

35 years IWC Moscow

The International Women's Club of Moscow celebrates its 35th anniversary this year, so Moscow in Your Pocket thought that it was a great moment to look at some of the highlights of their history and their current activities.

35 years of history

The club was established by four founders in 1978, to bring women together for friendship and cultural exchange. Over the past 35 years, the IWC has grown to over 700 current members from almost 100 different countries.

Until the 80's, membership consisted mainly of diplomats' spouses, whereas from the 90's onwards the wives of businessmen on assignments in Moscow have also joined. Recently, more and more female business professionals who come to Russia in their own right find their way to the Club as well. During the early years, members had to rely on each other's help to learn where to buy products or to find a good doctor. Expat life in Moscow has improved a lot since then, but nevertheless, newcomers still appreciate advice from their fellow members about reasonably priced stores, original version movie theaters and good restaurants. It's safe to say that some things never change.



IWC Highlights 2013/2014

The **September General Meeting** is the official opening of the 2013/2014 season. During this meeting you can become a member of the IWC, sign up for the Interest Groups and learn more about the Club and its activities.

The **Winter Bazaar** is not only the largest fundraising event of the IWC, it also is the ideal opportunity to discover products from different countries, to sample dishes from all over the world and to do some serious shopping in a unique international ambiance.

For the 18th year in a row, the **IWC Embassies of the World Dinner and Ball** will be one of the most dazzling events on the Moscow calendar. This year's theme will be Dance & Romance around the World, a guarantee for an unforgettable evening!

Join the IWC as a member in the 2013/2014 season and participate in the **festive events** that will be organized to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Club.

If you want more information about the IWC, visit one of the **Coffee Mornings**, informal meetings that take place twice a month between 10am and noon in Le Pain Quotidien on Ulitsa Arbat 32, or send an email to iwcgeneralofficer@gmail.com.

More details about these and other upcoming events of the IWC can be found on www.iwcmoscow.ru.

Supporting charitable activities has become a major aim of the IWC since the late 80's when a fundraising event was organized for the earthquake in Armenia. Today, the IWC Charities Group provides emergency care and long-term support for children in need and people under the poverty level by contributing to more than 30 different projects.



35 years of events

Each year the IWC organizes two big events to raise both funds and awareness for the projects supported by the Charities Group. Since 1988, the annual Winter Bazaar, where national products from different countries are sold, has become the largest IWC event, with over 4000 guests attending in 2012. The support of the diplomatic community has allowed the IWC to organize more special events over the years. In recent years, the opening meeting of the IWC season has been held at Spaso House, the residence of the American Ambassador. The protocol section of UPDK (Direction for services to the diplomatic corps) has also hosted gatherings in their offices. But perhaps the most unique event is the annual Embassies of the World Dinner and Ball that was founded in 1996. Guests are invited to have dinner in one of the embassies or Ambassadors' residences in Moscow, truly a once in a lifetime experience, followed by an evening of dancing and entertainment – all for a good cause.

Although the importance of charity fundraising cannot be underestimated, most IWC activities are organized for the benefit of the members. Socially, the Club was a resounding success from the beginning. The IWC still organizes well-attended General Meetings, usually on the 3rd Thursday of the month, which provide a great opportunity for members to socialize and to enjoy art, music and food from different cultures. As popular as they were 35 years ago, the IWC Interest Groups cover a broad range of activities including art, cooking, history and culture, languages, spiritual welfare and sports, and there is also a playgroup for members' children.

35 years – time to celebrate

The 35th anniversary of the largest women's club in Moscow will not go unnoticed: the IWC plans to organize special events this season and many regular meetings will get an extra festive touch. In order not to ruin the surprise, details are not yet disclosed, but rumor has it that members might be receiving birthday presents and that they should prepare for a picnic party in the second half of the season!

