

Going Dutch

2015
September



In
this
issue

85 & Counting
Slot Loevestein
Board Installation
AWC Constitution Changes

American Women's Club of The Hague



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Going Dutch September 2015



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Five former AWC Presidents were on hand to welcome our newest President



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The beautiful gardens and lovely castle of Keukenhof brought smiles to our faces



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There was lots to see and photograph at The Hague's largest outdoor market

The Magazine of the American Women's Club of The Hague

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Community Service Coordinator
Pamela Pruijs
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Bremer
Library Laurie Martecchini
Kid's Club Open
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Philanthropic Fundraiser Open
Programs Mary Brotherton, Roberta
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Tennis Molly Boed
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Women with Dutch Partners Open

AWC Purpose Statement

The AWC of The Hague is an association formed to provide social and educational activities for American women living in the Netherlands and to promote amicable relations among people of all nations as well as acquiring funds for general public interest. The association does not endeavor to make a profit.



AWC
2015-
2016
Board
Installation



Message from the President

by Becky Failor

Welcome back from your summer activities. I hope everyone was able to enjoy some sunshine, time with family, and time to relax. Thank you to **Amber Broughton, Siska Datema, Anja Knoop, Janet van der Laan, Melanie Stringfellow** and **Gabrielle van der Winden** for ensuring that the Clubhouse was open one day a week throughout the summer. Now it is time to kick-off the fall fun!

I am excited about the Special General Meeting we are holding on Thursday, September 3 to discuss and, hopefully, approve the proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws that implement the vote of last November (see page 28 for details). While we were able to quickly implement the change in the percentage of Associate Members, these ladies cannot have voting rights until the proposed changes to the Constitution are ratified. Once the Constitution has been approved, only a few formal steps will remain before we can implement the rights for Associate Members to vote at meetings and serve on the AWC Board. I encourage all Members to attend this important meeting. In addition to a daytime session at 10 a.m., we have an evening session planned at 7 p.m. so that our working Members can attend. And if we are successful, all Members will be eligible to vote starting with the Annual General Meeting in November. Thanks to **Johanna Dishongh, Dominique Duysens, Rebecca Fry, Naomi Keip, Laurie Martecchini, Georgia Regnault, Emily van Eerten** and

Anne van Oorschot for their work on these revisions. A special thanks to **Ernst Enschede, Robert's husband**, for donating his legal and translation services.

What would September at the AWC be without Kick Off? On Wednesday evening, September 9 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Thursday, September 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. we will be revealing all the new One-of-a-Kind Activities, welcoming you back to our Ongoing Activities and answering your questions. **Rebecca Niles-Pourier**, our Membership Chair, will have new Membership Cards ready for pick-up for everyone who had renewed their Membership by August 30. Be sure to check out page 12 to discover a new exciting benefit that she has negotiated.

As I am writing this, a team is planning a Welcome (Back) BBQ (see page 52). Then, of course, we have our Annual Prinsjesdag Luncheon (see page 18). While looking through past issues of *Going Dutch*, I discovered that the AWC's first Prinsjesdag Luncheon at Garroeda was in 1992; twenty-three years later, it is truly a long-standing tradition. Thanks to **Jan Pritchard** for taking on the management of this event as I transition into the President role. I am sorry that I will not be there, but I have a good excuse as I will be sailing in the Greek Islands!

My time as President has already been full of wonderful experiences. I was so proud to be the incoming President at our 85 & Counting Anniversary Benefit. That fabulous night and the € 17,000 we raised for our charities was made possible by a great team of volunteers under the leadership of **Jan de Vries** and **Emily van Eerten** (please read Emily's article on page 22 for more information). I will never forget the standing ovation >>55



Fall Kick Off

Join us as we "Kick Off" the new Club Year at the AWC! During our Open House format, you can drop in when it is most convenient for you. Come learn about the new Activities and Tours that have been organized to get us all involved after our summer breaks. By hosting both evening and daytime hours, we hope to cater to everyone's schedules.

Registration will be open for 2015 One-of-a-Kind Activities, Tours and other events which you will find featured throughout this issue. Space for all activities is limited, so please sign up early to avoid disappointment. You can also learn about our Ongoing Activities. Board Members and Committee Chairs will be on-site to answer any questions. Support will be offered for new users of www.GroupSpaces.com, our Member-only website. We will provide drinks and nibbles.

Free babysitting will only be available at the Thursday session for children between six months and five years of age. In order to have the correct ratio of babysitters to children, you **must book in advance**. Register for babysitting on www.GroupSpaces.com or email info@awcthehague.com before September 7 to reserve your child's place.

**Wednesday, September 9
6 – 8:30 p.m.
and
Thursday, September 10
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
AWC Clubhouse**



May 2015 Board Installation



Ramblings from the Editor

by Melissa White

To be honest, I was rather surprised when my daughter Ashlynn told me that she and her friends have deep conversations. I figured they mostly talked about who likes whom, which teacher is the worst, whose house they're sleeping over at next, etc. So you can imagine my shock when she told me that they'd been discussing the meaning of life. I was skeptical that she had any revelations to share at the tender age of 15. Straight out of the mouth of babes, what she said made so much sense to me: *the meaning of life is to love*. It's that simple. She went on to explain that the options of what to love are endless: another person, all of mankind, a pet, the entire animal kingdom, a religion, traveling, cooking, cycling. You get the drift.

In addition to loving to write and take photos, I am very proud of the work that **Teresa Mahoney** and I put into producing *Going Dutch* and appreciate the contributions made by many of our AWC Members. It's not always easy working as a volunteer with a group of volunteers. Sometimes I want to scream when deadlines pass and articles are late or I can't get questions answered, but eventually I calm down and nice thoughts flow again. It's all good. We're all trying in our own ways to love what we do.

Since the AWC is a philanthropic club as well as a social club, there are always a wide range of opportunities for volunteering.

Volunteers are love in motion.

~ Author unknown

The reason I'm sharing this is not to brag that my daughter is some amazing philosopher (I assure you that I disagree with much of the sentiment that comes out of that stubborn girl's mouth), but rather to put into context another conversation that we had. We are currently finishing up our second of six weeks of living in Tokyo. We are staying in an apartment and have gotten into a daily routine much more like residents rather than tourists. For much of this week, I have been at home during the day while she's off attempting to find modeling jobs (more on that in a future issue). I spend much of my time on the couch with a computer on my lap keeping up with things in Holland and working on this magazine. Ashlynn keeps encouraging me to get out and explore the city. When I said that I have work to do, she asked why I work so hard when I'm not even getting paid. That's when our earlier discussion on the meaning of life came back to me: I work so hard on this magazine because I love it. And that in turn helps to give my life meaning along with the other things that I love. It's that simple.

Are you hesitant to make the commitment, afraid that you'll get sucked into a vortex of constant volunteering and never find your way out? Actually, there's nothing to fear. It's what you make of it. You can do as little or as much as you want. That's the beauty of helping; every little bit is appreciated. Throughout the pages of this issue you'll find many ways that fellow Members are volunteering to make our lives more exciting. Thanks to all who organize: weekly activities, such as our crafts group and walking group; one-time activities, such as our annual Prinsjesdag Luncheon and mosaics class; monthly activities such as our General Meetings and book groups; tours, such as a day trip to Antwerp; and special events such as 85 & Counting and our annual Holiday Bazaar. You can also read about our volunteer extraordinaire, **Georgia Renault** (see page 40). Now it's time for you to think about what you love!

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Membership

by Rebecca Niles-Pourier

New Membership Benefit

The AWC is pleased to announce that Members are now eligible for a **10% discount at the American Book Center The Hague** (www.abc.nl). Show your AWC Membership Card at the cash register to qualify for this generous discount.

Other benefits of carrying your AWC Membership Card include entry into two member-only stores: Sligro in Forepark (www.sligro.nl) and Makro in Delft (www.makro.nl). These stores have a large variety of international products in both small and bulk packaging.

Note on GroupSpaces

If you have ever signed up on *GroupSpaces* for a paid activity, you might have noticed something peculiar: the ticket price often shows that the activity is free while the description for the activity includes a fee. Creating “tickets” is the only way *GroupSpaces* will allow Members to register a spouse or guest. The cost of tickets along with payment instructions will always be detailed in the

2015-2016 Membership Dues

Membership dues for the 2015-2016 Club Year are due by September 30. If you have not already done so, please submit payment during Kick Off, at the AWC Front Desk or by electronic bank transfer to the AWC The Hague account NL42ABNA0431421757.

description of the activity. We try our best to include the *GroupSpace* links throughout this magazine for your convenience. Your reservation for an activity will not be confirmed until after payment is received. Support on how to use *GroupSpaces* will be offered at Kick Off. If you need help at other times, please don't hesitate to contact me at membership@awcthehague.org.

September Birthdays

Debbie van Hees-Cascio	1
Ineke Latour	2
Anne van Oorschot	2
Teresa Insalaco	3
Kristin King	7
Melanie Mays	8
Toni Stapel	10
Sheila Gazaleh	12
Celeste Brown	15
Susan Cave	19
Ceci Wong	19
Gabrielle van der Winden	20
SuzanneMacNeil	24
Naomi Keip	28
Loren Mealey	28
Jane Gulde	30

Welcome New Members!

Sarah Allen
Thomasyne Bangs-Flynn
Arielle Dundas
Susan Hatchell
Sarah Haug
Kirstin McMullen
Ginny Mees
Avanti Menon
Suzanne Natalicchio
Jane Purcell
Veronica Serrano
Joyce Ann Starks
Marilyn Tinsay
Isabel Zinman

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Ongoing Activities

Book Club: Daytime

The AWC Book Groups are open to all book lovers and are always open to new Members. There is no obligation to attend every meeting or lead a discussion. We take turns bringing a snack. If you've always wanted to try out a book club, you have two options per month. You can now register yourself for either (or both!) Book Clubs on the AWC *GroupSpaces.com* website. Any questions? Please email **Teresa Mahoney** for the daytime group or **Rebecca Fry** for the evening group at awcthehague.bookclub@gmail.com. Happy reading!

The September Daytime Book Group selection is *After Birth* by Elisa Albert:



Written as nearly a stream of consciousness, this novel tells the story of the year after the birth of the narrator's first child as she reflects upon her life while battling postpartum depression. While it is often heartbreaking and painful to read, it is also entertaining and thought-provoking.

Thursday, September 24
10 a.m.
AWC Clubhouse
FREE

Recap of the April – June Discussions

Boys in the Boat: There's much to admire about this book, beginning with the boys in the boat: depression-era athletes who put themselves through the University of Washington by working backbreaking jobs while studying engineering, medicine or law. Even shouldering these burdens, they trained mightily, rowing 24-inch-wide shells in cold Seattle waters, despite ice forming on their clothes and muscles agonized by effort, until they were the best 8-oar rowing team in the world. Before opening the book, we already knew that these boys took the gold medal in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. However, the writing was so detailed and so moving that

our hearts were pounding with excitement as they raced in a choppy Langer See against Hitler's German team and an excellent Italian team. While the author focused on the poignant story of one boy in particular, his writing skills enlivened Depression-era America and burgeoning Nazi Germany, too. We all loved this book.

Star of the Sea: An image of a hungry, troubled Irishman haunted the psyche of author Joseph O'Connor and he wrote this novel to see where the Irishman would end up. He also wanted to explore the Irish famine of 1845 to 1852, a subject he was surprised to find was not common in Irish fiction. O'Connor breathes life—and death—into a massive historical subject and he does so with a sense of intimacy. We love, we hate, we pity, and we ache for his characters, all of whom sail what will come to be called a “coffin ship” to America from a starving Ireland. This book is strongly recommended, but read it in English. The Dutch translation—which valiantly tried to copy the 19th century prose O'Connor expertly uses—was tough going for some.

Saturday: This novel examines a single post-9/11 day of a successful London neurosurgeon. Henry's day begins when he wakes in the middle of the night and witnesses a flaming jetliner heading toward Heathrow Airport. Is he witnessing a terrorist attack?

Daytime Book Club

Planning Ahead:

Thursday, October 22 *Hand to Mouth: Living in Bootstrap America* by Linda Tirado
November *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
December *The Buried Giant* by Kazuo Ishiguro

Well, no, as it turns out. Interspersed with musings on whether or not a Western intervention was warranted in Iraq, the mundane events of his day unfurl. A minor car collision in the afternoon escalates into an unexpected and threatening confrontation at the end of the day. Our group was divided about the book. Although no one defended the overly detailed recap of Henry's squash game, some did appreciate the touching details of a visit to his declining mother, while others were regularly skipping pages of “tedious observation.” All agreed, however, that the book was an excellent spark for discussion on issues relating to terrorism, world engagement, conflict escalation, and family interactions.

Book Club: Evening

The September Evening Book Group selection is *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr:



The winner of the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, this beautifully written novel follows a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

Wednesday, September 16
7:30 p.m.
AWC Clubhouse
FREE

Evening Book Club

Planning Ahead:

Wednesday, October 14: *The Light Between Oceans* by ML Stedman
Wednesday, November 18: *The Lives of Others* by Neel Mukherjee
Wednesday, December 9: *The Rise and Fall of Great Powers* by Tom Rachman

Chat, Crafts & Cake

Let's get creative! The AWC is open to all crafters. If you've been looking for an open space large enough to lay out that king-size quilt, or need more table space to organize your photo albums or scrapbooks, or just need an excuse to stitch, pack up your supplies and bring them to the Clubhouse so you can chat with fellow AWC Members while you work. You might even be able to pick up some suggestions from a fresh pair of eyes. Each week, a different Member will bring a cake made from a never-before-tried recipe for tasting and critiquing. We're sorry, but babysitting is not available and thus we can't accommodate children. Questions? Contact: **Suzanne Dundas** at awcthehague.crafts@gmail.com

Tuesdays

10 a.m. – Noon
AWC Clubhouse
FREE

Dinner Club

Sign up at www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/991386 to share dinner at home with AWC friends and spouses/partners. **Rebecca Niles-Pourier** will set the dates, place couples (or individuals) randomly, and assign the hostess. Then each hostess will set a theme and guests will be asked to prepare a dish. For example, if the theme is Italian, then one person might bring antipasto, one brings bread, one brings Italian wine, etc. The hostess may choose to cook the main course or do it all, but then you might be asked to contribute some money towards the cost. It will be up to each >> 16



Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 15

hostess how they want to structure the meal. You may be asked to host one dinner for eight, six or four guests (depending on your space at home) and then you will be a guest at someone else's home the next time. This is a fun way to share an evening with new AWC friends while enjoying a great dinner. No need to worry as you don't have to be a gourmet chef! Mark your calendar for future dates: Saturdays, January 23, April 30 and July 2. Contact Rebecca at awcthehague.wwdp@gmail.com to join in the fun.

Saturday, October 24

Locations and Meals Vary

Sign-up deadline: October 16

Dutch Conversation Coffee

If you've had at least one beginner course in Dutch, here's the perfect opportunity to try to speak your new language in a safe environment. We will practice speaking Dutch over coffee with some of our Dutch Members on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. This is not a class, but an informal opportunity to speak *Nederlands*.

Wednesdays starting after Kick Off

10 – 11 a.m.

Clubhouse

FREE

Heart Pillow Project

The AWC is in its 8th year of making heart-shaped pillows to support the arms of breast cancer patients in local hospitals. Each pillow is made with tender loving care, wrapped in a plastic bag tied with a beautiful bow and

a message signed by a volunteer. No sewing skills are needed; just the ability to cut and stuff! What a wonderful way to meet new friends while contributing to a worthy cause. The emails we receive are so touching and show that women are linked everywhere to this terrible disease. We are proud to provide women with something not only practical, but comforting as well. If you can cut fabric, stuff fiberfill, thread a needle or tie a bow, we need you! No sign-up is necessary. For more information, contact **Eileen Baker** at awcthehague.heartpillow@gmail.com.

Tuesday, September 22

Noon – 2 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

Visitors Welcome

Tennis League

The AWC Tennis Group plays doubles every Tuesday in Warmond. Ladies move up and down the courts according to a ladder tennis system. The emphasis is on having fun! The league is available for all levels except true beginners. If you are interested in being placed on the waiting list to become a regular player or would like to be on the sub list, contact **Molly Boed** at mollyboed@yahoo.com.

Tuesdays starting September 1

(except specific holidays TBD)

1 – 3 p.m.

Dekker Tennis Courts

Veerpolder 14, Warmond

€ 275 Members (€ 325 nonmembers)

AWC Guest Policy

Guests are welcome to participate in AWC activities and tours on a limited basis. As a nonmember, a guest is limited to attend two functions per calendar year and will be charged an additional nonmember fee. Only Members are entitled to use babysitting services.



Walkie Talkies

Taking a walk with friends is the perfect way to start your week! Join us for an energetic walk and talk. We meet in front of the Clubhouse each week and then walk to a variety of destinations between the beach, woods and city. Occasionally, we take longer walks which we announce on the AWC Facebook Group. Sign up for this group on GroupSpaces.com to get email updates or email **Emily van Eerten** at vaneerten@gmail.com or **Greetje Engelsman** at awcthehague.newcomers@gmail.com.

Mondays

9:30 a.m.

FREE

Wassenaar Coffee & Conversation

Do you live in Wassenaar and want to get together with other AWC Members, but don't want to journey to the Clubhouse? Or maybe you would like to go to Wassenaar for a change of pace? Here is your chance! **Ramona Oswald** hosts a coffee at her home in Wassenaar on the first Thursday of every month for Members and prospective Members. Ramona will provide directions to her house when you sign-up at www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/785299.

Thursday, October 1

9 – 11 a.m.

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One-of-a-Kind Activities

by Mallory Clarke

RSVP directly on [AWC GroupSpaces.com](http://AWCGroupSpaces.com). Direct any questions to awcthehague.activities@gmail.com. Payment must be made within 5 calendar days of reserving or your name will be moved to a waitlist. Payment can be made in the Front Office by PIN or by bank transfer to the AWC account NL42ABNA0431421757.

Prinsjesdag Luncheon

This is the perfect opportunity to view King Willem-Alexander's procession on his way to the Binnenhof to open Parliament. This annual luncheon on the second floor of the Garoeda Restaurant is the ideal location to view this traditional Dutch event. King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima ride from the palace at Noordeinde to the Binnenhof and back in the famous golden coach with military escort, bands and horse-drawn carriages. The pomp and circumstance makes this a "must see" event. There is commentary in both Dutch and English to explain the events we witness outside the windows. Plan to arrive by 11 a.m. as some streets are closed off for the parade. Further information on public transportation will be provided. Price includes Indonesian *rijsttafel* buffet, a glass of wine, and tea or coffee.

Tuesday, September 15

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Maximum: 50

Garoeda Restaurant

Kneuterdijk 18a, Den Haag
€ 47 Members (€ 52 nonmembers)
Cancellation deadline: September 11
www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/985478

Sisi: Fairytale & Reality

Join us for a day trip to Paleis Het Loo in Apeldoorn to visit a special exhibition of the life of Empress Elisabeth of Austria (1837-1898), known as Sisi. Using film, photographs, paintings and personal belongings from her childhood and throughout her life as Empress at the Viennese Court, the exhibition will show not only the romanticized, fairytale princess as shown in the film starring Romy Schneider, but also the tragic side of her real life. Never before has such a large, versatile exhibition about Sisi been presented outside of Austria. For additional information, visit: www.paleishetloo.nl/agenda/sisi

After visiting the exhibition, you will have the option of having lunch at one of the two restaurants (at own expense). The Ballroom, located in the West Wing, has a menu inspired by the exhibition, including traditional Viennese *Sachertorte*. The Prins Hendrik Garage overlooks the historic stables and offers self-serve soups, salads and sandwiches. Following lunch, you are free to wander the beautiful palace and visit the impressive gardens.

No advance payment is necessary. Bring your *OV-chipkaart* and *Museumkaart*. We will meet at Starbucks at Den Haag Centraal Station (DHCS) at 9:30 a.m. and travel by train to Apeldoorn and then take a short bus ride to Paleis Het Loo, arriving around 11:30 a.m. The normal round trip fare for the train plus the bus is approximately € 41. Please let us know if you are a 40% discount train cardholder.

Thursday, September 17

Meet at Starbucks at DHCS at 9:30 a.m.

Palais Het Loo, Apeldoorn

€ 17.50 Museum Entrance plus Exhibit or

€3.00 with *Museumkaart* paid directly at the museum

Maximum: 20

Cancellation deadline: September 16

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/989520

Delft Blue Mosaics

We're all familiar with the beautiful Porcelain Fles from the Royal Delft Factory and may have a piece or two at home. Now you can make a mosaic with pieces of Delft Blue

ceramics at a three-hour workshop taught by Heleen Kraaijveld at her home-based workspace. Heleen is a talented mosaic artist and will guide you as you create Dutch themed artwork. She provides the ceramics, adhesives, tools and snacks. Heleen will grout your piece after the workshop; you can pick up your finished piece one week later. This class will also be offered on Friday, October 9 at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, September 18

1 – 4 p.m.

Graaf Florislaan 5, Den Haag

€ 40 Members (€ 45 nonmembers)

Minimum 4 / Maximum 8

Cancellation deadline: September 11

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/manage/item/995013

>>52





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Tours

by Vesna Southwick

Antwerp, City of Art

As a "City of Art," Antwerp has always attracted attention. At the end of the Middle Ages, the port was expanded to become a beacon of trade. As a result, art and architecture flourished. The famous Cathedral of Our Lady took 169 years to build (between 1352 to 1521); with a height of 400 feet (123 meters), it is the highest Gothic building in the Low Countries. One of the most famous past residents, Peter Paul Rubens, died in 1640, but his spirit is more alive than ever thanks to his ubiquitous works. Nowadays, you will find a lively art, design, and gastronomic scene still very present in Antwerp. Artists like Luc Tuymans and Jan Fabre, and fashion designers such as Dries Van Noten and American-Belgian designer Diane von Furstenberg, feel at home in Antwerp.

Diamond District Tour: We will travel via train to Antwerp Central Station, considered to be the fourth most admired train station in the world. We will meet our tour guide and take a walk to explore the World Diamond Centre. Prior to the recent recession, over 80% of the world's rough diamonds passed through the district. Through the stories from our guide, we will relive the glory days, the near collapse and, finally, the resurrection of the Antwerp diamond industry in the 19th century. In the Antwerp Jewish Diamond District, known as the "Square Mile," workers, jewelers and diamond merchants feel at home in their own world of grinding shops, showrooms and exhibitions.

Rubens House Tour: Next, we will take a

Payment for all Tours must be made within 5 calendar days of reserving or your name will be moved to a waitlist. Payment can be made in the Front Office by PIN or by bank transfer to the AWC account NL42ABNA0431421757.

RSVP for all Tours directly on

[AWC GroupSpaces.com](http://AWCGroupSpaces.com).

Direct any questions to

awcthehague.tours@gmail.com.

guided tour through Rubens' home, an Italian-style villa where Peter Paul Rubens resided with his family for 23 years. In 1946, the villa was converted into a museum which enables visitors to discover Rubens' multifaceted talent: painter, architect and diplomat, collector and scientist, husband and father. This museum houses many art pieces by Rubens, his students and his contemporaries, presenting the living testimony of his importance to the city.

Lunch and Cathedral of Our Lady Visit: Our day visit to Antwerp will end with a very nice lunch in a gourmet restaurant, and a leisurely stroll through the main cathedral.

Fee Includes: Diamond District Tour, Rubens House Tour and admission to Cathedral of Our Lady. Lunch and train fare are not included. Look for further information at Kick Off and in upcoming eNews concerning meeting time and location, transportation fees, lunch options and other relevant details.

Thursday, October 15

Time to be determined

€ 27 Members (€ 32 nonmembers)

Minimum 10 / Maximum 15

Cancellation deadline: October 1

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/988779



Newcomer Activities

by Greetje Englesman

AWC Welcomes New Members!

In an effort to help you settle into the Netherlands, our Newcomer Activities will provide insight into life in your new country. Please note, these activities are **open to all Members**, regardless of how long you have lived here. In fact, the participation of long-time Members is appreciated. All Newcomer Activities are FREE unless stated otherwise; however, transportation and meals, if any, are at your own expense.

Route of the Gouden Koets (Golden Coach)

Follow the route of the Golden Coach before King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima



RSVP for all Newcomer Activities

directly on [AWC GroupSpaces.com](http://AWCGroupSpaces.com).

Direct any questions to

awcthehague.newcomers@gmail.com.

do so on Prinsjesdag. Join me (AWC Member and Dutch ex-espatriate) for a royal walk from the Noordeinde Palace to the Ridderzaal (Knights Hall). Learn a bit about royalty and democracy as well as about the buildings and institutions along the route, what they once were and what they are used for today. If the group wishes, we can stop for coffee and/or lunch afterwards (at your own expense).

Monday, September 14

10 a.m. – Noon

**Meet opposite the Noordeinde Palace
Noordeinde 68, Den Haag**

Maximum 15

RSVP by September 10

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/989519

Dutch Products Class

AWC Member and long-term resident of the Netherlands, **Carol Slootweg**, will explain Dutch cooking and cleaning products. She teaches cooking classes, so she is an expert in using local products and converting >>53

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85 & Counting

by Emily van Eerten

With joyous flair, AWC Members gathered on May 9 for a celebratory anniversary party and benefit at Nieuwspoor in The Hague. Joined by Hague Mayor, Jozias van Aartsen, and the American Deputy Chief of Mission, Adam Sterling, and his wife, Veerle Coignez, the evening sparkled from start to finish. Guests were welcomed with a glass of Prosecco while gathered in the restaurant of the stylish member-only Dutch Press Club.

Steinway artist and master storyteller Robin Goldsby presented her delightful program of solo piano music and laugh-out-loud stories of the cultural adjustments Americans undergo when they move to Europe. Robin has lived nearly 20 years in Germany as a member of sister club AIWC Cologne. She generously donated her services in honor of our 85th anniversary.

Following Robin, guests flowed into the dining room, where AWC President **Linda Divon** welcomed our Members and special guests Mayor Aartsen and Deputy Chief of Mission Sterling. Nieuwspoor prepared a magnificent buffet with delicious cold and warm selections, allowing for a relaxed and enjoyable meal.

As the dinner dishes were being cleared, 17-year-old Darcy van Eerten called everyone to attention with a crystal clear a cappella verse of *We Are the World*. Long-term member **Roberta Enschede** composed a poetic tribute to the Club and the theme of *85 & Counting*. Performed by Roberta and myself, the piece resonated with our Members and guests alike. Roberta's text highlighted some of the most impressive ways the AWC has made a difference in our adopted community: starting an English language library; donating money and equipment to area hospitals (e.g., incubators, dialysis machines); helping to protect our Jewish Members by destroying Club records at the start of World War II; obtaining and distributing much needed food and goods in the aftermath of the war; helping to rebuild the Anglo-American Church destroyed in the war; raising over one million euros for breast cancer research and awareness; and further helping women and children in countless other ways. Many Members, husbands and even guests had to wipe away a few tears.

Even before those tears had a chance to dry, President Linda Divon and incoming President **Becky Failor**, with the assistance of **Celeste Brown**, invoked a few more. They took to the stage to honor a woman who has been a stalwart of our Club for almost half of its existence, **Georgia Regnault** (for further details, see page 40).

After such an emotional presentation, the crowd needed release and Nieuwspoor provided it! The buffet tables were reopened with fireworks and were laden with delicious desserts. Guests were encouraged to take their desserts and coffee back to the member's restaurant area,

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85 & Counting (cont.)

Continued from page 23

where they were treated to the appealing charm of guest auctioneer Jan Wolter van den Berg.

AWC The Hague was founded in 1930, and was one of the founding Clubs of our umbrella organization, FAWCO, in 1931. Our Club Members have played key roles over the years in the development and success of FAWCO, and no less than three current AWC Members have served as FAWCO President (Georgia Regnault, Celeste Brown and myself) and were in attendance at our event. Other FAWCO friends who joined us to help celebrate our long history of support and cooperation included AWC Amsterdam President Jill De Witt-Hamer, AWC Antwerp President Laura de Groen and AWC Antwerp FAWCO Rep Rozanne van Rie. Laura and Rozanne made substantial individual contributions for the Live Auction: Laura donated a stay in her trendy Antwerp B&B, De Witte Nijl, while Rozanne offered several days at her De Haan beach property near Brugge. From afar, other FAWCO Members also offered items for our auction: AWC Chilterns (England) Member Michele Hardman donated a long weekend at her luxurious cliffside house in Yorkshire, while Ann De Simoni of the AIWC Genoa (Italy) provided her cozy garden cottage on the Italian Riviera. We are very grateful to the generosity of our FAWCO friends in making our Anniversary Benefit such a great success!

Club Members and members of our community also rallied to show their appreciation and support of our Club's 85 years. Fluor, a well-known engineering construction company, was a Platinum Sponsor with a €2,500 donation, and the staff at Nieuwspoort merited platinum as well, going above and beyond to make our event a success. **Johanna Dishongh** and **Ginny Mees** were Gold Sponsors for their vacation home donations. Silver Sponsors included a beautiful brooch donation from jeweler Marcel Vermeulen and donations of time and services from **Sunita Menon**, **Jan de Vries** and **Mallery Clarke**. Please take a moment to read through the list of donors and, if possible, remember to thank them. With your support and theirs, we far exceeded our charitable goals for this birthday bash. Although it was an evening primarily of camaraderie and celebration, we raised over €17,000 for our charities: Hulphond Nederland, Laatz Maar Lachen, Lighthouse Special Education, and the FAWCO Target Project: Free the Girls.

The success of this event was due in no small part to the efforts of our *85 & Counting* Team: **Mallery Clarke**, **Jan Essad**, **Loren Mealey**, **Sunita Menon**, **Anne van Oorschot**, **Jessie Rodell** and **Jan de Vries**. Key volunteers on the night included Naazalin Dadani, **Teresa Insalaco**, **Karla Kahn**, **Pat Reynolds**, **Kay van der Made** and many teen helpers.

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85 & Counting (cont.)

Continued from page 25



The American Women's Club of The Hague would like to thank the following:

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Johanna & Frank Dishongh
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Ginny & Paul Mees

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Jan de Vries & Mallery Clarke

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Celeste Brown &	Bronia Ichel	Restaurant Wox
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Chiropractie Noordzee	-- Van Poelgeest BMW	Sposa Child / Marilyn Tinsay
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Edward for Hair	Norma Italian Kitchen & Bar	Wijnkoperij Henri Bloem
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Darcy van Eerten
Renger van Eerten
Silke van Eerten

Additional Thanks

Roberta Enschede
Becky Failor
Boy Frank
Isa van der Horst
Wes van der Horst
Martijn Hut
Teresa Insalaco
Karla Kahn

Kay van der Made
Ginny Mees
Jurgen Pijpers
Pat Reynolds
Georgia Regnault
Mauk Sewandono
Polly Spinner
Rebecca Wood

85 & Counting Event Team

Mallery Clarke	Jan Essad	Sunita Menon	Jessie Rodell
Emily van Eerten	Loren Mealey	Anne van Oorschot	Jan de Vries

Special General Meeting

by **Becky Failor**

We are holding a Special General Meeting to vote on the revised Constitution and By-Laws (see summary below). These revisions are necessary to fully implement the vote of November 2014 that granted rights to our Associate Members that are similar to those of Regular Members.

This meeting will consist of a daytime and an evening session. At each session we will present the summary of the changes with a motion to accept the changes. We will open the floor for discussion, and then conduct a paper ballot vote. While this meeting is open to all Members, voting will still be restricted to Regular Members. If you are unable to attend this important meeting, please submit a proxy ballot; if you are in need of a proxy ballot, please request one from the Front Office.

Thursday, September 3

Daytime Session

10 – 10:30 a.m. Social time

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Meeting

or

Evening Session

6:30 – 7 p.m. Social time

7 – 8 p.m. Meeting

AWC Clubhouse

Background on Constitution and By-Laws Changes

In 2014, the Membership of our Club held several meetings to discuss changes in regards to Associate Members. Of particular importance was the maximum percentage of Associate Members allowed and their role in the management of the AWC, including their ability to vote and serve on the Board. The changes approved at the November 2014 Annual General Meeting required revision of our By-Laws and Constitution.

Implemented immediately was the change of percentage of Associate Members, as it required only a By-Laws change (changes shown in red):

“The number of Associate Members may not exceed **40%** of Regular

Membership in any Club Year. **In a new Club Year, existing Associate Members will have priority over new applicants up until the time of dues renewal deadline.”**

Implementing the other changes, however, required a revision of our Constitution. Changing our Constitution is a formal legal process. In accordance with Dutch law, the Constitution must be translated into Dutch, notarized, and filed with the Kamer van Koophandel (an organization similar to the American Chamber of Commerce). Additionally, our By-Laws must be in alignment with the Constitution.

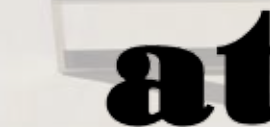
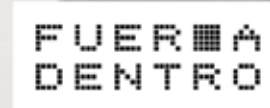
A committee of our Members led by **Georgia Regnault (Johanna Dishongh, Dominique Duysens, Rebecca Fry, Naomi Keip, Laurie Martecchini, Emily van Eerten and Anne van Oorschot)** prepared the revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws and presented them to the AWC Board in June. The revisions were approved, with a few modifications, by the Board. The Board authorized the committee to proceed with the formalities, including the drafting of the Constitution in Dutch by a notary and, finally, presentation of both documents to the Regular Members for a vote. The documents were sent out to all Members via email in August.

Summary of Constitution and By-Laws Changes

Constitution

1. The definition of Members was expanded to include Associate Members (Associate Members are further defined in the By-Laws). With this change, Associate Members are voting Members. The definition also clarified the role of legally registered partners of citizens of the US and the impact of dissolution of the partnership. The current constitution says “married to an American citizen.”
2. The concept of Affiliates as part of

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	2 AWC Board Meeting 10:30 a.m.	3 Special General Meeting to vote on Constitution 10 a.m. Special General Meeting to vote on Constitution 6:30 p.m.	4	5
6	7 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	8 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	9 Fall Kick Off Evening Session 6 - 8:30 p.m.	10 Fall Kick Off Daytime Session 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	11 Remembrance Ceremony for 9/11 2 p.m.	12
13	14 Route of the Golden Coach Walk 10 a.m.	15 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. Prinsjedag Luncheon 11 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	16 Evening Book Club 7:30 p.m.	17 Sisi Exhibit at Palais Het Loo 9:30 a.m.	18 Delft Blue Mosaics 1 p.m.	19
20	21 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	22 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. Heart Pillow Workshop Noon AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	23 Dutch Products 10 a.m.	24 Daytime Book Club 10 a.m.	25	26 Welcome Back BBQ 6 p.m.
27	28 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	29 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	30 Dutch Etiquette 10 a.m.		Coming Up This Fall: Oct 6: Dutch Cheese Tasting Oct 9: Delft Mosaic Class Oct 15: Daytrip to Antwerp Nov 14-15: AWC Holiday Bazaar	



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A Ceremony of Remembrance and Hope

by Roberta Enschede

To Remember – To Hope
A simple memorial to bring people together
Friday, September 11
AWC Clubhouse, 2 p.m.
All are welcome

Fourteen years have passed since that fateful morning. Still, when September nears, we think of that day that is seared in our memories. We remember where we were, what we were doing, who we called, who we knew that might have been in New York, at the Pentagon or on that plane that burned in a Pennsylvania meadow.

So many people know or knew someone. In Wassenaar, a woman who works for the city was having breakfast at her hotel across from the World Trade Center and saw the plane crash into the tower. A few years ago, when she learned about the Ceremony of Remembrance and Hope, she called and said, "Good that this happens. We can't forget." I asked her to tell her story. She talked about what she saw and how for months she could not even recycle glass as she couldn't stand the shattering sounds.

A very tough New Yorker, a Security Attaché at the US Embassy, who'd seen more than any of us could ever imagine, told his story at the Ceremony, too. He was helping clean up after the community Fourth of July picnic. In passing, I mentioned September 11th. He started talking about his best friend, a firefighter who went into the World Trade Center twice and didn't make it out. He needed to talk, to publicly honor his friend, which he did at the Ceremony; his friend's family knew and were moved.

Last year, when we were working on the Ceremony, one of the AWC Members said, "My friend died on AA73," the plane that crashed into the Pentagon. She paid tribute to her.

As for me, I will never forget my first visit to Ground Zero on December 24, 2001. It was cold, drizzly, gray and smelled of burned out fire. I walked around the perimeter. There were straggly Christmas trees with little white paper angels like a child would make, cut out and hanging on their branches. There were photos and candles on the ground. People came and went. I stood behind a young fellow who put down a laminated paper with some writing, a photo and a name: Mary Buffo. He kept trying to light a candle next to it, but the wind kept blowing it out. When he finally lit the candle, he knelt, placed a kiss on the photo and with grieving shoulders walked into the gray drizzle and devastation. Never did I want to reach out and touch someone or say something more than I did at that moment. I didn't. There were no words. There still are none.

On September 11, beginning at 8:47 a.m., there will be four moments of silence at Ground Zero to observe the times each plane hit and each tower fell. At sunset, the Tribute in Light in the shape of the Twin Towers will burn until sunrise on September 12. At 9:37 a.m., there will be silence at the Pentagon and at 10:03 a.m. in Shanksville, PA.

Here in The Hague, Overseas Americans and our friends from all nations will Remember knowing that out of the devastation, One World Trade Center now rises 1,776 feet tall. It towers over New York City and the entire Western Hemisphere as a bastion of hope.

*It was the worst day we've ever seen,
 but it brought out the best in all of us.*
 ~ Secretary of State, John Kerry

Announcements

In-Water Boat Show

Considering buying a boat? Visit the most complete in-water boat show in Northern Europe at the Amsterdam Marina from Tuesday, September 1 through Sunday, September 6. Three hundred new boats ranging from 16 to 82 feet (5 to 25 meters) will be on display on the jetties along with a wide range of nautical products on the quay. A wide range of activities will be on and around the water: free sea trials in open sailboats, sailing lessons for kids, bubble walking, hoverboard demonstrations and much more. Save time by buying tickets online: www.boatshow-amsterdam.com



Shakespeare in the Park

Grab a picnic dinner and head to Wassenaar for an open-air performance by award-winning UK touring company Illyria of William Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*. Everyone wants to marry mild-mannered Bianca while no one wants to marry her acid-tongued older sister Kate. Their father won't allow Bianca to marry until a husband can be found for Kate. Is anyone mad enough to take her on? What happens when a woman who suffers



no fools meets a loud-mouthed braggart? Sparks are guaranteed to fly in this rumbustious battle-of-the-sexes comedy, where nobody is exactly who they appear to be! For tickets, go to:

www.theenglishtheatre.nl
**Thursday, September 3 –
Friday, September 4**
7:30 p.m.

**Raadhuis De Paauw
Raadhuislaan 22, Wassenaar**

38th World Port Days Rotterdam

Wereldhavendagen (World Port Days) is a large, annual maritime event that will appeal to your whole family. During this festive weekend, you can get a glimpse behind the scenes of Europe's busiest port through a wide range of activities, such as ship tours, demonstrations, excursions and exhibitions. Port companies demonstrate exactly what their ships and other sailing equipment are capable of in a continuous program of spectacular presentations with breathtaking stunts, pure power and nautical expertise. You can experience it all from the Erasmus Bridge or from the grandstand on the Wilhelminakade. This year's theme is *Colorful Port*, highlighting various colorful aspects of the port such as in nature, architecture and the international connections that the port provides.

**Rotterdam Europoort
Friday, September 4 through Sunday,
September 6**

www.wereldhavendagen.nl

3rd Embassy Festival

You can take a cultural trip around the world at this festival which spotlights the many different cultures of The Hague through music, art, dance and culinary delights. The musical program includes pop, jazz, folk and classical. Activities geared towards children will allow them to experience various cultures and open their eyes



to different ways of playing. The international market features global delights. Free entrance. www.embassyfestival.com
**Saturday, September 5
Noon – 9 p.m.**

Lange Voorhout, Den Haag

Theatre for Children

Left alone and bored with his chores, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* has a bright idea. He waves his wand and ...whoosh!... the broom magically starts to fetch water for him. As his bath fills, he realizes he doesn't know the spell to make it stop. In desperation he sees the broom in half, but meddling with magic has disastrous consequences. Don't forget to pack a picnic and a blanket for this lawn seating performance. For tickets, go to:

www.theenglishtheatre.nl



Saturday, September 5 at 3 p.m.

Sunday, September 6 at 2 p.m.

**Raadhuis De Paauw
Raadhuislaan 22, Wassenaar**

Food Truck Festival

Whereas once food trucks were referred to as "roach mobiles," they are now very trendy and offer a wide assortment of gourmet foods. See what all the fuss is about when Westbroekpark is transformed into one large at-



tractive open-air restaurant during this festival with free admission. In addition to a large variety of tasty foods, there will be live music and other entertainment. For hours, go to: www.festival-trek.nl

Thursday, September 10 –

Sunday, September 13

**Westbroekpark
Kapelweg, Den Haag**

Open Monument Days

Open Monumentendag (European Heritage Days in the Netherlands) is designed to bring people into historical buildings in an effort to rally support for the preservation of historical monuments. About 4,000 historical buildings and sites across the country will be open to the public free of charge. Here's your chance to enter some buildings that are not normally accessible to the public. This year's theme is *Arts & Crafts*.

**Countrywide
Saturday, September 12 and
Sunday, September 13**
www.openmonumentendag.nl

Closing of Storm Surge Barrier

Once a year, the Maeslant Storm Surge Barrier in Hoek van Holland is closed as part of an annual test of the system in preparation for hurricane season, which runs from October 1 to April 15. Opened in 1997 as part of the Delta Works to protect Rotterdam Harbor and surrounding cities, it is one of the largest moving structures on Earth. Check the website for timing if you want to witness this unique engineering marvel. Tours in English are available; reservations are strongly encouraged.

**Keringhuis
Saturday, September 19
Maeslantkeringweg 139, Hoek van Holland**
www.keringhuis.nl

Young Theatre Talent

STET The English Theatre presents young talent from the UK. Four recent graduates from the prestigious London drama school the Guildhall School of Music and Drama will be performing thought-provoking self-penned theatrical monologues. This is a fantastic opportunity to witness new talent at the

The Dutch Daily

by Eileen Harloff

I'm writing this article at the beginning of summer – meteorologically speaking anyways. Weather-wise, it is more like autumn: my central heating is on low, the sky is cloudy, the wind is blowing and there is imminent rain. Of course, tomorrow it may be tropical. School is finishing up for the year, families are getting ready to “go home” or on a trip; it's definitely vacation time. This is the case for our intrepid *Going Dutch* editor, Melissa. She is on the verge of traveling to Japan with her novice model daughter, who will be learning about the fashion scene in Tokyo. Needless to say, we can look forward to reading about some wonderful Japanese adventures in our autumn issues. In the meantime, Melissa has asked some of her regular magazine contributors to submit their articles as soon as possible, so that when she heads off to Asia she will already have made significant headway on editing this issue.

Normally I would tell you about items in the local newspaper, such as the one about a wild cat with a ringed tail being spotted on the heath in the Province of Brabant. This was to the amazement of a wild animal expert who says that, although these creatures have been observed in South Limburg, they have never been seen west of the Maas River nor so far north in the rest of the country. Instead of reporting these items, however, I have decided to muse about recent events and about life in general.



When I think about traveling (as I often do), I tend to think of Ohio-born Erma Bombeck who, several decades ago, wrote hilarious columns about everyday life for a variety of magazines and newspapers. The one quote that always makes me smile is: *When you begin to look like your passport photo, it's time to go home.* I'm not concerned, though, since I already look like my passport photo and I plan to take a cruise this summer on the Danube River from Passau, Germany to Budapest, with stopovers in cities in Austria (including a night at the Vienna Opera), Slovakia and Hungary. I might even make it to a region that I have ignored in my travels thus far, namely the southern Caucasus countries of Georgia and Armenia.

I've been interested in Armenia ever since an encounter some years ago in the Prague Airport, when I was waiting to fly back to the Netherlands. I was alone in the waiting room until an attractive, baggage-laden woman swept in, deposited her burden and informed me that she was en route to Germany to visit her daughter, to whom she was bringing a variety of food from the homeland. She then dived into a bag and extracted two apple-looking pieces of fruit, one of which she generously offered to me. When I asked what it was, she said it was a pomegranate and that it came from a tree in her garden, along with a variety of other



fruits and vegetables, samples of which were stashed in her luggage. It was the first time I had ever eaten a pomegranate, though I had read its name and thought it exotic. I told her that it was delicious, which prompted information about her work as a teacher, her property, and her country – of which she was exceedingly proud. She invited me to come for a visit and offered me her home as a place to stay, at which point she wrote down her name and telephone number. My interest has lasted since that encounter about 20 years ago, despite having since lost the contact info. Just recently, though, the question of what happened to over one million Armenians in the early 1900s when the Ottoman Empire was breaking up has again cropped up in the news. The Turks, alleged to have killed many of these Christians while deporting them, have always denied that genocide took place; even today it is illegal in Turkey to talk about the fate of the Armenians, who demand recognition of this event. I would like to visit not only Armenia, but also its neighbors Georgia (whose women are deemed to be very attractive) and Azerbaijan.

On the home front, I am musing about the recent renovation of my kitchen. After six months of searching for someone to do the job, I managed to find great workers who spent one month on the remodel. My apartment dates back to the days when kitchens were small; mine now looks like a ship's galley compressed into minimum space. I'm gradually getting used to my combi-microwave oven and grill and my washing machine, which tended to dance across the floor until some pads were placed under it to keep it steady. Melissa was quite shocked to learn that I'd never had a washing machine in my apartment and

still don't have a dishwasher. I still bump into cupboards that used to be elsewhere and have trouble finding my hand towel, but I have a clear view of the tree in the downstairs garden and can follow the life of a diligent magpie whose squawk detracts from his beauty. He has triumphed over the ring-necked parrots, crows, pigeons and other competitors who wanted to live in the tree. Now that his fledglings have been born (I can only presume since I haven't actually seen them yet), he sits on a nearby tree and castigates any other bird who comes near, and actually carries out air attacks on the various cats stalking the gardens. Our neighborhood is also currently home to a large number of Canadian geese. The busy traffic on the street recently came to a stop when a bevy of goose mothers, fathers and lots of kids decided to cross the street; with no waiting to look right or left, over they went while the line of cars waited. One of their ilk even walks down the street from time to time. Sometimes I feel like I've joined Alice in Wonderland.

By now summer is almost over and autumn is around the corner. May you have a happy and stimulating year to come.





Visiting Keukenhof
Gardens and Castle



Honoring Georgia

by Jessie Rodell

AWC The Hague boasts a fascinating history of good works and collaborative projects, support and enjoyment. Over the past 85 years, Members successfully supported important needs within our host community while supporting each other and our families, allowing everyone to thrive while experiencing life here in Holland. It is a history of fascinating and memorable women. This year the AWC created the *AWC Distinguished Service Award* to honor **Georgia Regnault** to say “thank you” for her immeasurable contribution to the success of our Club.



Outgoing President **Linda Divon** and incoming President **Becky Failor** jointly presented Georgia with the *Distinguished Service Vase* at the recent 85 & Counting Anniversary Benefit, citing the many roles Georgia has played since joining in 1972: from local tour organizer to many years in finance and, finally, to twice as President. Georgia has been an integral part of the Club, encouraging cooperation, sharing joys as well as sorrows with fellow Members and, indeed, always holding us to account to help the AWC grow and prosper.



Becky, in announcing this award stated, “All our wonderful successes do not happen without the hard work of many, many women. We cannot recognize all of them. However, we felt tonight was the perfect time to present a *Distinguished Service Award* to someone who for half of our 85 years has been a leader within our Club: Georgia Regnault.”



Following the presentation, **Celeste Brown** read a letter to Georgia from fellow Member **Lara Regnault** in celebration of this award:

I would like to tell you a story about a girl from New England, an American girl who married a Dutch man and came here to live. She bridged the culture gap. She “bloomed where she was planted.” She keeps on blooming. She is truly *At Home in Holland* and yet, after all the years, is still as American as the Rhode Island where she was born and raised.

We like to call Mom a “Wassenaar-Haagse” American. She fits everywhere. Mom and Dad raised my brothers and me with respect and love and the best of two worlds. We grew up in Holland, but celebrated Thanksgiving and the 4th of July and Halloween and waited for Sinterklaas to come that magic December night, and ate hot dogs and turkey and *frietjes*.

While being a “Super Mom” to Philip, Gander and me, she found time to dedicate herself >>

Announcements (cont.)

Continued from page 35

beginning of their careers. For tickets, go to: www.theenglishtheatre.nl
Wednesday, September 23 – Saturday, September 26 8:30 p.m.
Koninklijke Schouwburg: Het Paradijs Korte Voorhout 3, Den Haag

Cultural Opening of Scheveningen Pier

The iconic pier reopened for business in mid-July. It is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. with free admission. Not only is this a fantastic spot to photograph Scheveningen Beach, but it’s now also a great place to try new restaurants ranging from burgers and wine, street food, and meat cooked over an open fire. The cultural opening of The Pier will take place on Friday, September 25 and Saturday, September 26 with the 11th edition of the *Today’s Art Festival*, which includes music, visual art performances and installations. For more information, go to: www.pierscheveningen.com and www.todaysart.nl

36th International Kite Festival



Scheveningen is ideally situated for kite-flying with consistent prevailing winds blowing along the beach. During this annual free festival, international kite builders and enthusiasts come together to show their skills in the air in front of the Kurhaus. The skies will be filled with a breathtaking spectacle of kites of every shape and color including teddy bears, dragons, fish... you name it.

Scheveningen Beach Saturday, September 26 and Sunday, September 27
www.vliegerfeestscheveningen.nl

11th World Statues Festival in Arnhem

The World Statues Festival on Sunday, September 27 is an extraordinary event held annually in Arnhem’s inner city. It is one big party with over 200 living statues and plenty of street theatre. Street artists, made up to look like spectacular statues, flock to Arnhem from around the world. Although a small movement here and there is allowed as part of the act, the skill is mainly in standing totally still. www.worldstatues.nl



>> to the American Women’s Club and FAWCO and the American Community Council and...and... Whatever she does, it’s with New England determination, Dutch discretion and unparalleled enthusiasm.

And now to you Momma – so many women here have known you a very long time. You’ve shared love and laughter and sometimes tears. I join them in honoring you for what you’ve done and what you continue to do. But more than that Momma – for your courage – and “Who You Are.” Keep blooming, Momma. You make a difference! I love you!

~ Lara





Visit to Haagse Markt



Behind-the-Scenes

by Melissa White

As a young model, it is important to get in front of the camera as much as possible, both for experience and exposure. My 15-year-old daughter Ashlynn began the development phase of modeling in September 2014 with “test shoots” in which photographers were hired with the aim of helping to build her portfolio. In November, she did her first actual “job” (albeit, unpaid): a fashion shoot in The Hague for a local fashion designer for his “lookbook” (online catalog). It was an all-day shoot working along with two older (17 and 21 year-olds) and more experienced models, which was a great experience.

The weather was atrocious on the Saturday morning in early January when Ashlynn and I set off for her second fashion shoot. We didn’t know much about the shoot, but were impressed by the photographer’s website and liked the look of the theme of ‘40’s Grunge shown on the stylist’s “mood board” (collage of clothes, hair, make-up and poses). We were also sent a “call sheet,” which included contact details for all those involved and the address of the meeting point, which was a café in Amsterdam.

Ashlynn was expected at 10:30 a.m., so it was an early morning as we needed to catch a train at 9:15 and a ferry across the IJ around 10 a.m. Joanne Maalderink (www.joanne-m.nl), the 18-year-old stylist, greeted us at the café where she’d arranged for the use of a private room for the day. The shoot was for one of her two final projects at Another Academy, a fashion styling school in Amsterdam. She had borrowed clothes from three designers: Rianne Cornelissen (www.rccouture.nl), and recent design school grads Carmen Hendriks (www.carmenhendriks.com) and Nathalie Moens. I was thoroughly impressed with the individual pieces and how Joanne opted to put them together as outfits. I originally had planned on leaving to explore Amsterdam after seeing Ashlynn dressed in her first outfit, but since Joanne’s parents were staying, Ashlynn didn’t mind me sticking around to document her day.



Next to arrive was Mariska Virginia van Kasbergen with her large cases to deal with Ashlynn’s hair and make-up. While she was busy transforming Ashlynn’s look, Joanne and Romy Rijkenberg, the 19-year-old photographer, set off to look for ideal spots to shoot. Due to heavy rain and strong winds, it appeared that the shoot might have to take place in the busy café, but they persevered and managed to find a dry location to photograph Ashlynn in the first of two outfits. The space in the old wood workshop wasn’t ideal as it was drafty and crowded with equipment, but with some creative posing, Romy captured some awesome shots. I can’t imagine what

was going through this gentleman’s head while he continued to saw wood in his workshop as Romy photographed Ashlynn.

After lunch, it was time for a change of hairstyle. After I saw Mariska pick up a pair of scissors, I was relieved that she was merely cutting some stretchy cord for sewing Ashlynn’s hair up. She knew that bobby pins would never be strong enough to survive the intense winds, so she used a trick she’d learned at beauty school to ensure that Ashlynn’s hairstyle made it through the rest of the afternoon.

Although it was no longer raining, Joanne’s father still drove Ashlynn to the different spots around the old shipyards that Romy had chosen for photographing the remaining outfits. While the rest of us were comfortable in our warm winter coats, Ashlynn was nearly frozen but managed to keep a positive attitude during the long and hard day.

The location was ideal for the grunge theme as there was a lot of abandoned industrial equipment. It was amazing that we were just a short ferry ride away from Amsterdam Centraal. Despite the weather, it was a great day! It was fascinating seeing everyone working so hard and professionally. I am thrilled with the outcome and you’ll see why when you view Romy’s photos for yourself on page 56.



AWC and the Arts

by Jane Choy

Colour Unleashed: Modern Art in the Low Countries 1885-1914

In the brief period between 1885 and the outbreak of war in 1914, painting in the Low Countries experienced a modern Renaissance. Color was liberated from the chains of visual reality. Suddenly, grass could be a cool blue, a face could be bright purple, and trees could turn red. Color had become an autonomous means of expression. This was one of the most important developments in modern art history. The inspiration came from the French Impressionists and Neo-Impressionists, but the artists of the Low Countries added their own flavor.

Gemeentemuseum Den Haag has brought Dutch and Belgian masters together to reveal the interaction between the two countries. From the French 'godfathers of color' (Claude Monet, Paul Signac, Henri Matisse and Paul Cézanne and the like) to the masters of the Low Countries (Leo Gestel, Jan Toorop, Piet

RSVP for all Arts Activities directly on [AWC GroupSpaces.com](http://AWCGroupSpaces.com).
Direct any questions to jechoy@me.com

Mondrian, James Ensor, Jan Sluijters, Henry van de Velde and Rik Wouters), they will all be brought together in a true feast for the eye. Join us for a guided tour in English of this special exhibition.

Wednesday, October 14
11:15 a.m. – 12: 30 p.m.

Gemeentemuseum
Stadhouderslaan 41, Den Haag
€10 Members (€12.50 nonmembers) PLUS
Museum Entrance Fee (€ 13.50 euros or
free with Museumkaart)
Minimum 12 / Maximum 20
Cancellation deadline: October 5
[www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/988778)
[item/988778](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/988778)

Kees van Dongen, *Portret van Dolly*, 1909



The American Women's Club of The Hague invites you to drop in to the annual

2015

HOLIDAY BAZAAR
14–15 November 11:00–17:00
The Carlton Ambassador Hotel

All of your holiday shopping in one convenient location

Join the fun....
Adults €2
Children free -
Activities room €5

Santa Claus
Wine-tasting
Raffle prizes

St James
Voorschoten

the international Anglican Church in the Leiden area

every Sunday
Church Service

10.30 am
BSN Senior School
Voorschoten

with children's &
youth programme

Contact:
Ruan Crew (chaplain)
chaplain@stjames.nl
071-5613020

Tim Carroll (youth minister)
youthminister@stjames.nl
06-46697651

www.stjames.nl

Slot Loevestein

by Mary Adams

There are some weekends that beg to be taken advantage of. First, you need to check that your inside ingredients are the right mix: a good night's sleep, a positive attitude towards adventure, and a pocketful of change. Then confirm that the outside ingredients have the correct mix: a sunny day and a BMW motorbike gassed up in the garage. Voila! You are ready to explore. A few years ago, Jerry and I suited up and headed to the southeast corner of the province of South Holland.

We set the GPS for the back roads. Sitting behind Jerry with my head merrily bobbing along, I watched the Dutch farmland zoom past full of cows, sheep and birdlife. Fat pheasants strutted alongside the greenbelt by the road. Gulls circled overhead. Herons stalked their prey in the *singels* (small canals) in frozen poses. Black crows with punky gray head caps cawed to each other as they searched the roadside for a mid-morning snack. Sometimes it is good to have the bird's eye view because we arrived in Gorinchem at the water taxi stand only to find it was for foot passengers only.

Jerry kept our destination a secret from me. All I knew was that we needed to cross the river in Gorinchem, one of those Dutch town names that I struggle to pronounce. I usually attack the G with a hard stuttering gargle and the accents in the wrong places (Ga-Ga-Ga GORE- in-CHEM). So I got a chance to people watch and chant a mantra of "Gorinchem" while Jerry calculated a route across the river Waal. On such a nice day, there were people everywhere – pushing prams, cycling, walking, jogging, shopping, coffee drinking and playing in the green areas – wearing the least possible clothes in order to catch the most sun.

There was a lot of commercial and pleasure boat activity on the river. As we crossed the bridge, I swiveled my head to watch the sailboats, barges, container ships, rowboats, jet skis, sculls, little yachts, big yachts and even a river cruiser. When we arrived at our mystery destination and I climbed off the motorbike, I initially felt like a princess until I glanced in the mirror and saw that I had the worst case of helmet



hair ever. Somehow my hair had shrunk and was plastered to my head on only one side; the other side was a big pink bald spot. It was then I realized that although I had the adventurer's spirit, I lacked Indiana Jones' bag of equipment. I had no sunblock, hat or whip – only my cell phone, ATM card and some small change. I checked out Jerry as his helmet came off. His hair was flattened, but as he ran his fingers through it, it plumped up. I glanced back to the mirror and ran my fingers through my hair. Nothing. I licked my fingers and tried to twist a few pieces into curly princess tendrils. No luck. Shrugging it off and grabbing the hand of my prince, we walked to the castle.

Slot Loevestein (www.slotloevestein.nl) sits in a unique location where the rivers Meuse and Waal join together and the Dutch provinces of Gelderland, Brabant and South Holland meet. It was here that the knight Dirc Loef van Horne built his castle in 1361. *Loevestein* means Loef's stone house and *Slot* is the Dutch word for castle or fortified place. Van Horne chose this site because the Dutch have always been savvy businessmen and it was an ideal location to defend and to levy tolls from passing ships on both rivers.

As we walked through the gates, it was apparent that the Dutch continue to make good money from the castle in tourist dollars, for conventions and meetings, plus at the bed and breakfast. There was no line at the ticket counter so we decided to relax with lunch from the cafeteria. This was another great opportunity to people watch. Ice cream is always a big seller on a sunny day and this family made a colorful addition. It seems that all children received a paper hat upon entry. As I munched my sandwich and felt the sun on my bald spot, I wondered if I should ask for a princess crown. I chickened out at the ticket counter and proceeded to the *slot* with a very different sort of helmet than the boy in this picture!

Slot Loevestein has a rich 650-year history that is divided into three periods: the Middle Ages, the State Prison and the Dutch Waterline. The castle is very well presented to the public using a mixture of hands-on fun stuff, media presentations and exhibitions about its history. What I enjoyed most was reading about the clever inhabitants. The day was like touring the inside of a magician's magic trunk.

The Castle has an archaeological foundation to dig and document artifacts. In the first six months of excavation, all the team found was modern day bottle caps and trash, but they kept going and soon uncovered articles from medieval daily life. What seemed to surprise them the most was the different shoe fashions. One case was full of shoes from tradesmen and children as well as the ladies. This slip-on could be on the foot of any Dutch woman on the street today. Let's call it archeo-retro!

>> 50



Slot Loevestein (cont.)

Continued from page 49

Moving from fashionable feet to feats of valor, Hugo Grotius (Hugo de Groot) was born in the Dutch city of Delft in 1583 (note that *groot* is the Dutch word for large or big). At 11 years old, he studied law at Leiden University and was awarded a doctoral degree 5 years later. At 16, he wrote his first book. Today, Hugo is considered one of the founders of modern international law. He eventually became a Pensionary of Rotterdam, the equivalent of a mayoral office for the States of Holland.

By the early 1600's, religious disputes between moderate and orthodox faiths were escalating, resulting in rioting and unrest. After a princely (Maurice of Nassau) intervention, the church decided to ban the moderates. The States of Holland urged Hugo to write an edict for religious tolerance. Accordingly, Hugo, his family and servants were sentenced to life



in prison and transferred to Slot Loevestein. This photo of his chambers was taken in 1927.

Here is where the first cunning trick occurs. Apparently, Hugo read a lot of books while he was incarcerated. Books were collected and sent to him in a large wooden chest. In the beginning, the guards thoroughly inspected each delivery. Since the guards never



found anything in the chest except books, they grew lazy over time with their inspections. It was then that Hugo's wife Maria had a *groot* idea: why not put Hugo in the chest and have him delivered to friends in Gorinchem?

On March 22, 1621, Hugo Grotius escaped from Loevestein by hiding in the chest. After he reached his friend's house in Gorinchem, he disguised himself as a bricklayer and fled to Paris. Backed by the king of France, Hugo sent a request to the States of Holland asking for his wife and children to be sent to France. This request was granted on the condition that Hugo would never return to the Netherlands. *Sacre bleu!* He complied and lived happily before dying after a shipwreck at 62 years old.

It was lovely to see children playing with iron hoops, wooden stilts and at the stockade. Inside the castle, medieval costumes, swords and armor were available for both children and adults for additional fortress frolicking. As we explored the different rooms and listened to the historical data, we learned more about the Dutch Revolt (Eighty Years' War) with the Spanish and how the castle was involved in the struggle for freedom through another cunning trick. In 1570, the Spanish had stationed troops at Loevestein. A small band of *Watergeuzen* (Sea Beggars) came ashore disguised as monks asking for shelter for the night. Being Spanish and therefore Catholic, the monks were graciously allowed in and served dinner. However, under their robes the men were wearing weapons and they quickly killed their Spanish hosts and claimed the castle in the name of the Prince of Orange. From then on, the castle was a key military base for the Netherlands.

In 1672, French troops invaded. This involved yet another cunning trick: the Dutch Waterline. The concept was simple and yet highly effective: the Dutch flooded areas of land to thwart enemy advances. Imagine soldiers and their equipment trying to slog through a two to three mile-wide layer of water approximately 40-inches deep with the high ground defended by gunfire from forts and strongholds alongside the castle and rivers. The waterline was such a good

idea that 200 years later, the Dutch decided to build another one to protect Utrecht. Alas, the New Dutch Waterline has never been operational, even though it was on standby in WWI. Loevestein finally lost its function as a military stronghold with the passing of a Royal Decree in 1951.

Now the lookout towers are simply viewpoints for a serene countryside that hosts sheep and tourists. Swans calmly swim amongst the lily pads while children run by waving cardboard swords and shields. A ferry takes passengers across the river and the cackling gulls are all that is left of the Sea Beggars. It is a castle full of memories, secrets, tricks and empty chests. Maybe not all the magic was gone. Maybe I had Harry Potter's cloak of invisibility as I strolled through the *slot* in my motorcycle duds and my misshapen helmet hair, only noticed by a one local resident who shrieked and ran to the safety of the waterline.



One-of-a-Kind Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 19

Welcome (Back) BBQ

Fall is here, long-time Members have returned from summer holidays and Newcomers have joined the AWC. A BBQ is not only the perfect way to meet new Members and see old friends, but it gives our spouses/partners a chance to get involved. Hamburgers, veggie burgers and hotdogs will be grilled and served with side dishes. Soft drinks, beer and wine will be provided. Just bring yourselves!

**Saturday, September 26
6 – 10 p.m.**

AWC Clubhouse

**€10 Members or spouses
(€15 nonmembers)**

Minimum 10 / Maximum 35

Cancellation deadline: September 23

**[www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/
item/988300](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/988300)**



Dutch Cheese Tasting Class

The Dutch produce 1,425 million pounds (650 million kilos) of cheese every year, two-thirds of which is exported, making Holland the largest cheese exporter in the world. On average, the Dutch eat 30 pounds (14.3 kilos) of cheese per person per year. Holland is a real cheese country! As you may already know, the most popular cheeses from Holland are Gouda and Edam. Perhaps you aren't familiar with many of the other types of Dutch cheese: Frisian, Limburger, Kernhem, Bluefort, Old Amsterdam, Texelaar-Kollumer, Leyden, Leerdammer, etc. Join us to taste several of these cheeses and discuss them over a glass of Dutch wine.

Tuesday, October 6

1:30 – 3 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

€ 12 Members (€15 nonmembers)

Cancellation deadline: October 3

**[www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/
item/991555](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/991555)**



Cancellation Policy

Members may reserve a spot for an AWC tour, activity or event in advance. Payment is required within five business days of the reservation or before the deadline date (whichever is sooner) otherwise your name will be moved to a waitlist. It is the responsibility of the Member to notify the Club at awcthehague.finance@gmail.com to cancel a reservation prior to the cancellation deadline. Please note that there will be NO REFUNDS (no exceptions) after the cancellation deadline. Members may find a substitute in lieu of cancellation provided that arrangements are made with the tour, activity or event organizer. Members shall be held responsible for their guest reservations in accordance with this policy.

Newcomer Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 21

American recipes. Come see why everyone gives her class five stars!

Wednesday, September 23

10 a.m. – Noon

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

RSVP by September 20

**[www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/
item/988295](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/988295)**

Dutch Etiquette Class

One of the most important aspects of living in and traveling throughout the Netherlands is getting to know the people and their customs. You will quickly learn that what you might consider to be customary and polite may differ substantially from what is expected in The Hague. Do not

be misled by the sometimes seemingly brusque Dutch manner as behind it lies a friendly good humor and an old-fashioned dependability. This class is all about “Dutch Manners” and will help you to understand the differences in culture between the US and the Netherlands. You will learn more than just “facts,” such as the Dutch kiss three times, eat with knife and fork, cycle on the sidewalk and walk on the bike lane. **Mallery Clarke** and I ensure that you will have fun in this important class!

Wednesday, September 30

10 – 11:30 a.m.

FREE

RSVP by September 24

**[www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/
item/988299](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/988299)**

Dutch Products Class with Carol Slootweg



Special General Meeting (cont.)

Continued from page 28

the Club was defined as “persons or organizations who have been invited” to participate in the Club, but are not Members. Changes in the Constitution related to Affiliates include:

- a. Process for termination of Affiliate status
- b. Fees for Affiliates may be charged
3. Specifies that the By-Laws will define how the responsibility for Membership admission is managed.
4. Lists the minimum number of Board Members as five (was previously seven and our current Board structure has only seven positions).
5. “The Board shall consist of a majority of Regular Members.” This was from the November vote and allows Associate Members to serve on the Board.
6. “The President and Vice President shall be Regular Members.” This was from the November vote.
7. Changes number of proxies that a Member may vote at a General Meeting to one (previously was five).

By-Laws

1. Language is cleaned up and made consistent.
2. Adds Associate Members under the section on types of Members.
3. Increases the dues paid by women who become new Members after January 1 from 50% to 60%. Rationale is that the renewal date is September 30 so a significant portion (more than 50%) of

the year comes after January 1.

4. Changes Non-Resident Members to Non-Resident Affiliates.
5. Clarifies language in a number of places with respect to Associate Members and Affiliates.
6. Changes the process to create and the structure of the Nominating Committee, the goal being to place more control in the hands of the Membership.
7. Clarifies minimum number of Board Meetings per Club Year.
8. Specifies a deadline for when the Board must approve the Budget that they will propose to the Membership for each Club Year.
9. Redefines names and functions of four Board positions:
 - a. Secretary assumes oversight of all Membership functions, moving some responsibilities from the Membership and Club Administration Officer. Establishes a requirement to provide the Members a Membership Directory twice per year by November 1 and April 1.
 - b. Current Membership and Club Administration Officer title becomes Club Administrator
 - c. Current Club and Community Development Officer title becomes Club and Community Development
 - d. Current Communications Officer title becomes Communications

Message from the President (cont.)

Continued from page 8

when we announced the Distinguished Service Award for Georgia Regnault (please read Jessie Rodell’s article on page 40 for more about this award).

What a first meeting of our new Board! We dug right in and got a lot of work done, including reviewing, making a few changes, and approving the revised Constitution and By-Laws. We have added Laurie Martecchini as Board Member-At-Large. By serving with the Board, she will have knowledge of the help we need as she creates a team to serve as Volunteer Coordinators. We had a great and enlightening Board Team Building and Training Session. Thanks to **Celeste Brown** for helping with the planning and the day of facilitation.

I want to end this message with thanks to the Members of the past Board. **Linda Divon** and **Marsha Hagney** as President and Secretary, respectfully, made sure the meetings were run professionally and with information passed to each person in advance. **Teresa Insalaco** and **Jan de Vries** as Treasurer and Club and Community Development, respectfully, made sure money was raised, spent and distributed properly. No small task when you consider our two big events, Holiday Bazaar and 85 & Counting, as well as the money in and out for all the events, membership, bills, etc. **Patricia Raynolds** as Vice President created an activity-packed year with extra emphasis on evening activities for our

working Members. **Trena Cormier** as Communications Officer kept the eNews coming, Going Dutch going out, and Facebook messages flowing with last minute information to keep us informed. Now as a new mom, she is busier than ever. And my biggest thanks goes to **Rachel Koppers** as Membership and Club Administrator. When we said the Club was open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursdays, that usually meant Rachel was there. When we had a General Meeting, it was usually Rachel who bought the treats, came in early to set up, and was there late cleaning up. When you had a cup of tea or coffee, it was because Rachel ensured the supplies were there. When the dishwasher was replaced, the lightbulbs changed or the broken toilet fixed, it was because Rachel oversaw it all. And she has been there for me as I try to fill her role! My final thanks are to two ladies who are continuing to aid the Board, **Georgia Regnault**, Parliamentarian, and **Jessie Rodell**, Board Advisor. From the meetings we have had so far, I can tell you that I could not do without them.

See you soon,

Becky

Member Privacy

Please be reminded that the AWC Membership List is for AWC Member reference only and use of this information in any communication other than AWC official business is strictly prohibited. Members may not share the list with anyone other than another AWC Member in good standing and never to any third party.

The AWC takes care to protect Member information and adherence to this policy is critical to maintain Member privacy. Members are asked to report suspected misuse of the list to any AWC Board Member.

Did you know that any English-speaking woman may join the AWC?

Invite your English-speaking friends from other countries that have an affinity for Americans to join us today!



Classifieds

Counselling International

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Notice to Members Regarding eNews Distribution

A weekly electronic newsletter is sent to all AWC Members via GroupSpaces.com. If you have not been receiving your eNews, please contact Lynn at awcthehague.membership@gmail.com.

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The AWC is not responsible for accidents or injuries occurring at Club activities or on Club property. Sports and exercise instructors must carry their own liability insurance.

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- € 95 Men's Raleigh bike (old but sturdy)
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- € 75 Large Litton "Go Anywhere" microwave oven

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