA. It is the second-best thing that happened to me since we moved to Bucharest, besides having my daughter of course!

I love walking around the city, especially along Herastrau Lake, my oasis of peace. Gazing at the lake relaxes my eyes, refreshes my mind, silencing my daily anxieties and bringing my creative side to life. I am also interested in photography, travelling, and parenting. I'm terrible at crafts and cooking and want to improve my non-existent skills for the sake of my family, which is why I try to attend IWA's cooking workshops and stitching group as often as I can to learn from the lovely ladies willing to share their knowledge.

I'm very much busy changing nappies and singing lullabies to put my baby to sleep. I look forward to the days I'll be able to show her the world - do science experiments, take her on bike rides, hiking, camping trips, snorkeling, skating and all the things she might want to try. Until then I'll keep her close and read her beautiful, emotional books that come recommended by the IWA book club.





# Having Fun Together

Discovering the secrets of Olmek chocolate, getting a behind the scenes tour at Millissimo bags, checking out 'Smart Things' in Bucharest and welcoming the Year of the Dog with a Lunar New Year celebration organized by our Korean friends - IWA started the new year with a lot of fun activities. If your trailing spouse is male and wants to join in on some of our tours or other events there's good news: We have the 'Friends of IWA' membership now! For admission and for upcoming events please check our website [www.iwabucharest.ro](http://www.iwabucharest.ro)



## Going Traditional

by trying on authentic Korean Han Bok gowns, playing skill games like Tiggy Taggy or Kung Gi Nori on an 'Olympic' level – saying hello to the Lunar New Year with our Korean friends at Seoul Restaurant was big fun! Oh, by the way: 2018 is the Year of the Dog! And Dogs make great friends! No wonder quite a few of them are IWA members...

## Bags, Bags, Bags...

and the most wonderful choice of different kinds of leather we found a tour to Milissimo Bags. Co-founder and designer Simona XXX showed us round the astonishingly small place where 150 bags per week are (mostly) hand made, mainly for export to fancy London shops. Lucky us – we could get ours here (or have one custom made in our favourite leather!).



## OMG!

More than a quarter million RON raised for charity (252,504.88 RON total net income exactly) – that's the record result of last year's IWA Christmas Bazar. Its Honorary Chair Gladys Abankwa-Meier-Klodt threw a big Thank You Reception at the German Ambassador's residence for all helpers, sponsors and volunteers from 51 nations in February. Time to celebrate... and start thinking about the next one! (Photo: Mihai Constantineanu)

## Life is Sweet ...

Or rather spicy bitter sweet! Cristha Reyes introduced us to early gourmet secrets of Mexico and had us taste the original chocolate drink the Olmeks used to enjoy as a „gift of the gods“. Some of us loved it! Others ... still prefer the modern variations. But all enjoyed the traditional Mexican food and a pleasant morning at El Torito restaurant.

## Sleeping Beauty Waking Up

New life in one of Bucharest's old villas: Exclusively for IWA's monthly Coffee Boulevard Dacia 12 opened its doors for artists, designers, manufacturers and even Tango: Smart Things Happening - smart educational, smart food, smart design, and smart minds!





# Holiday Spirit

BY DANIELA LUPAS

Come winter, what I most cherish is the holiday spirit. There is the eager anticipation and the renewed joy of giving and receiving gifts. There are the walks in a city full of lights kissing your frozen nose. I go with the flow of busy streets and a miracle happens under a neon star and a dozen colored snowflakes. Time stays still. With every step, hundreds of strangers become excited children, basked in holiday lights. The smell of warm wine with spices, doughnuts and roast chestnuts brings about a fuzzy sense of communion. I feel like hugging all passers-by and do a dance in the central place.

Of course, following elation, I realize there are still a million things to do and go my merry way. But how gratifying it is to know I still have it, this capacity to rejoice in this blessed time of the year when all is right with the world. Then, in accordance with the long-established expat tradition, I pack a gazillion suitcases and join the migration towards the airport, to reconnect with the other pieces of my life - family and friends living in countries I was once part. At the airport, dragged by the crowds, one is met with baby cries, breaking bag handles, misplaced papers and overpriced burned coffee. Only the brave will still be in possession of above mentioned holiday spirit.

I have to say I am not among the brave. A miracle takes you only that far, plus I have a temper. When I finally made it to the plane this past December, I was sweaty, irritated, but happy to be finally seated in my allotted space, the size of my cat's tiny bed. A three hours flight it's not so bad, I naively thought. This is when I jinxed the deal, because the strangest announcement came from the pilots' cabin. "The radio broke down and we do not have a replacement, therefore we shall promptly move to purchase one and we'll inform you of the expected delay as we go along". Or something to that effect.

You half-wit, calling yourself captain of the flight, instead of last-minute holiday shopping you should have checked that big engine of yours. Facts: Bucharest, the day before Christmas, on a Friday no less, at rush hour. Plan is for the crew to drive out to an Airbus shop open for business. Seriously? How are you going to do this, with Santa's sledge? What am I going to do on the tarmac in the meantime? Knit a sweater for the flight attendant?

These, and many more words not appropriate for polite company trotted in my head, together with a self-righteous indignation I struggled to keep in check. I looked around at the other passengers and saw nothing but peace, calm and warm smiles.

Something was not right. Absolutely everyone was behaving as if it was a normal occurrence. No fret at all. The cabin air was thick with contentment. Must have been the joy of spending extra time in a cozy plane, with no food, drinks or entertainment. Hushed conversations started around me. You would have thought a theater foyer before the play. People charged phones, swapped info, well behaved kids formed groups and had polite fun in their chic little clothes. I was started suspecting a hidden camera show. I began discretely checking the mental health of the passengers. Are you on something, guys, other than sniffing mistletoe? Nobody complained or even showed a sign they understood we were taken for a ride. Or not, in the case at hand.



A guy in the back row declared getting upset will not solve the problem. The five-year old group prepared drawings as a gift for the captain (hope it was a radio transmitter). Occasional laughter, a glass of water and three hours and half later, long after we should have landed in Paris, we got ready for takeoff, all jolly and friendly as if we had just been offered the best of presents. The young man near me concluded - this is the holiday spirit! I'll admit he was right. It was an incredible bonding experience. Stranded passengers turned into one lovingly functional family.

By the time we made it to destination, my wise colleague missed all connecting flights and was contemplating Christmas in the middle of nowhere. He truly looked like a lost puppy. I hope the holiday spirit supported him through his ordeal. I was out of there without even a back glance. I warned you, I have a temper.



*Terry's*  
**ENCHILADA  
 CASSEROLE**  
*with black beans  
 and chicken*

### Ingredients

4 cups (about 500g) cooked chicken, shredded  
 2 cans (400g each) black beans, rinsed and drained  
 2 cans plum tomatoes  
 2 limes  
 ½ onion, chopped  
 1-3 small hot peppers, finely chopped  
 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped  
 2 containers (200g each) sour cream (*smântână*)  
 1-2 cups aged Irish cheddar cheese, grated  
 1 package of large flour tortillas  
 Salsa (from a jar or homemade *Salsa Cruda*)  
 Corn oil  
 Ground cumin and Salt & Pepper

### Instructions

Combine cooked, shredded chicken with juice from ONE lime, salt & pepper, and set aside.

Make Sauce by chopping the tomatoes in a blender, along with the onion, garlic, juice from ONE lime, cumin, salt & pepper. Sauté the sauce on the stove for 5 minutes, then cool slightly. Combine sauce with sour cream, then pour HALF of mixture into the bottom of a large rectangular casserole dish.

Add a big spoonful of the black beans and a big spoonful of the chicken in the middle of a tortilla. Fold sides in and place (seam down) in the casserole dish.

When the dish is full, cover with remaining sauce and any leftovers. Sprinkle with grated cheese and bake in a warm oven (350°F / 180°C) until the cheese is melted and the enchiladas are warm.



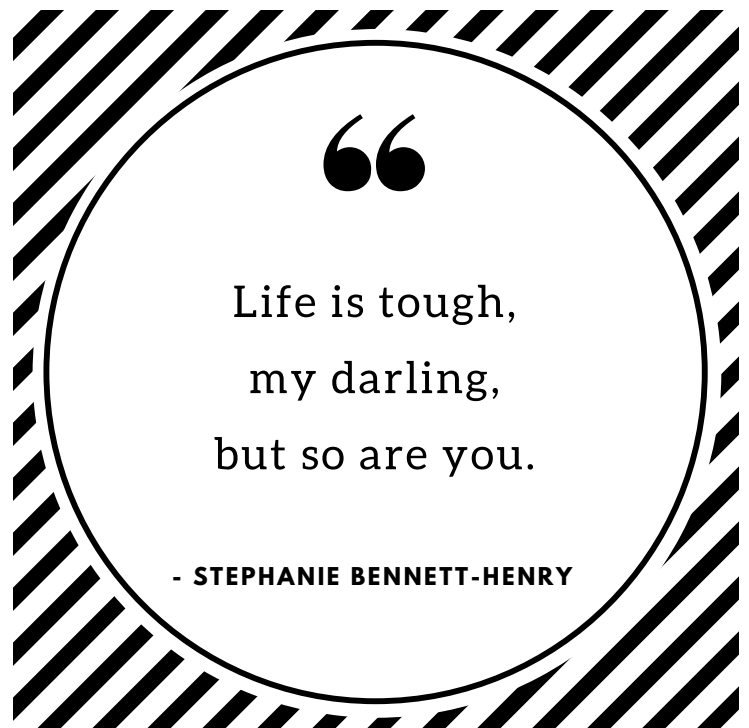
### Ingredients

1kg chicken	Sauce:
2 potatoes	2 cups of water
2 onions, chopped	6 tbs soy sauce
1 carrot	3 tbs chili powder
1 bunch of spring onion (or leek 5 stems)	1 tbs crushed garlic
	1 ts ginger
	3 tbs sugar

*optional: 1 tbs sesame oil, 1 ts black pepper*

### Instructions

1. Put water, potatoes, carrots, onions, leek or spring onion and any of the remaining sauce in a bowl (all uncooked and cut into pieces).
2. Mix well and cover all pieces with sauce.
3. Bring to a boil and simmer for 20-25 minutes. Several times while cooking, mix well to ensure that the sauce is evenly distributed.
4. Serve with steamed rice.



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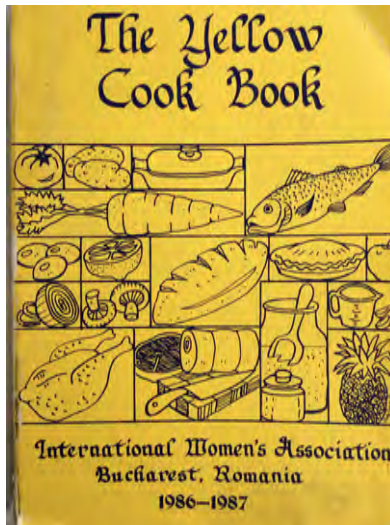
Life is tough,  
 my darling,  
 but so are you.

- STEPHANIE BENNETT-HENRY

## THE YELLOW COOK BOOK

I was walking leisurely one day on Bd Balcescu toward Piata Universitatii when I saw a book lying on the ground. The cover was dull and the title, *'The Yellow Cook Book'*, uninspiring. Still, I picked it up and opened it. It was a collection of recipes from around the world, some in French, others in English published by an organisation I was not familiar with – International Women's Association Bucharest. I left it and went about my day.

When I came back a few hours later, the book was still there. I again picked it up but this time I brought it home. Not only that, I took it along with me through Austria, Canada, USA, UK, and France; the five countries I lived in until I came back to Romania in the fall of 2017.



Placed in a historical context, "The Yellow Cook Book" was very valuable because it allowed the reader to go on an imaginary trip around the world by opening the door to other cultures through food and food-related customs. I'm certain it was meant to be circulated by members of IWA exclusively and not to be picked up by random people on the street, hence the 'door into cultures' was wide open for some and only slightly for others.

Interestingly however, its value is greater today since many of the countries featured in it no longer exist as political entities (i.e. Czechoslovakia, FRG, GDR, PLO, USSR, Yugoslavia). Therefore, the book offers us a glimpse into history and the deep changes that took place since its publication in 1987.

The time has come for me to return the book to IWA, where it belongs. I have only been its guardian for the past 30 years.

BY IRINA MORENO

## THE LITTLE COMMUNIST WHO NEVER SMILED

Twenty seconds on the uneven bars is it all it takes for Nadia Comaneci, the slight, unsmiling child from Communist Romania, to etch herself into the collective memory. The judges award her an unprecedented perfect 10, the first in Olympic gymnastics.

Adored by young girls in the West and appropriated as a political emblem by Ceausescu regime, Nadia was a fiercely determined child whose body would become a battleground in the Cold war story of East against West. Lafon's novel is a powerful re-imagining of a childhood in the spotlight of history, politics and destiny.

Researching and writing her now fourth novel took two years and although respecting the dates, places and public events, she chose to fill in the silences of history and those of a heroine with traces of many hypotheses.

Nadia has been judged always and again all these years later. The book was written and rewritten until the character got a voice and power. After the release of the book, Nadia said: I do not know what inspired this author, I only did my job! And...couldn't she smile a little? She sighs, "I am sorry but if my foot touches the edge of the mat after a diagonal of saltos, even by only three centimeters, I loose points. So, yes, she can smile, but only when her mission is accomplished."

If you like to know more about the mysteries of Nadia Comaneci's life and the complicated biomechanics of gymnastics, this book comes recommended!

BY MIHAELA GAFTON





# March

1 - 13

## Ex-Libris Brancusi Art Exhibition

**Location:** Muzeul Național Cotroceni

Marking the 142nd anniversary of the famous Romanian sculptor Constantin Brancusi, the exhibition features works of over 200 graphic artists, painters, sculptors and ceramists from Romania, the Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria, Hungary, Serbia, Turkey, plus more.

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## Richard Clayderman in concert

**Location:** Sala Palatului

8-11

## Baby Boom Show

**Location:** Romexpo.

Details on <https://www.babyboomshow.ro/>



9

## Frozen on Ice (Frozen Regatul Inghetat)

**Location:** Sala Palatului.

11

## Star Wars live concert - A New Hope

**Location:** Sala Palatului

16-25

## One World Romania. International Human Rights & Documentary Festival

**Location:** More than 70 documentaries will be screened at 8 cinema and theater locations. The festival will be headquartered at Arcub Gabroveni. Details on <http://oneworld.ro/2018/1/ro/>

# EVENTS

24

## Masquerade Night 21st Annual AISB PTO Auction Gala

**Location:** Marriott Hotel



26 - 1 (Apr)

## Bucharest International Experimental Film Festival

**Location:** Cinema Muzeul Țăranului & Cinema Elvire Popesco



Details on <http://bieff.ro/en/2017>

Tickets on <https://eventbook.ro/program/bieff> or from their partner bookshops (Humanitas, Kyralina), and also from the main BIEFF venues.

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## Lara Fabian in concert

**Location:** Sala Palatului in Bucharest.

## Women's History Month

Purim 1

Mărțișor 1

Holi 2

World Wildlife Day 3

International Women's Day 8

Pi Day 14

Saint Patrick's Day 17

St. Joseph Day 17

Spring Begins 2023

International Day of Happiness 20

World Water Day 22

Daylights Saving Time 25

Palm Sunday 25

Holy Thursday 29

Good Friday 30

Passover starts 31

# I.W.A. Make Friends. Explore Bucharest. Support Charity.

## CONTACT US

Our office is not regularly staffed so please contact us via email:

[iwabucharest@gmail.com](mailto:iwabucharest@gmail.com)

Event updates are sent regularly to members. If you are not receiving your email from us, check your spam folder and add us to your contacts. Email us if you still have any problems and include your phone number.

Visit our website or follow us on Facebook for up-to-date information on current activities and events.

[www.iwabucharest.ro](http://www.iwabucharest.ro)

## MEMBERSHIP

**150 RON Half-Price Regular Memberships now available!**

75 RON for 'Friends of IWA' (limited choice of activities for male spouses, full time working women who can't participate in most regular daytime activities).

We follow the school year so all memberships must be renewed in September. One month free trial membership available via our website.

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.

**Mailing Address** (for business purposes only)

IWA International Women's Association of Bucharest Str Gheorghe Lazar nr. 5B, Ground floor, Apt nr.1, Sector 1, 010201, Bucharesti.

## IWA BOARD MEMBERS

**President:** Ximena Reyes

(Chilean/Ecuadorian/Swedish)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Fatima Gruben (Portuguese)

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**Website:** Nance Sage (Canadian/American)

**Fundraising:** Maria Raets (French/Romanian)

**Newsletter:** Kathrin Finke (German)

**Membership:** Terry O'Donnell Parsons (American)

& Amel Ben Khaled (French)

**Activities:** Cristha Reyes (Mexican) & Cintia

Barrientos (Argentinian/Italian) & Johanna Traven

(American/Irish)

## IWA MAGAZINE

Please contribute to our magazine!

Discover Romania... do you want to share your favourite place to see in Romania, too?

Share your an interesting experience, photo, story or recipe. We recognize all contributors by name. If you send photographs, please make sure you own the copyright (no internet pics!). For printing, we need at least 1 MB data size.

Please email us (up to 500 words and 1-2 pictures in printing quality i.e. at least 1200 pixels on the long side of the photo!) to:  
[newsletter.iwabucharest@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.iwabucharest@gmail.com)

**IWA Magazine Advertising Fees** (per issue):  
50 RON ¼ Page/100 RON ½ Page /200 RON 1 Page

Magazine Editors: Monika Harlace & Kathrin Finke



TO ALL THE MEMBERS  
OF IWA

Happy  
Martisor!



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