



University Women's Club of Buenos Aires Regular Luncheon Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2019 Pur Sang Quintana 191, CABA

President Mariel Birnbaumer called the meeting to order at 12:30.

She introduced new member Melodye Rooney, who has a BA in Science from the University of Indiana, Bloomington and a Ph.D. in Chemistry.

Mariel proceeded to request a motion to approve the minutes of the last general meeting. Patricia moved, Phyllis seconded and all approved.

Announcements:

Membership: Myrta Lange has application forms for new members.

Study Groups:

Pamela Ferguson will hold a Book Club meeting on April 9th at the home of Marta Donadeu. Topic: Margaret Atwood's "Hand Maid's Tale". The Literary Masters group with Vivien Lane as guide will meet on April 11th to discuss "Dear Life" short stories by Alice Munro. Writer's Workshop was announced for March 26th, to follow the luncheon. Spanish Through Experience for April 8th was announced by Shaké Balian. Topic: "Antropología en la vida cotidiana" presented by Barbara Grünenfelder- Elliker.

Archives: Patricia Caviezel and the committee completed the preparation of the UWC archives from 1935 to 2007 and delivered them to the Library of the Universidad Católica Argentina. The committee is now searching for information to secure funding to digitize the archives.

Christine Clarke will hold a Continuing Education meeting at Barbara's home on March 28th at 6 pm about her trip around Cape Horn.

Marcia Williamson announced a fundraiser for the Send A Child to School (SACS) program. She has tickets to sell.

Denise Boland introduced the guest speaker: Honorable Jackie O'Halloran, Ambassador of Ireland to Argentina and the Southern Cone.

Topic: "Women in Diplomacy"

The Ambassador began with a series of examples of women in history who served in the capacity of diplomats, with or without the title of such. Some examples were Eleanor of Aquitaine, Lucrezia Borgia and Eleanor Roosevelt. Ambassador O'Halloran proceeded to expand on her role as ambassador vis à vis the male-

dominated world of diplomacy. She herself began at the middle management level and did not seem to be able to progress. Women were not promoted as much as men were, even less so women who were married with children. Eventually, this gender discrepancy was noted, and measures began to be taken to offer more opportunities for women diplomats. Several instances of lack of sensitivity to women diplomats were noted. Nevertheless, the number of women diplomats is growing, as is their influence. As she concluded, she mentioned the 2017 Committee Against the Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. She spearheaded the all-female Irish delegation to the conference which adopted the treaty on the prohibition of proliferation of nuclear weapons. In sum, the presentation underscored the importance of good gender balance in diplomacy world-wide.

After a series of questions and answers, President Mariel Birnbaumer presented the speaker with a gift as a token of the Club's gratitude and closed the meeting promptly at 2:30 pm.

Gwendolyn Diaz Ridgeway, Secretary