

JANUARY 2024

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB OF LUGANO

Volume 3 www.iwcl.org Issue 315

"By members, for members; together in friendship for over 35 years."

IWCL MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, 9 January at the Hotel Pestalozzi

Via Pietro Bianchi, Piazza Indipendenza 9, 6901 Lugano

09.30 - 10.00 Refreshments

10.15 - 10.30 Club Announcements

10.30 - 11.30 Speaker: Melina Schatz

IMMERSION IN THE FANTASTIC WORLD OF DIAMONDS AND COLOURED GEMSTONES

Did you ever dream about Diamonds and Coloured Gemstones? Now you have the possibility to come to a unique presentation about them, with a special focus on opals.

If you are interested in this topic, you will also have the possibility during the presentation to have a look at real opals and other gemstones. This Presentation will be offered by Melina Schatz, a certified Gemologist from SSEF with a specialisation in rubies, emeralds and sapphires by Gübelin Lucerne.

Brief autobiography:



After many years of challenging moments in my life and a full-time job in the financial world, with a big dream of one day dealing with gemstones, I decided in 2017 to take the first step in this direction when I obtained my Gemologist Diploma at SSEF Basel. I subsequently obtained the Level 1-3 Coloured Gems Professional Certificate and a specialisation in

Microscopy at the Gübelin Academy in Lucerne. Finally, I did a Masterclass in Diamonds at Berardi & Zibung in 2021 and in February 2022 I founded my Atelier in Vico Morcote.

The presentation will concern Gemology, that branch of mineralogy that studies gems (in common language, precious stones, such as Diamonds, rubies, sapphires, emeralds and much more). I will explain some little known, interesting details and demonstrate some stones, rough and polished, especially opals.

There are several international private gemological institutes for the training and evaluation of gems, the GIA in the USA specialising in diamonds, or the SSEF and Gübelin in Switzerland specialising mainly in coloured gemstones. In the presentation, there will be a special focus on the Opals of Australia, as I have just returned from a three week experience there and would like to share some interesting stories about it.

INDEX

Art	7
Advertising	9
Amendment to the Directory	4
Board Members	9
Book Group	7
Breathe, Relax, Feel	7
Calendar	9
Cancellation Policy	4
Coffee Morning	5
Contact Details	10
Cooking	8
French Coffee	5
Golf	5
Improvisation Workshops	5
Knitting Group	5
Let's Chat in English	6
Let's Dance	8
Mah Jong	6
Membership Fees	2
Message from President	2
Moms and Tots	4
Monthly Meetings 2024	4
Music Appreciation	6
New Year Cocktail Party	3
Parking at the De La Paix	3
Save the Date	4

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Happy New Year from myself and your Board! We are delighted and honoured that you have unanimously put your trust in us to lead our Club forward into 2024.

I hope that you have all had a peaceful, glittering and happy time during the festive period. Our January keynote speaker, Melina Schatz, will keep the sparkle in our lives with her presentation of diamonds, opals and gemstones! Something to think about for next year, perhaps ...!

On 25 January we will come together for our elegant, annual Cocktail Party at Hotel de la Paix. Don't forget to sign up early; I hope to see many of you there. Check in your Newsletter for more information about an exciting, 'Dusty' Cooking Event as an evening activity on 16 January. We will, of course, be keeping you entertained throughout the month when our usual Groups begin again. Just a thought ... if you participate in a Group, please consider your Group Leader! They give up their time and expertise for you, so don't forget to buy them a coffee at least!

I offer my sincere thanks to our hard-working Board members who keep IWCL moving forward in a safe, lively and vibrant way. I am so grateful for their support. Incidentally, if you are interested in standing for a Board position in 2025, we invite you to come forward early, to attend some Board meetings and to get a flavour of all the work involved. I also want to thank you, our lovely members, who continue to engage with us and who 'get involved' with the life of our Club. I urge you to keep participating, keep us informed, tell us what you would like to see happening, come forward with ideas and offer some new activities for groups or Monthly Meetings.

Thank you for your generosity and participation last year. As we begin 2024, let's be grateful for each other, for the Sisterhood we share within the IWCL and for the opportunities we have to support our friends and the wider community.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Love and Blue Skies,

Sue XXX

MEMBERSHIP FEES 2024

Thanks to the members who came to the Pot Luck Christmas Lunch for their overwhelming support for the Board's proposal to raise our Club fees to CHF 120.- per year from January 2024, and to all those of you who have already paid them! This vote was carried by a huge majority.

Please remember that the deadline for payment is 31 January, although if you intend to come to the New Year Cocktail, the deadline is **18 January** (to ensure that your payment has gone through before the party!) Thank you.

Account / Payable to CH76 0900 0000 6900 6056 1
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S GROUP 6900 Lugano
Additional information: Membership Fee 2024

The IWCL Board is pleased to invite you to the



IWCL New Year Cocktail

(*CP)

On 25 January from 18.30 till 21.00

HOTEL DE LA PAIX, Via Cattori 18, 6900 LUGANO

Join us to wish your friends all the best for 2024.

IWCL members will enjoy the New Year Cocktail offered by the Club, which includes welcome drinks (drinks are chosen by the Club, if you wish to purchase other refreshments you are welcome to do so at your own expense), finger food and vegetarian pasta. Companions or friends of our ladies are welcome and will pay at the entrance a fee of CHF 50.- p.p.

REGISTRATION IS COMPULSORY: kindly contact Sabrina Nicod by January Monthly Meeting.

Note: due to the Christmas Holiday, Sabrina prefers to receive email, anyone wishing to enroll by phone may leave a message on her answering machine, no WhatsApp or TEXT Messages please!
email: iwcleveninggroup@gmail.com Mobile: +41 79 642 40 18

***Cancellation Policy applies:** Members that do not inform Sabrina a minimum of **72 hours in advance** that they will not attend this event, or any who have registered for this event and then simply do not show up will be charged CHF 50.- for themselves plus an additional CHF 50.- for any guest(s) they have registered.

YOU MUST HAVE PAID YOUR 2024 DUES BEFORE SIGNING UP

PARKING AT HOTEL DE LA PAIX FOR NEW YEAR COCKTAIL

Here's a kind reminder that, for those of you joining the NY Cocktail at Hotel de la Paix on 25 January, parking is not guaranteed. As last year, it will be on a "first come, first served basis".

We suggest that you park close by to avoid waiting for a parking spot:

5 minutes walk to Hotel de la Paix:

Autosilo Di Paradiso

Paradiso Town Hall, Via delle Scuole 23, Paradiso

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/hfu2zMvH96KupFqNA>

7 minutes walk to Hotel de la Paix

Palazzo Mantegazza

Riva Paradiso 2, Paradiso

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/5MzFH083vYVBWzUj6>

Please can you ensure that you are a current member of IWCL (i.e. that you've paid your fees for 2024) before signing up for the Cocktail. Thank you.

OUR IWCL CANCELLATION POLICY (CP) AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

Please read carefully – thank you.

We are delighted to offer our members a wide range of trips, visits and events. You will be aware that for many of them, especially Cultural Visits, Parties and Cocktails, we have a **Cancellation Policy (CP)** which applies when you sign up. In future, we will be adding a note of the cost to the Club for an individual to participate in an event (e.g. **CP** CHF 38.-).

This costing occurs for many reasons; because the organisers have to buy tickets well in advance to take advantage of a group rate; to hire a guide; to buy fresh produce or to secure a venue. It's essential that we know how many people to expect so we can also fix a price!

When you sign up to attend an event, you are effectively giving your word that you will pay for your place. The Club honours your word by purchasing tickets on your behalf. Sometimes, we have a waiting list of ladies who can take your place if you are unable to attend, but quite often, we don't.

It isn't the business of the event organiser to find someone to cover for you if there is no waiting list – that's your job! The Club will have bought your ticket in good faith, and you will be expected to pay for it whether you turn up or not.

If you sign up for an event, PLEASE make a note in your diary. The volunteer event organiser probably doesn't have time to send you a reminder! We just expect you to turn up (as you would to the ballet...)

If you find, for whatever reason, that you are unable to take up a place that you signed for, please let the event organiser know – it seems like basic courtesy – and there might be a chance that there's someone on the waiting list! Otherwise, find someone to take your place, or you will be charged.

So – if you sign up and fail to show up, please don't be surprised or offended if you receive an email and a payment slip from our Treasurer. You shouldn't expect the other members of the Club to cover the cost of your error, after all.

The Board

MONTHLY MEETINGS IN 2024

9 January	6 February	5 March	9 April	7 May
4 June	10 September	1 October	5 November	3 December

SAVE THE DATE

Art and Craft Pop Up Gallery - 9/10 March 2024 (Contact Sue for more details)

Spring party - Friday, 24 May 2024

AMENDMENT TO DIRECTORY

New address for Karin Hochapfel:- via Pusterla 6A, 6855 Stabio

MOMS AND TOTS

For more information about Moms and Tots please contact Rocio Tauber. Her email address is:

rocio_cuervo@hotmail.com

pam.blakey@yahoo.com

karennclaus@gmail.com

076 331 04 44

iwclpresident@gmail.com

A close-up photograph of a golf club head, likely a driver, resting on a green grassy field. A white golf ball is positioned to the right of the club head, sitting on a red tee marker. The background is a blurred view of a golf course with trees and a clear sky.tourservices.lugano@freesurf.ch

MUSIC APPRECIATION GROUP

I know that there are many of you out there who love music, concerts, opera, singing, concertos and all the other forms of musical entertainment that Lugano has to offer.

BUT how many times do you miss beautiful events because you didn't know about them? **OR** how many times do you not go to wonderful concerts because you don't want to go alone? **AND** how often would you like to find out about musical events that are taking place in our city which might appeal to you?

This is the group for you!! I want to create an informative, interactive group in which we can exchange news of upcoming events, find friends to go along to concerts with and a place to post reviews, comments and critiques.

Please sign up to this 'Music Appreciation Group' so that we can keep each other informed about all the musical events taking place in Lugano. I look forward to hearing from you, and I will get back to you soon with some ideas!

Malu Natali

078 715 13 12

positivo9945@gmail.com



LET'S CHAT IS GOING HIKING!

This group meets at least once a month to explore the hiking trails of Ticino and possibly beyond while chatting about all manner of topics. The hikes will be roughly three hours in length and will include a picnic stop. Participants are kindly asked to pre-register, be equipped with appropriate walking attire (walking shoes, sunscreen, etc.) and bring a packed lunch and water. The goal is not only to hike but, as before, to openly engage, share knowledge, opinions, and experiences around a given theme.

Please contact Maria to be included on the distribution list for information about forthcoming walks.

Maria de la Cámara

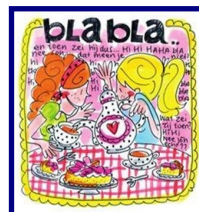
079 263 04 65

maría.delacamara@gmail.com

Hanneke Sillekens

076 220 93 19

hannekesillekens@gmail.com



MAH JONG



Do you like to play board games? Why not try MAHJONG?

About 17 years ago we had an Australian lady in the Club who was passionate about this game. She brought all the equipment over here from Perth, Western Australia and started up a **Mahjong group**.



Unfortunately she had to return home to Australia but a few of us still meet **once a week - on Thursday afternoons from 14.30 – 17.00 (at Hotel Pestalozzi)** to play this fascinating game - which is fun, challenging and interesting!

It is a game of Chinese origin, using small engraved tiles, for tables of three to four players. We play the "Western style" (Chinese style is different). You are very welcome to participate - please contact us for further information!

Ruth Sergi-Baumann

079 607 82 62 (also WhatsApp)

ruthsergi@bluewin.ch

ART GROUP

If you are a member of IWCL why not take the opportunity to come and paint together with us? We are a group of women who enjoy spending time together, with lots of individual creative expressions. Watercolour, Acrylic, Pastels, Charcoal, Pen, Ink etc. Provide your own supplies! Let's inspire each other!



Come and share the joy with us! We are meeting on alternate Mondays from 14.00 -16.00 at the Pestalozzi Hotel. Fee for the room is CHF 5.- per person. Any questions please contact Eva.

Eva Wahlqvist

078 846 75 45

eva@wahlqvist.eu

"BREATHE, RELAX, FEEL!"

Learn to use mindfulness in your daily life ...

Would you like to begin to deepen your self-awareness, to learn something about controlling your emotions, to develop new habits or to break old ones? We shall be meeting every Monday at 18.00 on Skype. If you are interested, please send me an email with your ID Skype. Let's experience mindfulness together, under the guidance of a fully trained and qualified teacher, who is also a well-known member of our Club.



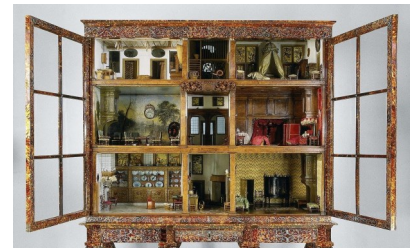
Maria Teresa Paladino

091 994 39 41

info@counselor.ch

BOOK GROUP

We welcome members old and new to Book Group this month on 23 January, 10.00 promptly at Hotel Pestalozzi, for our discussion based on 'The Hare with Amber Eyes,' which will be presented by Nadia Ovsyanyk. Come and join us for our first Book Group meeting of the new year, even if you haven't read the book! You might be tempted!



Here below are the dates for your diaries of our BG meetings up to the summer break, along with the titles you have selected. Thank you for participating in the voting - it was very difficult to choose! Please note that we now all pay CHF 3- per person at Book Group.

20 February - *Passion India*, by Javier Moro

19 March - *Mlle Coco and the Scent of Love*, by Michelle Marley

23 April - *The Kashmir Shawl*, by Rosie Thomas

14 May - *The Keeper of Lost Words*, by Pip Williams

11 June - *Lost and Found*, by Jacqueline Sheehan

We look forward to seeing you all soon. Happy reading, and Happy New Year!

Hanneke & Sue xxx

Hanneke Sillekens

076 220 93 19

iwclbookgroup@gmail.com

Sue March

077 924 16 76

iwclpresident@gmail.com

COOKING GROUP (CP)***“Let’s Get Dusty”***

Tuesday, 16 January, 18.30 onwards

We have a beautiful, new, purpose-built venue, La Cascina, Via Cremignone 4G in Sorengo! Come and check out the view, the facilities, the superb kitchen and dining area!

Our Cooking Group is open to ALL MEMBERS each month – the only requirements are to reserve your place early and to clear up afterwards!! Come and join us so we can learn, cook and eat together. We begin our exciting Cooking Group year by ‘Getting Dusted with Flour!’ hosted by Sabrina.

Our dress code for the evening is ‘Cosy’ as we learn how to make traditional and gluten-free focaccia bread (with buckwheat!) and also tacos!

Several members have been disappointed recently when the group has been full. Sign up early!

Appetiser & Starter: Focaccia with and without gluten, with side dishes

Main: Home-made tacos, with meat and vegan fillings

Dessert: Gluten-free Almond Plumcake

Wine Pairings by NERIDA

When: Tuesday, 16 January, 18.30 onwards

Where: La Cascina, Via Cremignone 4G, Sorengo

Cost: Up to CHF 50.- per participant (usually less.) Our cancellation applies. Please note that La Cascina is now levying a small charge for the rental, which will be reflected as a share of each participant’s cost for the evening.

Parking: There is ample free parking. A short, two-minute walk uphill is rewarded by the great location. There is a drop-off point (as we had at Viganello) if you are carrying heavy items. You will receive more details when you reserve your place.

Required: Tea towel, apron, making sure the kitchen is spotless before you leave!

To book your place or for more information (we can accommodate up to 12 people) please contact Sue.

Sue March

077 924 16 76

iwclpresident@gmail.com

LET’S DANCE - KEEP FIT, HAVE FUN, MAKE FRIENDS***10, 17, 24 and 31 January***

Everyone is welcome to join our IWCL Dance Group, back by popular demand in the New Year, at the usual time of 10.30 - 12.00 on Wednesdays.

We will dance together not only the moves from previous groups, but we will also learn new styles, as we prepare for our next Club event!

This time, we have a series of 16 sessions, and we pay only for the room rental divided by the number of participants; to be paid at the first session.



Dates as follows: February 7, 14, 21, 28 March 6, 13, 20, 27 April 3, 10, 17, 24

Please sign up with Marina Marsaglia asap:

Marina Marsaglia

marinaporza@gmail.com

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1	2	3 English	4 Italian Mah Jong p.6 French	5
6	7	8 English	9 Monthly Meeting p.1 French Coffee p.5	10 English French Dance p.8	11 Italian Mah Jong French	12
13	14	15 English German	16 French Coffee Improv. Workshop p.5 Cooking p.8	17 English Dance	18 Italian Mah Jong French	19 Coffee p.5
20	21	22 English	23 French Coffee Book Group p.7	24 English Dance	25 Italian Mah Jong French New Year Cocktail p.3	26
27	28	29 English	30 French Coffee	31 Dance	OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY AT THE HOTEL PESTALOZZI	

THE BOARD AND CHAIRWOMEN

President	Sue March	077 924 16 76	iwclpresident@gmail.com
Vice-President	Christine Petersen	078 854 24 68	iwclvicepresident@gmail.com
Secretary	Renata Del Grande	078 862 62 41	iwclsecretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jan Stanford	076 681 08 42	iwcltreasurer@gmail.com
Editor	Ann Lutz	091 993 20 33	6900editoriwcl@gmail.com
Membership	Jonsi Andrews	079 753 57 40	iwclmembershipsecretary@gmail.com
Hospitality	Catherine Orelli	091 600 97 27	iwclhospitality@gmail.com

ADVERTISING

Conditions of acceptance:

- Acceptance will be at the discretion of the IWCL Board.
- All advertisements must reach Ann Lutz, Via Matorèll 41, 6926 Montagnola or 6900editoriwcl@gmail.com before the 14th of the month preceding publication.
- The IWCL reserves the right to postpone publication.
- All invoices must be paid within 14 days of date of issue.

1/4 page ad in Newsletter 1 x = CHF 80.- 5 x = CHF 350.- 10 x = CHF 600.-

1/8 page ad in Newsletter 1 x = CHF 40.- 5 x = CHF 175.- 10 x = CHF 300.-

Flyer with email version of Newsletter = CHF 60.-

Flyer with postal and email version of Newsletter = CHF 120.- (plus delivery of material)

Website advertising 6 months = CHF 300.-
12 months = CHF 500.-

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor **Ann Lutz**
 Mailing **Catherine Orelli**

CLUB NEWS

If you have any personal news e.g. birth, marriage, illness etc., please contact
Claude Perrinjaquet Boni
 079 487 89 92
 cm.boni@gmail.com

Contributions to the Newsletter must be received no later than the 14th of the month preceding publication.
 Send contributions to:
 6900editoriwcl@gmail.com
Ann Lutz

WEBSITE

If you have any photos or information to add to the website please contact:

Ruth Sergi
 079 607 8262
 ruthsergi@bluewin.ch

If you would like more information about the Club please contact either our President **Sue March**
 077 924 16 76 or iwclpresident@gmail.com
 or our Membership Secretary, **Jonsi Andrews**
 091 649 66 13 or iwclmembershipsecretary@gmail.com

If you would like to organise an event please contact our Calendar Coordinator
Ann Lutz to check available dates: 6900editoriwcl@gmail.com

INTEREST GROUPS OF THE IWCL

Art	Eva Wahlqvist	eva@wahlqvist.eu	091 971 35 64
Book Group	Hanneke Sillekens	iwclbookgroup@gmail.com	
Breathe, Relax, Feel	Maria Teresa Paladino	info@counselor.ch	091 994 39 41
Coffee Morning	Karen Claus	karenclaus600@gmail.com	076 224 90 01
	Nadine Matey	nadine.matey@bluewin.ch	
Cooking	Sue March	marchsue@hotmail.com	077 924 16 76
Cultural Events	Sabrina Nicod	iwcleveninggroup@gmail.com	079 642 40 18
	Renata Del Grande	iwclsecretary@gmail.com	078 862 62 41
Drama	Sue March	marchsue@hotmail.com	077 924 16 76
English Conversation	Karen Claus	karenclaus600@gmail.com	076 224 90 01
English Conversation	Jan Stanford	bstanford@bluewin.ch	076 681 08 42
English Conversation	Linda Denkinger	linflags@bluewin.ch	079 541 92 02
Evening Group	Sabrina Nicod	iwcleveninggroup@gmail.com	079 642 40 18
	Elizabeth Ak	iwcleveninggroup@gmail.com	
Events	Sabrina Nicod	iwcleveninggroup@gmail.com	079 642 40 18
French Coffee	Marcela Selmoni		076 331 04 44
French Conversation	Claude Perrinjaquet Boni	cm.boni@gmail.com	079 487 89 92
French Conversation	Ilona Pongracz	ipongracz@ethika.ch	091 825 3303
German Conversation	Daniela Mannu	danielamann@hotmail.com	
Golf	Marlene Mugglin	toursservices.lugano@freesurf.ch	079 423 68 47
Hike and Chat	Maria de la Camara	maria.delacamara@gmail.com	079 263 04 65
	Hanneke Sillekens	hannekesillekens@gmail.com	076 220 93 19
Italian Conversation (Abs. Beg.)	Isabella Zardi	isazardi@bluewin.ch	079 375 24 14
Italian Conversation (Int.)	Eleanora Giraldi	epastoris@gmail.com	079 849 09 96
Italian Conversation (Adv.)	Désirée Della Volta	desi.dellavolta@gmail.com	079 646 24 28
Knitting Group	Pam Blakey	pam.blakey@yahoo.com	091 980 45 07
Ladies' Lunch	Lilo Valli	lilosmile@yahoo.de	079 207 20 92
Latin Dancing	Marina Marsaglia	marinaporza@gmail.com	
Liaison	Claude Perrinjaquet Boni	cm.boni@gmail.com	079 487 89 92
Mah Jong	Ruth Sergi-Baumann	ruthsergi@bluewin.ch	
Moms and Tots	Rocio Tauber	rocio_cuervo@hotmail.com	
Music	Malu Natali	positivo9945@gmail.com	078 715 13 12
On Track	Pierra Serra	pieraserra@gmail.com	079 913 68 04
Spanish Conversation	Blanca Giovannaari	Blanca.giovannari333@gmail.com	076 817 77 52
Website	Ruth Sergi	ruthsergi@bluewin.ch	079 607 82 62

***If you have changes to the above information, please contact Sue March at:
 iwclpresident@gmail.com**