



Going Dutch

2015
April



In
this
issue

TLC Dinner

Spring Kick Off

Top of the World

AWC Red, White & Blue Gala

American Women's Club of The Hague



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Going Dutch

April 2016

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



6

The New Year got off to a good start with our Spring Kick Off



36

The Clubhouse was transformed for a wonderful night of pampering for 22 women who needed a little extra TLC



56

Jan de Vries reclaimed the title of Chili Cook-Off Champ for the third time

5	Officers and Chairwomen
6	Spring Kick Off
8	Message from the President
9	April General Meeting
10	Letter from the Editor
12	Voting
14	Ongoing Activities
18	One-of-a-Kind Activities
22	AWC Red, White & Blue Gala
26	Activities Collage
28	Calendar
31	Dutch-American Friendship Day
32	The Dutch Daily
34	AWC and the Arts
36	TLC Dinner
38	Interview with Georgia
40	Slate of Officers
43	Announcements
46	Switzerland
49	Dory Ritchie
52	Classifieds
53	Index of Advertisers
53	Rates
54	Chili Cook-Off



AWC Clubhouse

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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.



Spring Kick Off



Message from the President

by Becky Failor

Red, White & Blue: the colors of the flag of our homeland, America, and our adopted land, the Netherlands. We have our Red, White & Blue Gala on April 16, where the AWC brings people from all lands together for a fun evening. I am looking forward to seeing many of you in your fine clothes, smiling, dining and dancing. And, of course, bidding on auction items so that we can raise funds for our three worthy charities. The proceeds of the Gala will go directly to the following Dutch registered ANBI beneficiaries (see page 22 for further details):

Look Good...Feel Better: Helps individuals deal with the appearance-related side effects of cancer treatments. This program is run by the MCH Antoniusshove in Leidschendam.

SPOSA Child: Supports and educates exploited young girls in Negros, Philippines. This *stichting* (charitable foundation) was started by AWC Member **Marilyn Tinsay**.

Stahili Foundation: Rescues and educates abused and poverty stricken children in Kenya. This foundation was started by AWC Member **Michelle Oliel**.

This Gala, with all the fun we will have and all the good works that will be done with the donations, could not happen without a LOT of hard work by the dedicated Gala Team. The Gala Co-Chairs are Board Member **Karla Kahn** and former Treasurer **Teresa Insalaco**. They are supported by their team consisting of **Mallery Clarke, Kathy DeBest, Sophie Dencher, Sunita Menon, Mary Ann Nation-Greenwald, Marilyn Tinsay and Jan de Vries**.



I am so pleased with the fresh look and feel in our Clubhouse. The new pictures, chairs and overall *gezellig* feel make it

more like home. This upgrading is thanks to the vision and efforts of **Rachel Koppers**, AWC Member and owner of **Binnenhuis Designs**, and two AWC Board Members, **Dominique Duysens** and **Sunita Menon**. I had to chuckle when I noticed they posted "family rules."



This month, as in every April, is our election of the incoming AWC Board for the next Club Year. My gratitude goes to the Nominating Committee led by **Celeste Brown** for giving us a great slate of candidates for you to consider. Please see the article on page 40 where you will find the nominees with an introduction to each person. Yes, you will see my name there as well. If you are unable to attend the meeting on April 14, please submit a proxy ballot (see following page).

Along with **Karla Kahn**, Club and Community Development Board Member, I was honored to represent the AWC at the FAWCO meeting in Frankfurt, Germany last month. Also at this conference were AWC Members **Celeste Brown, Georgia Regnault, Emily van Eerten** and **Anne van Oorschot**. It is encouraging to find out about other clubs who face the same issues we do, and how they survive and thrive. I am honored when other clubs ask for our ideas and know-how. The AWC was honored as a Diamond-level donor to the FAWCO Foundation Target Program: Free the Girls. As many of you know, **Johanna Dishongh**, who was previously our AWC President and recently moved to Saudi Arabia, is the FAWCO lead for the Target Program. Our fun Annual Handbag Auction in March raised money, once again, for this worthy program.

>>51

April General Meeting

by Roberta Enschede

At the AWC 85th & Counting Anniversary Celebration in May 2015, many of us were happily entertained by **Roberta Enschede** and **Emily van Eerten** when they performed a poetic tribute to the Club composed by Roberta. For those who missed it, here is your chance as they will do an encore performance at the Clubhouse. For those who saw their first performance, get your Kleenexes ready to wipe away a few more tears as you relive hearing the highlights of some of the most impressive ways the AWC has made a difference in our adopted community.

We will also hold an important vote to elect Officers for the 2016-2017 AWC Board (go to page 40 to meet the candidates). If you are a Member and are unable to attend this meeting, please submit a proxy ballot, available by email from the Front Office prior to April 12.



After the conclusion of the Club business, we invite everyone to join us for a potluck. Please RSVP on GroupSpaces and mention in the comments which dish you plan to bring (please plan on your dish serving around six to eight people).

Childcare will be available if it is requested for more than two children. Requests must be submitted to Becky Failor at president@awcthehague.org no later than April 12.

Thursday, April 14

Coffee: 10 a.m.

Meeting: 10:30 a.m.

Luncheon: Noon

AWC Clubhouse

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/990030

Membership

New Programs Chair Needed

Are you looking for a way to assist the AWC? We are looking for a new Programs Chair for the upcoming Club Year. Most of the duties for this position can be done on your own schedule from home either alone, with a co-chair or with a committee. Ideally the Programs Chair would be available to introduce the speakers at five General Meetings (typically the second Thursday of October 2016, December 2016, February 2017, March 2017 and June 2017). Please email **Dominique Duysens** at awcthehague.2ndvp@gmail.com if you are interested.

April Birthdays

Tina Tinch-Boshuijer	1
Vivian Jung	1
Amber Broughton	5
Mallery Clarke	6
Elizabeth de Libero	6
Susan Shaw	6
Polly Spinnler	6
Eileen Baker	19
Deborah Reagan	23
Vesna Southwick	23

Ramblings from the Editor

by Melissa White

You would think that after all these years, I would know how to answer a question that I encounter many times throughout the year: what is your occupation? When filling out an official government document, such as a tax return or a landing card upon arrival in a new country, I switch between “full-time mother” and the archaic “housewife,” neither of which fully expresses my role as the manager of our household. When meeting someone new, I usually explain that I’m a full-time mom and part-time magazine editor. While the editor job usually piques some interest, it’s amazing how quickly a person’s eyes can glaze over when I mention motherhood (or perhaps it’s actually fear in their eyes that I’m about to start

Having just one income meant we didn’t have the disposable funds that most of our friends had, but it was the right decision for me and my family then as it still is now. If you had asked me when I was 25 if I would be a full-time mom, I would have laughed so hard that I probably would have fallen off my chair. However, it is the choice that I made and if that means that I qualify as a “lady who lunches,” so be it.

I feel very fortunate to be surrounded with friends that have made similar sacrifices and others that work outside the home without judging those of us who don’t. I was fortunate to get to work with a group of like-minded ladies recently on the AWC Nominat-

That moment when you realize that being a stay-at-home mom means you never actually leave work. ~ Anonymous

discussing diapers even though my daughters gave those up well over a decade ago).

While I have joked that I sit around and eat bon-bons all day, I was quite taken aback when a friend told me that another woman had made a reference to non-working women as “ladies who lunch.” Of course, it is true that I enjoy an occasional lunch out with my friends, but my days are filled with more than just food and gossip. Even though this comment wasn’t directed at me, I was surprised how personally I took it and felt that I needed to speak up for women everywhere who don’t get paid to work.

So, I’d like to just say to that woman, “Please don’t label other women. Don’t assume you know us – us “ladies who lunch”; right or wrong, we all made decisions to get where we are and you can’t assume to know our stories.” Call me crazy, but I willingly chose to give up a good paying career in accounting to focus on starting a family long before we ever considered moving overseas.

ing Committee. I served on this committee many years ago and don’t recall having fond memories of the experience, so it was a bit begrudgingly that I accepted the invitation to serve this year. What a pleasant surprise – it was great fun! **Celeste Brown** did an excellent job keeping us on task and keeping me reeled in (I’m sure you can imagine that I have a tendency to ramble). After our first meeting in the Clubhouse, **Barbara Bremer** suggested that we consider meeting offsite instead. She opened up her lovely home and plied us with sweets and Prosecco. Perhaps you might assume that would mean that we’d never actually get anything done, but as you can see on page 40, we are very proud to present a full slate of candidates for the first time in several years. Being not only ladies who lunch, but also those who think outside the box, can pay off!

If you too are a lady who lunches, please consider joining the AWC Out to Lunch Bunch (see page 17) who visit a different area restaurant each month. *Eet smakelijk!*



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Voting in 2016 US Elections

by US Consulate General Amsterdam

Your Vote Counts!

Did you know that many US elections for House and Senate have been decided by a margin smaller than the number of ballots cast by absentee voters? All states are required to count every absentee ballot, as long as it is valid and reaches local election officials by the absentee ballot receipt deadline.

Registering to Vote

Follow a few simple steps to make sure you can vote in the 2016 US elections:

1. Request Your Ballot

Complete a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). **You must complete a new FPCA after January 1, 2016, to ensure you receive your ballot for the 2016 elections.** The completion of the FPCA allows you to request absentee ballots for all elections for federal offices (President, US Senate, and US House of Representatives) including primaries and special elections during the calendar year in which it is submitted. The FPCA is accepted by all local election officials in all US states and territories.

You can complete the FPCA **online** at www.FVAP.gov. The online voting assistant will ask you questions specific to your state. We encourage you to ask your local election officials to deliver your blank ballots to you electronically (by email, Internet download, or fax, depending on your state). Include your email address on your FPCA to take advantage of the electronic ballot delivery option. Return the FPCA per the instructions on the website. There will instructions on whether your state allows the FPCA to be returned electronically or if you must submit a paper copy with original signature. If you must return a paper version, please see below for mailing options.

2. Receive and Complete Your Ballot

States are required to send out ballots 45 days before a regular election for federal office and states generally send out ballots at least 30 days before primary elections. For most states, you can confirm your registration and ballot delivery online.

3. Return Your Completed Ballot

Some states allow you to return your completed ballot electronically and others do not. If your state requires you to return paper voting forms or ballots to local election officials, you can do so free of charge by personally bringing them to Consulate General Amsterdam in pre-paid postage return envelopes or in envelopes bearing sufficient domestic US postage and addressing them to the relevant local election officials. If it's more convenient for you, you can also return your FPCA or ballot to your local election officials via international mail or professional courier service at your own expense.

Researching the Candidates and Issues

Check out the FVAP links page for helpful resources that will aid your research of candidates and issues. Non-partisan information about candidates, their voting records, and their positions on issues is widely available and easy to obtain online. You can also read national and hometown newspapers online, or search the Internet to locate articles and information. For information about election dates and deadlines, subscribe to FVAP's Voting Alerts; FVAP also shares Voting Alerts via Facebook and Twitter.

Additional Help

If you have any questions about registering to vote overseas, please contact Consulate Amsterdam's Voting Assistance Officer at voteamsterdam@state.gov.

Remember, Your Vote Counts!

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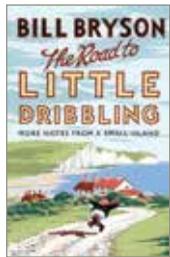
www.zoetermeer.bulthaup.nl

Ongoing Activities

Book Club: Daytime

The AWC Book Clubs 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 April Daytime Book Club selection is *The Road to Little Dribbling: Adventures of an American in Britain* by Bill Bryson:



Bill Bryson, a best-selling author of travel narratives, reexamines his love affair with his adopted Great Britain 20 years after his arrival and publication of *Notes from a Small Island*. It is probably safe to assume that most, if not all, AWC Members will find

themselves in Great Britain at some point during their travels and will find something familiar in Bryson's latest journey. Join us as we read his laugh-out-loud insights into the best (and worst) about Britain today.

Thursday, April 28
10 a.m.
AWC Clubhouse
FREE

Recap of the January – February Discussions

A Spool of Blue Thread: This quiet and undemanding novel of family life that extends over three generations is reportedly the last novel Anne Tyler will write. Most of the group found the novel to be enjoyable and containing hidden depths. Tyler hits her stride in her depiction of family life and its myths; her characterizations of old age, adolescence, and early childhood are detailed and well-drawn. Tyler skillfully moves in time

from the current generation of Abby and Red, their children and grandchildren back to the original marriage and the establishment of the family home by Red's parents during the Depression. Some dissent was voiced over the occasional anachronism and the loss of realism when the narrative thread demanded it. On balance, though, it was felt that this is a worthwhile novel with an interesting family story. Recommended.

My Brilliant Friend: The differences between the American family in the above recap and this selection, could not be starker. One is the history of a Baltimore family's climb out of poverty to middle-class affluence; the other, two Italian families' struggles in post-war Naples where it was difficult indeed to surmount one's neighborhood and culture. The first of a quartet of novels about the 35-year friendship of Lila and Lenu is packed with detail about growing up in poverty; about family loyalties and betrayals, and the visitation of the sins of the fathers upon their children. A constant tension exists in the struggles for money and status among Lila's and Lenu's families and friends. Will these two precocious young women ever be able to escape the neighborhood and their families to search for personal fulfillment? Many in the group will be reading the subsequent novels to find out.

Daytime Book Club Planning Ahead:

Thursday, May 26: *Between the World and Me*
by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Thursday, June 23: *The Children Act* by Ian McEwan

Thursday, July 28: *When Breath Becomes Air*
by Paul Kalanithi

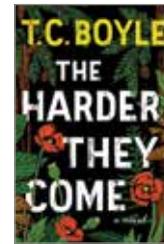
Evening Book Club Planning Ahead:

Wednesday, May 18: *Early Warning* by Jane Smiley

Wednesday, June 8: *Amnesia* by Peter Carey

Book Club: Evening

The April Evening Book Club selection is *The Harder They Come* by TC Boyle:



This is a powerful, gripping novel that explores the roots of violence and anti-authoritarianism inherent in the American character. Inspired by a true story, it offers psychological insights into the American psyche through the volatile con-

nections between three damaged people—an aging ex-Marine and Vietnam veteran, his psychologically unstable son, and the son's paranoid, much older lover—as they careen towards an explosive confrontation.

Wednesday, April 20
7:30 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse
FREE

Recap of the February Discussion

The Blazing World: If you are interested in modern art and philosophy, and like a strange novel told by many different narrators, pick up a copy of this novel. Though some narrators are more compelling than others, and the book descends too often into pretension, one must admire the author's mastery of her craft and the uniqueness of the story. An educational read, to be sure.

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 album 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



>> 16



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Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 15

Cranium Night

Everyone is good at something and Cranium is an adult team game that gives everyone a chance to be a “game hero.” Up to four teams compete using charades, puppeteering, sculpting, drawing, word play and trivia—14 skills in all. It’s fast-paced, lively and a lot of fun. And, it’s perfect for the AWC because “the more the merrier.” We’ve designated the second Friday of most months as Cranium Night. Come alone or bring a partner, but please be on time—we’ll begin promptly. Contact **Suzanne Dundas** if you have any questions. Mark your calendars for our next date: May 13.

Friday, April 1 NEW DATE

7:30 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

Free

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/999569

Dinner Club

Sign up to share dinner at home with AWC friends and spouses/partners. **Roberta Enschede** 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 hostess how they want to structure the meal.

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.

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: Saturday, July 2. Contact Roberta at robertaenschede@yahoo.com to join in the fun.

Saturday, April 30

Locations and Meals Vary

Sign-up deadline: April 23

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/991386

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, April 26

Noon – 2 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

Visitors Welcome

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1022908

Out To Lunch Bunch

If you’re interested in making new friends and exploring new restaurants throughout The Hague, then this is the group for you! Rather than setting one specific day of the month, we will change our days each month in order to accommodate a variety of schedules. If you have a favorite restaurant in your neighborhood you’d like to share with the group, please contact **Kathy DeBest** at debestjk@comcast.net. This month we will venture to the outskirts of Wassenaar to Restaurant De Landbouw Wassenaar (www.delandbouwwassenaar.nl). This restaurant can easily be reached by Bus 44 or 45 from Den Haag Centraal.

Tuesday, April 12

12:15 p.m.

De Landbouw

Zijdeweg 58, Wassenaar

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1040141



Pilates

Pilates is a form of exercise developed by Joseph Pilates which emphasizes body development through core strength, flexibility and body awareness. Pilates works the deeper, more stabilizing muscles of the spine and the abdominal wall. Doing Pilates makes you stronger, longer and leaner. **Ineke Latour**, certified STOTT Pilates® Instructor and AWC Member, will teach Pilates classes at the AWC Clubhouse. You will be monitored

and corrected to enjoy responsible, safe and effective Pilates training. Email Ineke to sign up for these classes and pay her directly. Bring your own towel; Ineke will supply mats and props. All levels are welcome. Participants should arrive at the Club at 10:15 a.m. so class can start promptly at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

€ 15 per class Members

(€ 20 per class nonmembers)

Min 6 / Max 10

Contact: Ineke at

Latour@globalswing.com

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 sub list, contact **Molly Boed** at mollyboed@yahoo.com.

Tuesdays thru April 19

1 – 3 p.m.

Dekker Tennis Courts

Veerpolder 14, Warmond

>> 27

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One-of-a-Kind Activities

by Mallory Clarke

Dutch Royalty and Democracy



Koningsdag (King's Day), the celebration of King Willem-Alexander's birthday, is at the end of April. We thought this would be a good time to explain the relationship between royalty and democracy (government, parliament and the King) in the Netherlands. How does it work and who is the boss? Who better to teach us than our very own **Greetje Engelsman-Postma**?

Wednesday, April 6

10 a.m. – Noon

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1034222

RSVP directly on AWC GroupSpaces.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.

Hungry Birds Food Tour



If you are a foodie, or even if you are not, you won't want to miss this unique walking tour of one of the most vibrant areas of Amsterdam: De Pijp (The Pipe). This area has grown into a popular, hip neighborhood which offers many different types of foods. During this food adventure we will try Dutch street foods as well as tastes from colonial influences (Indonesian and Surinamese). Our Hungry Birds (www.hungrybirds.nl) guides/storytellers will introduce us to several (at least 10!) small family eateries and local places with personality – the kind of places that are run with the owner's hearts and where locals are happy to line up. This is truly a fantastic way to explore Amsterdam and to connect with people over tasty foods, drinks and inspiring stories. Great for spouses, too! We will travel to Amsterdam via the train. Travel and meeting information will be given to the participants the week prior to the event.

Saturday, April 9

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

€ 70 Members or Spouses

(€ 75 nonmembers)

Minimum 8 / Maximum 14

Cancellation deadline: March 26

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1031376

Cards and Boxes with Jaimie

Curious about card-making? Do you like to give small treats and want to make them more memorable? Then this evening is for you! In this fun and easy workshop taught by AWC Member **Jaimie Keppel-Molenaar**, you'll make four mini-cards with coordinating envelopes from your choice of colors and designer series paper. We'll wrap up the night with making and decorating a small and festive gift box. Come get creative with us!

Wednesday, April 13

7 – 8:30 p.m.

€ 10 Members (€ 13 nonmembers)

Minimum 2 / Maximum 8

Cancellation deadline: April 6

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1035472



Visit to Keukenhof Castle and Gardens

Our visit will start with a guided tour of the Keukenhof Castle (www.kasteelkeukenhof.nl). This castle is situated next to the Keukenhof Gardens, in the heart of the flower bulb region known as *de Bollenstreek*. It was constructed in 1642 as a manor house during Holland's Golden Age and was used as a summer country retreat. The owners fell into poverty at the beginning of 19th century. In the mid-19th century, the manor house was sold to a rich family and was transformed into a castle. We will learn about the history of the castle as well as its collection of paintings and furniture. After the tour, we will enter the Keukenhof Gardens (www.keukenhof.com) and have lunch at our own expense. Following lunch, you will experience the most beautiful spring garden in the world! More than 7 million tulips, daffodils and hyacinths fill over 32 hectares with color and fragrance. The pavilions feature 30 alternating flower and plants shows. The history of the Keukenhof Gardens goes back to the 15th century. In 1857, landscape architect Jan David Zocher and his son Louis Paul redesigned the gardens in the English style. Keukenhof was opened to the public in 1950. We will walk through the gardens and discover the latest

>> 20



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FOR SHELL PEOPLE WE DRIVE WITH SHELL RULES

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

Continued from page 19

trends in gardening and get new ideas from the seven inspirational gardens. This year's theme is the Dutch Golden Age.

We will meet at Starbucks at Den Haag Centraal Station (DHCS) to take the train to Leiden Centraal (bring your OV-*chipkaart*), and then catch a special express bus to Keukenhof (this ticket will be purchased in conjunction with your Keukenhof Gardens entrance ticket). Please buy your ticket online in advance for the Keukenhof Gardens: www.keukenhof.com (unless you are driving, choose the € 24 Combi Ticket which includes the bus from Leiden). We will pay for the tour of Keukenhof Castle at the door (€ 7.50 for regular entry or free with *Museumkaart*).

Thursday, April 21
Meet at DCHS at 9 a.m.
Maximum 15
www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1030872



Farmer's Cheese Making Workshop

We will visit a cheese farm where we will be shown how cheese is made according to traditional methods. This informative hands-on workshop will show you the total process of cheese making. During the 1.5-hour workshop, you will see, learn and taste everything about farmer's cheese, including "grass cheese" which is made of milk, fresh from the cow. You will have a chance to taste different kinds of cheeses and get information on how to store your cheese the best way. We will be picked up from the train station by the farmer in his hay wagon and also dropped off there. After the workshop, we will have lunch at Kasteel Woerden (at your own expense).

Wednesday, May 11
10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Boerderij de Boerinn, Kamerik
€ 30 Members (€ 35 nonmembers)
Minimum 10 / Maximum 25
Cancellation deadline: May 1



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.

2nd Annual Trivia Quiz Night

Join us for a lively evening guaranteed to be fun-filled with laughter, some friendly competition, and prizes for the winners. You don't have to be a master of trivia to play because you'll combine your particular area of expertise with others. We're keeping it simple: eat dinner beforehand, but bring some beer and snacks if you'd like. There'll be soda and wine at the Clubhouse. Come with your own team of six or meet new friends once you arrive. We'll need a minimum of two teams (12 participants) to sign up. The fee covers wine and prizes.

Saturday, May 21 NEW DATE
7:30 p.m. sharp



€ 8 Members or Partners
(€ 12 nonmembers)
Minimum 12 / Maximum 30
Cancellation deadline: May 19
www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1028989

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www.awcthehague.org/site/newcomers/business-links

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2016 Red, White & Blue Gala

by Karla Kahn



Galas bring to mind glittering gowns and high heels. Ravishing men in tuxedos looking more like a young Sean Connery than their usual bald and slightly beer-bellied selves. Three-course dinners. Auctions and raffles. Speeches from sponsors. Requests for donations. These are the ingredients of many a charity event, and they have stood the test of time. Right about now, you are asking yourself “so why should I attend another fundraising gala? What’s in it for me?”

I believe giving feeds the spirit, lifts us out of our own daily problems, and reminds us of the power and influence of many when they come together for a cause. Yes, there will be dancing. Yes, there will be champagne. And yes, we will raise an auction paddle. We will also choose to participate – in perhaps an uncomfortable tux or borrowed dress – for a common goal to support our local community and beyond. Each of us knows someone impacted by cancer. We are well aware of sexually exploited girls and abused children in the world, and we know we must help break the cycle of abuse. I am personally and proudly committed to spend an evening in full body Spanx for a chance to support these women and children.

Day-to-day, we are focused on our own challenges. Sometimes it’s nice to lift our heads and remember we are part of a greater community and when we are united, we can make a difference. Please invite your friends, family and neighbors as the public is welcome to attend and support our beneficiaries of the Red, White & Blue Gala.

>> 24



Red White & Blue

CHARITY GALA

Sponsored by The American Women's Club of The Hague

Nieuwspoord
Lange Poten 10
2511 CL Den Haag

Saturday, 16th April, 2016

Reception and Auction Viewing 18:30
Dinner 20:00
Music and Dancing

Benefitting

Look Good..Feel Better
MCH Antoniusshove
www.mchaaglanden.nl

SPOSA Child
www.sposachild.com

Stahli Foundation
www.stahli.org

Tickets

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40 euros non-members

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tables purchased by 1st March

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www.redwhiteandbluegala.com
info@redwhiteandbluegala.com

2016 Red, White & Blue Gala

Continued from page 23

Look Good Feel Better

I am from "The South" where wearing a dress, sporting two coats of mascara, hot-rolled hair and a good healthy dose of pink lipstick is standard attire to pick up a loaf of bread at the Piggy Wiggly. That Southern layer of polish has cracked for me since arriving in Holland. I admit that these days I tend to think "I hope I don't run into anyone I know at Albert Heijn this morning. I still have on yesterday's mascara, a cheap Hema sweatshirt and marginally brushed hair!"



What you may not realize is there are individuals suffering from the physical and psychological effects of chemotherapy who wish they had these thoughts. They wish they had the physical and emotional strength to make the trip to their local store and to look and feel like a regular person again. Their bald head and missing eyelashes and eyebrows announces to everyone that they are a cancer patient. Cancer can rob a woman of her energy, appetite and strength, but it doesn't have to take away her self-confidence. Look Good Feel Better (LGFB) workshops at MCH Antoniushove in Leidschendam help women cope with the distressing and sometimes alarming appearance side effects of cancer treatments, including changes in skin, nails, and hair loss that often leave patients unable to recognize the person looking back at them in the mirror. Professionals share their expertise in wig, scarf and hat fitting, and how to apply makeup to mimic eyebrows and eyelashes. LGFB Workshops create a sense of support, confidence, courage and community. This is your chance to help women with cancer face everyday life with dignity and self-assuredness. Support LGFB with a donation or purchase Red, White & Blue Gala tickets. www.lookgoodfeelbetter.nl



To make a donation or purchase tickets to the Red, White & Blue Gala:
www.redwhiteandbluegala.com

SPOSA Child

AWC Member Marilyn Tinsay is the founder of SPOSA Child. Marilyn saw the need to rescue sexually abused girls first-hand in her native Philippines. She is seriously committed to generating funds for the educational support of children traumatized by sexual or other physical abuses. Marilyn personally dedicates this program to girls who may someday become mothers and will nurture their children and community with the right values. These are the girls who will help to end this cycle of abuse. With sponsorship and donations, SPOSA Child works to meet their educational, counseling and, at times, medical needs. Marilyn's goal is to provide a complete education with sustainable funding that provides long-term commitment to each child (eight to ten years of schooling) until they can support themselves.



Marilyn works tirelessly with local non-profit organizations in Negros that facilitate the operations. These are composed of volunteer professionals (doctors, lawyers, psychotherapists, nuns, nurses, law enforcement agents, teachers and social workers) who volunteer their time and effort to ensure the total care and protection of such children. SPOSA Child was the recipient of the FAWCO Foundation's Hope Through Education Development Grant through the work of the AWC's nomination by AWC Member Mary Adams. Our Club's personal connection with SPOSA through Marilyn's AWC Membership and FAWCO grant creates a sense of local family with a global reach to support these girls. We are proud to be a partner in her funding goals through the donations and proceeds from the Red, White & Blue Gala. www.sposachild.com

continued on p 50>>

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

~ Nelson Mandela





Communications Team

Lunch at Handbag Museum

Chocolate Workshop



Modern Art at Gemeentemuseum



Meeting Director of Handbag Museum



Farewell for Melanie Stringfellow



Making Chocolate



Tour of Sligro

Our Busy Spring

Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 17

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

Walky Barky

Walky Barky is the dog version of Walkie Talkies. Join us with your pooch for walks in the woods or for some fun outings where we can bring our dogs along. We have started a closed Facebook Group which all AWC Members with dogs are invited to join: www.facebook.com/groups/walkybarky. Since we are a new group, we'd really appreciate your input on how often you'd like to join in as well as suggestions for dog-friendly places to walk.



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.

Thursday, April 7
9 – 11 a.m.

Ramona's House
FREE

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/785299



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APRIL 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>Upcoming Spring Events: May 11: Farmer's Cheese Workshop May 12: Installation of Officers May 21: Trivia Quiz Night May 25: Royal Stables Tour</p>			1	2	Cranium Night 7:30 p.m.
3	4 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	5 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	6 Pilates 10:15 a.m. Democracy and Royalty in the Netherlands 10 a.m.	7 Wassenaar Coffee and Conversation 9 a.m. AWC Board Meeting 10:30 a.m. Highlights of Mauritshuis' Storage Depot with Jane Choy 6:15 p.m.	8	9 Hungry Birds Food Tour 11 a.m.
10	11 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	12 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. Out to Lunch Bunch 12:15 p.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m. DFAS Art Lecture: Leonardo's Hand 7:45 p.m.	13 Pilates 10:15 a.m. Guided Tour of CATWALK! 11:30 a.m. Cards and Boxes with Jaimie 7 p.m.	14 Coffee 10 a.m. General Meeting and Member Potluck Luncheon 10:30 a.m.	15	16  2016 Red, White & Blue Charity Gala 6:30 p.m.
17	18 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	19  Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m. Dutch - American Friendship Day	20 Pilates 10:15 a.m. Evening Book Club 7:30 p.m.	21 Tour of Keukenhof Gardens and Castle 9 a.m.	22 Earth Day Passover	23
24	25 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	26 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. Heart Pillow Workshop Noon AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	27  King's Day	28 Daytime Book Club 10 a.m.	29	30 Dinner Club TBD



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DO GOOD THINGS!

Visit The FAWCO Foundation's online Backing Women Boutique to support "Free the Girls" which provides help for women and girls rescued from sex trafficking in developing countries. Net proceeds will be donated to the project.



FIND THE BOUTIQUE ON WWW.FAWCOFOUNDATION.ORG/BACKINGWOMENBOUTIQUE

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Dutch-American Friendship Day

by Roberta Enschede

Two hundred and thirty-four years ago, on the 19th day of April, the United Provinces recognized the independence of the United States of America. On October 8 of that same year, the US and the United Provinces signed the Treaty of Amity and Commerce, the longest standing treaty to which the US is a party. Subsequently, the Dutch then loaned the young nation money to sustain the American Revolution.

Who we are and what we have become is rooted in our Dutch heritage. John Adams, our second President and first ambassador to the Netherlands lived in The Hague. In fact, the very first embassy building our country ever owned was located at Fluwelen Burgwal 18 in a house he purchased and said was "suitable for a *Hotel Des Etats-Unis*." Now it is the site of a city parking garage.

More than a century earlier, the Pilgrims lived in Leiden for 11 years from 1609 to 1620 where they were granted religious and press freedom. It was from Leiden that they began their voyage to the vast continent they said "was fruitful and fit for habitation." On Thanksgiving, we sing a Dutch hymn most people think is American: *Wilt Heden Nu Treden (We Gather Together)*. The Presidents Adams, Bush and Obama were all descended from the Leiden Pilgrims.

Our sixth US President, John Quincy Adams, and his brother Charles Francis attended

Leiden University "to pursue their studies of Latin and Greek under the excellent masters." Presidents Martin Van Buren, Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin Delano Roosevelt directly trace their ancestry to the Provinces of Gelderland and Zeeland.

Other Americans who have shaped and continue to shape our country also have roots in this nation: Walt Whitman, poet; Herman Melville, novelist; Thomas Alva Edison, inventor; Humphrey Bogart, Dick van Dyke, and Henry, Jane and Peter Fonda, actors; Bruce Springsteen, singer; Walter Cronkite, newsman; Eleanor Roosevelt, human rights activist; General (retired) David Petraeus; and the list goes on!

To honor the contributions of the Dutch nation to the American nation, the founders of OAR ~ Overseas Americans Remember submitted a resolution of Dutch-American Friendship on the occasion of the Bicentennial of Dutch-American Relations in 1982. The US Senate and House passed it as joint resolution HJ 410 and created a Day of Dutch-American Friendship. In 2006, on the 225th anniversary, OAR submitted an amended resolution and it was passed as HR 89 under the sponsorship of Pete Hoekstra (R-MI) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD). HR 89 ensures that Dutch-American Friendship Day would be an ongoing commitment rather than merely a single day to honor the Bicentennial.



Each year OAR commemorates Dutch-American Friendship Day and honors the contributions of the Dutch nation and people to our American heritage. This month's commemoration will occur in cooperation with the US Embassy. The AWC will also focus on Dutch-American Friendship Day at the Red, White & Blue Gala on April 16.

The Dutch Daily

by Eileen Harloff

Dutch Conductor for New York Philharmonic

Although the Netherlands is small in size, its outreach is broad and its citizens continue to feature in many fields outside its borders. It has recently been announced that Amsterdam-born Jaap van Zweden has been named conductor of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra beginning in September 2018. Now 55 years old, van Zweden began his career at the age of 19 as concertmaster of the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra and violin soloist after studying at the Conservatorium in Amsterdam and the Juilliard School in New York. Changing from concertmaster to conductor is not usual in the music world. For van Zweden, after his family, music dominates his life, and his transition has met with acclaim. He has directed orchestras throughout the world, and in 2008 was enthusiastically appointed director of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, a post he has since filled along with leading the Hong Kong Philharmonic.

As an aside, I recently saw a program on Dutch TV about the daily life of van Zweden, which showed another side of this multi-talented man. He and his wife, Aaltje, have four children, one of whom is autistic. Some years ago, they established a privately-funded foundation which has developed programs in which music plays an important role in help-



Photo by Hans van der Woerd

ing autistic children realize their potential and abilities. In August 2015, a dream came true when Papageno House (which you might recall as a recipient of proceeds from the AWC Hearts & Minds Gala 2012) was opened in Laren, where daytime activities are offered to autistic children and their families, and a special area is available for independent living. The latter is especially praised by their son, who is eager to try it out.

The van Zweden family is looking forward to their new home in New York City, where not only conducting but fundraising will be a further challenge that will undoubtedly be met with enthusiasm and vigor.

Flying Tractors

In the near future it will be possible for farm-

ers to spray and/or water as well as apply fertilizer to their fields while busy at other work, or just taking a rest. The means of doing so is being developed by the Osse Group in Almelo, a company “that supports and facilitates the development of innovative techniques, products or solutions” in the steel industry. At the request of a small group of organic farmers, a “flying tractor” has been developed and is currently being tested; it is expected to be on the market within a year. This invention is actually a drone measuring 8 feet long (2.5 meters) with 8 propellers and a spray installation underneath. It is electrically powered and can till up to 325 pounds (150 kilograms) of earth. Moreover, this marvel can load itself at its base station and reload in the field without human help. The coordinates of the irrigation or fertilizing pattern can be programmed in advance, and the tractor can work day and night without stopping. The cost of the finished product is estimated to be € 60,000. It is interesting to note that a similar mechanism has been developed in China, but it is much smaller and can only till 11 pounds (5 kilograms) of earth.

And the Winners Are

Four winners of a contest organized by The Hague for “innovations that contribute to a better world and create new job opportunities” have been named by the Alderman for Urban Economy. The top prize winner, who received an award of € 35,000, was the Foundation North Sea Farm which will produce seaweed off the coast of Scheveningen in cooperation with local businesses, thereby creating new opportunities for marine enterprises. The second prize of € 20,000 was awarded to Zonnebrand Zonder Rommel (Sunburn without a Mess – loosely translated) for the development of protection from ultraviolet rays for the young by way of a natural filter. The third winner, with prize money of € 10,000, was Urban Mining with Credit, a start-up whose aim is to promote recycling of plastic and electronic apparatuses, and reduction of household waste. The student prize of € 5,000 was given to Edibles, an online market place for finding a use for “unloved food,” usually visually unattractive foods that would otherwise be thrown away.

In Short...

Ninety-one-year-old former US President Jimmy Carter ascribes his cure of cancer of the liver and the brain to a medicine that comes from a pharmaceutical company in Oss, the Netherlands. This biotechnical medicine, called Keytruda, is a form of immune therapy whereby the body itself attacks the cancer cells, unlike the more traditional “shot gun” chemotherapy.

In a past issue, I reported on Boyan Slat, the 21-year-old former Delft student who invented a system of collecting and disposing of plastic that is floating around in large quantities in the world’s oceans, thereby stifling ocean creatures and endangering shipping. Now Slat’s foundation, The Ocean Cleanup, has been given permission to install his invention some 14 miles (23 kilometers) off the coast of Scheveningen this spring. He will be testing the installation as well as its durability.

Nina Gantz, a 28-year-old Dutch graduate of the National Film and Television School in London won a BAFTA – the British Academy of Film and Television Arts’ highest honor – for her short animation film, *Edmond*, at the recent awards ceremony in London. Through puppet animation, the film tells the story of Edmond, a man who loves those around him so much he wants to eat them. BAFTA awards are similar to the Oscars in America; winning one is a giant step forward in the film world. Nina’s response to her award was, “Now even Leonardo di Caprio knows who I am.”



AWC and the Arts

by Jane Choy

RSVP for all Arts Activities directly on AWC GroupSpaces.com.
Direct any questions to jechoy@me.com

Highlights of Mauritshuis' Storage Depot

Tour by Jane Choy, Docent

Through May 8, the Mauritshuis will display works that are usually hidden from public view. Only 300 items, which is relatively few compared to other art museums, remain behind closed doors in the Mauritshuis' storage depot. They are often used as replacements, for instance, when a piece goes into restoration or is loaned to another museum for an exhibition. Featuring 52 paintings, the behind-the-scenes exhibition *In and Out of Storage* will answer many frequently asked questions including: what kinds of paintings are kept in storage, how did they end up there and why aren't they hanging in the galleries? Highlights, as well as some low points, will be on show. If you don't have a *Museumkaart*, save time by buying your entrance ticket online in advance at www.mauritshuis.nl.

Thursday, April 7

6:15 – 8 p.m.

Mauritshuis

Museum Plein 29, Den Haag

€ 12.50 Members (€ 15 nonmembers)

PLUS Museum Entrance Fee (€ 14 or free with *Museumkaart*)

Minimum 10 / Maximum 15

Non-refundable

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1032237



Photo by: Ivo Hoekstra

Guided Tour of CATWALK!

The Rijksmuseum's fashion collection totals some 10,000 items. For the first time, the museum presents six galleries showcasing a large selection of this diverse collection in an exhibition designed by world-renowned Dutch photographer Erwin Olaf. Our guided tour will show the most beautiful items of clothing and accessories, and give us an idea of the way in which fashion has developed over the centuries. Dedicated to fashion of the Dutch from 1625 to 1960, this exhibit starts with garments worn by members of the Frisian branch of the house of Nassau in the Golden Age. It will feature vibrantly colored French silk gowns and luxurious velvet gentlemen's suits of the 18th century and classically-inspired Empire dresses and bustles of the 19th century, before culminating in 20th-century French *haute couture* by Dior and Yves Saint Laurent.

Bianca du Mortier, Rijksmuseum Curator of Costumes, explains, "The garments presented in this exhibition reflect the stories of the people who wore them. In fashion, the choices of the wearer count – they make him or her a trendsetter or a follower. Even today the clothes of the very rich and powerful always convey a conscious or unconscious message. In that respect, nothing has changed over the last 330 years."



Photo by: Carola van Wijk

We will meet at Den Haag Centraal Station (DHCS) to train and tram to the museum (meeting time still to be determined). For those interested, we can have lunch at the museum café (at own expense) following the tour. If you don't have a *Museumkaart*, save time by buying your entrance ticket online in advance at www.rijksmuseum.nl.

Wednesday, April 13

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Rijksmuseum

Museumstraat 1, Amsterdam

€ 10 Members (€ 12.50 nonmember)

PLUS Museum Entrance Fee (€ 17.50 or free with *Museumkaart*)

Minimum 8 / Maximum 15

Cancellation deadline: April 5

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1043539

Tour of the Royal Stables

The Royal Stables are responsible for preparing and providing all transport for the Royal Family. In the past this was just horses and carriages, but now the Stables also deal with cars, trains and aircraft. The best known of their carriages is the Golden Coach (De Gouden Koets), which was a present from the people of Amsterdam to Queen Wilhelmina on her ascension to the throne at the age of 18 in 1898. The Golden Coach is made of timber, which is covered with a layer of gold



leaf. The pictures on the coach depict many allegorical symbols. The Golden Coach is used only once per year on Prinsjesdag, the opening of Parliament on the third Tuesday in September. Join us for an exclusive visit to this heritage-listed site in The Hague that is not normally open to the public. Please bring a valid ID with you.

Wednesday, May 25

2 – 4 p.m.

Royal Stables

Hogewal 17, Den Haag

€ 10 Members

(€ 12.50 nonmembers)

Minimum 10 / Maximum 25

Cancellation deadline: May 12

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1026238

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TLC Dinner

by Pamela Pruijs-Bott

On Saturday, February 13, the first TLC Dinner was held at the AWC Clubhouse. One of the guests, Ingrid Schippers, wrote an article for her blog which expresses well the sentiments of those who attended. As you read her words below, I hope you will feel proud of the contribution many of you made to make this event a success.

As an ex-expat, I've seen my share of Dutch and American clubs around the world. The social ground rules in these clubs is practically everywhere the same, no matter where you are.

The goal is to have a homestead abroad and meet like-minded people. The activities, tennis tournaments, brunches and charity events are similar in each country: baking cakes, holding auctions, the occasional charity dinner to raise money for the less fortunate are on the social menu of all.

To be honest, I have at times felt a bit awkward about the charity events. To sit at a dinner with other richly dressed people. To walk out of an Oberoi Hotel in India where the luxury is extravagant and then be confronted with countless homeless people made me feel a bit out of place, part of the wrong movie so to speak.

I did therefore not really know what to expect when I was invited to a Valentine's dinner on Saturday, February 13, organized by the American Women's Club of The Hague; not only because charity dinners make me feel awkward, but also because this time the charity was for the people invited.

A group of women from the American Women's Club had put on their aprons to cook 22 other women a lovely three-course dinner, served on beautifully laid out tables, covered with white little paper hearts, candles glowing, wine flowing and each guest receiving presents chosen with the greatest care and thoughtfulness. A special Valentine's dinner for 22 women, who had gone through a rough roller coaster ride over the past time, because of divorce, illness, financial issues, or caring for others.

It took only a little getting used to, to find and share the stories of survival; stories you would never have suspected behind the facade of daily life, stories you would hardly be able to believe when you read about them in a book. Honest stories about real life. Stories told by a group of brave beautiful women, each in their own right.

In daily life we don't easily show our wounds, fearing rejection or judgment, but here, at the Valentine's dinner, sharing deep-felt experiences was unique and intensely healing. For once it was the tears that made the day.

Chapeau (hats off) ladies of the American Women's Club who organized this and *chapeau* to all who shared their stories. Thank you for having the courage, for showing the love, for stepping out of the box. This very, very special Valentine's eve, gave me hope we can make this, our world, a better place.

A Thank You From Georgia Regnault

From the candles welcoming us down the driveway, to the champagne cocktail time, to the delicious, exceptional dinner, to the cordial service, the door prizes, and the second bag of goodies to take home, including a Valentine's card from Becky, it was a perfect evening – emotional sometimes, but happy, too! A true TLC evening. Congratulations to Pam and her "girls" for planning, carrying out, and pampering the 22 women present! A new AWC tradition has been born. Thank you all!



Interview with Georgia Regnault

by Vera de Jonckheere

Georgia Regnault Committed to Expats

Do what you can with what you have, anywhere.

A difficult job market and a sense of adventure brought Georgia Smith, a young mathematician, from Rhode Island to the Netherlands; love made her stay.

For over 50 years, this Dutch-American has dwelled outside the US, but the *New York Times* is still her “daily treat.” She also maintains her commitment as a volunteer for expats in The Hague.

Georgia and husband Peter live in Benoordenhout. Because of his serious illness – MSA: multiple system atrophy, a degenerative neurological disorder – they moved three years ago to an apartment near the William Royaardsplein. From the front, she enjoys stunning views of the Waalsdorpervlakte; at the back is the skyline of The Hague, where similarities to Manhattan can be discovered with a little imagination.

New York City was her first ambition as a fresh graduate from Mount Holyoke College. In 1964, however, it was difficult to find a job in her field. “Two aspects worked against me; I was a female and a mathematician. At a bank I was told that they would hire 40 graduates of whom one must be a woman and another black.” She smiles sympathetically.

She realizes that her study was not at the time the best choice, but is nonetheless grateful for the way of thinking and the organizational logic that she gained. She accepted a one-year position as a secretary at a Dutch student travel agency in NYC. After that year, she was offered free passage to the Netherlands, which she grabbed with both hands. She initially stayed with the parents of a colleague in the Statenkwartier. After living in NYC in the 60s, the young American had a rather sluggish impression of The Hague and relocated after two months to Amsterdam.

“After 11 months in the Netherlands, I met Peter just before I was to return to the US.” They were so devoted to each other in those two months, that four months after her trip home she made the crossing again in December 1966. “The following year Peter and I got married.” She shrugs when asked what prevailed from her career and educational aspirations, “Someone gave me the relevant saying: Bloom where you are planted. Do what you can with what



you have, anywhere.” At the time it was not unusual for a woman to follow her husband for his work, including overseas, and to concentrate on the social context of the family in the broader sense. In expat circles that is still the most common practice.

Peter, being a staunch Americophile, wanted to immigrate to the States. That she and her husband, an economist, did not leave right after their marriage for the US had mainly to do with the Vietnam War. Foreigners with a green card were in those years most welcome in the army. Instead Peter was offered a job with Royal Dutch Shell and they were transferred to Hamburg. The couple almost always spoke English together; they raised their three children bilingual. Georgia’s Dutch is still peppered with English. During her work at the International and American Schools and at Webster University as business manager, as well as a relocation consultant, the language spoken was always English so her Dutch never got the chance to advance by leaps and bounds.

After three years in Hamburg and a period in Assen, her husband transferred to Shell’s Hague headquarters. They settled in Wassenaar, where the family with their two sons – who have since settled in the US – and daughter would stay 20 consecutive years prior to a placement in Curacao from 1990 to 1993. “In our Wassenaar time, besides my work at Webster University in Leiden, I was involved in the American Women’s Club (AWC), and volunteered at our hockey/tennis club and our children’s schools.” Her husband eventually left Shell and joined Heineken.

Georgia was president of the AWC from 1982 to 1984. The club led a prosperous life with up to 650 members, almost 100% American women, and the influx of people was such that the AWC board advised non-American newcomers to establish an International Women’s Club. The AWC purchased a large clubhouse on Badhuisweg. “Four years ago it was sold because the club, despite broadening the criteria, has become smaller and smaller. There are now around 180 members, of whom 40% are not American.” The erosion has less to do with a lower percentage of expatriates. “There are perhaps fewer expats, but not on that scale. People are simply not as inclined to become a member of something.” This development seems to be broader and also occurs in declining membership of political parties, churches, trade unions and so on. “Another cause of the decline in memberships is, of course, the Internet. You will find all kinds of information to which expats previously had no easy access.”

A similar development was the Federation of American Women’s Clubs Overseas (FAWCO) of which Georgia was president in the 1980s. “I visit the international conference every year and am working now on an update of the history of FAWCO, established in 1931. There are now some 65 member clubs worldwide representing about 15,000 women, who are committed to furthering the cause of international human rights, voting rights for Americans overseas and international exchanges in cultural and scientific fields through scholarships to students who want to study in the US and money to projects in developing countries which benefit women and children.”

She calls the difference in friendships in the Netherlands remarkable, “Here you make friends for life, while in America everyone says, ‘Let’s do lunch’ and ‘Come visit us,’ without really meaning it.” Friendships are in this difficult period of Georgia’s life of great importance, but she does not want to dwell on her husband’s illness, “We must think of what we have, not what we are missing.”

The above is an excerpt from an article which originally appeared in the February 18 issue of *Den Haag Centraal*. Translation assistance was provided by Google Translate and Georgia Regnault.

Slate of Officers 2016-2017

We are pleased to introduce the candidates for the 2016-2017 AWC The Hague Board. The election of Officers will take place during the General Meeting on April 14. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please submit a proxy ballot.

President – Becky Failor: Becky was born in Tucson, Arizona. Her father was in the military so Becky experienced her first expat experience between the ages of nine months to four years in England. She has lived in Arizona, Maryland, Michigan, and most recently in California near San Francisco. She and her husband Hugh have lived in Holland since August 2010. Becky worked as a nuclear chemist for a US Department of Energy research laboratory and focused on safe working operations. Since joining the AWC, Becky has organized tours, and served for a short time as Vice President before becoming President this last year. She says, “I hope my service to the AWC can enable each Member to have a rewarding Club experience, whether she is new to living in the Netherlands or makes this her long-term home.”



Vice President – Trena Cormier: Trena was born in Canada and became a Third Culture Kid at the age of ten when her family moved to Mexico. She later moved to the US, where she attained an advanced degree in molecular biology, married, and became an American citizen. Trena has lived in the Netherlands since June 2013 and became an AWC Member that same month. She didn't hesitate to join the Walkie Talkies, Chat, Craft & Cake, Pilates, and Daytime Book Club. She served as Program Coordinator from September 2013 to June 2015; sender of eNews from March 2014 to May 2015; and Communications Chair on the 2014-2015 Board. She took a break from Club activities in the 2015-2016 Club Year to have a baby, and is now looking forward to rejoining the adult world, organizing activities that don't involve naps.



Treasurer – Kathy DeBest: Kathy began her professional career as a CPA for Deloitte, then worked as the Accounting Manager for Johnson Controls in Michigan. After leaving the professional world, Kathy held numerous volunteer board positions ranging from Secretary to President and many roles as Treasurer in the schools, community and the North American Connection, a FAWCO Club in the Midlands of England. For the last several years, Kathy has been a volunteer preparing tax returns for low income individuals for TaxAide, an AARP organization. Kathy has been married to Jeff for 27 years. They have three daughters in university and one grandson. Jeff works as COO for APM Terminals, a division of Maersk Group, and they have been in the Netherlands for one and a half years. Kathy has served the AWC in starting the Out to Lunch Bunch; planning the Welcome



(Back) BBQ; and assisting with the closing of the books for 2015, the record keeping for the current year, and conducting the financial audit for the previous year. She is currently serving on the Gala Committee. “I appreciate the opportunity to serve the Club. I wholeheartedly believe in its purpose and personally enjoy the benefits it provides.”

Secretary – Ellen Bolick: Ellen was born in North Carolina, but lived in Great Britain since 1985. She has a BA in English from the University of North Carolina and a Master's Degree in Medieval Studies from the University of Pennsylvania. She has held a series of interesting jobs. Most recently, she was a member of the Royal Household of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II based in the State Apartments at Windsor Castle for six years. She has been the Assistant Editor of the *English Historical Review*, and was also the co-author of the catalogue of non-ferrous metalware in the Anglo-Saxon collections held by the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. She and Bob have been married for 43 years and have two daughters and four grandchildren with another on the way. New to the Netherlands, Ellen has found the AWC to be an invaluable resource for new arrivals.



Club and Community Development Co-Chair – Susan Cave: Susan is a New Zealander but has lived outside her home country for half her life. She attended graduate school at the Universities of Georgia and London, and has also lived in France and Switzerland. She became an Eisenhower Fellow in 1994 and works closely with their headquarters in Philadelphia. She has had an extensive career in international education and more recently in the criminal justice system. She has served on a number of boards and governing councils. She worked on the front line of a poor indigenous community for 15 years which included building her own specialist school. She also volunteered on a women's aid project in Laos over a four-year period. She is passionate about the AWC and is a regular member of Chat, Crafts & Cake having collected antique American quilts since her days in Georgia. She has assisted in a number of AWC activities over the past four years. She is married to David, who is an international judge, and has one son in New York and another in Geneva.



Acting* Co-Chair, Club and Community Development – Mary Ann Nation-Greenwall: Mary Ann was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1990, she was one of four winning recipients from Maryland of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program between Germany and the US. After living in Germany for a year, her eyes were opened to the world and since then, she has traveled and lived in five of the seven continents. She earned a BA in International Relations from Goucher College and a Master's Degree in International Policy with an emphasis in Cross-Cultural Communication and Public Administration from the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Mary Ann met her husband, John, at a cocktail party at the German Embassy in Washington, DC in 2004. Before their recent relocation to The Hague, she and John lived in Pasadena where Mary Ann held various positions, including Vice President of



>> 42

Slate of Officers 2016-2017 (cont.)

Continued from page 41

Volunteer Services at the Pasadena Humane Society. While volunteering with AFS Greater Los Angeles Area Team, she became Chair for over 100 volunteers. Mary Ann joined the Women's City Club of Pasadena in 2010 and held the position of Director of Marketing and Membership. She was elected to the board of the Blinn House Foundation in 2014 where she assisted with raising funds for the historic preservation of the building.

Clubhouse Administrator – Dominique Duysens:

Dominique was born in The Hague and raised in the south of Limburg near Maastricht. She moved back to The Hague in 1993. She studied two years of geography before switching directions and earning a Bachelor's Degree in Law and Master's Degree in Law Philosophy. She worked as a legal secretary in law firms in Utrecht and The Hague. She is interested in languages, reading, music, theatre, and a lot of other things, but most of all in people. She was appointed to the Board in November 2015 as the AWC's first Dutch Board Member. She would love to continue to further form the function of Clubhouse Administrator. She says, "The most important thing for me is to be able to add a little bit of energy and spirit to this wonderful Club that gives such a huge amount of spirit and energy to me."



Communications – Teresa Mahoney: Teresa is originally from Minnesota, but has lived abroad for more years than she lived in the US. She came to Holland 17 years ago with her British husband, Chris, and they have raised two children here, Max (20) and Lauren (17). Teresa worked as an accountant for Cargill but stopped when they moved to Geneva. After earning an MBA at the University of Geneva, she went to work in private banking. Teresa and **Melissa White** have been working together to produce *Going Dutch* for almost seven years, and she is as thrilled as ever to have found a completely new career in magazine layout. She has a great time working with Melissa, keeping up with all the AWC activities, and making the magazine beautiful.



*There is a six-month minimum membership requirement before an AWC Member can be elected to the Board. Therefore, Susan's candidacy will be the only Club and Community Development nomination voted upon at the election. Once Mary Ann has been a Member for six months, the Board will officially elect her as Club and Community Development Co-Chair. Until that time, she will be "Acting Co-Chair, Club and Community Development."

*Did you know that any English-speaking woman may join the AWC?
Invite your English-speaking friends from other countries who have an affinity for Americans to join us today!*



Announcements

DFAS Art Lecture Leonardo's Hand



Leonard da Vinci's powers of draftsmanship and astute sense of observation made a remarkable contribution to mankind's early understanding of anatomy, aeronautics, warfare, cartography and water engineering. Lecturer Guy Rooker, a retired orthopedic surgeon, grew fascinated by da Vinci after studying his anatomical drawings and relating these to his own surgical career. The hand can be as expressive of character as the face and da Vinci made detailed studies of them. So why would the artist paint Jesus Christ in *The Last Supper* with an anomalous left hand? Non-DFAS member fee is € 12. www.dfas.nl
**Tuesday, April 12
8 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.)
Cultural Centrum Warenar
Kerkstraat 75, Wassenaar**

Scottish Country Dancing Potluck



The Scottish Society of the Netherlands invites the AWC to a Potluck Ceilidh (Scottish country dancing). There is no previous experience needed. Similar to American square dancing, there is a "caller" who walks everyone through each dance before the music starts and then calls out the moves throughout. Dress code is smart casual or kilt. Entrance to the dance with refreshments is € 10 plus a simple potluck item for the buffet. www.standrews.nl

**Friday, April 15
7:30 – 10:30 p.m.
British School of the Netherlands
Diamanthorst 16, Den Haag**

Statenkwartier ArtRoute

Many artists live in the neighborhood surrounding the AWC Clubhouse. Twenty contributing artists will be displaying their work at various locations, which are marked with eye-catching window signs.

**Saturday, April 16 and Sunday, April 17
Noon – 6 p.m.
www.kunstaarsinhetstatenkwartier.nl**

National Museum Week

For more than 30 years, over 400 museums across the country have offered a special weekend with free or discounted entrance including free films, slide shows, tours, demon- >> 44



Announcements (cont.)

Continued from page 43

strations and workshops. For the second year, the fun has been expanded to an entire week from April 16 to 24 with the theme of *Our Real Gold*. For more information and to see which museums are participating, visit www.nationalemuseumweek.nl.

Flower Parade

On Saturday, April 23 at 9:30 a.m., the 69th edition of the annual Flower Parade



will leave Noordwijk to travel its 25-mile (40-kilometer) route along the main roads to arrive in Haarlem around 9:30 p.m. The procession will be comprised of 20 large floats with the theme of *Flowers & Fashion* and more than 30 decorated luxury cars, interspersed with marching bands. There will be plenty of space on the roadside for the hundreds of thousands of spectators who always congregate along the route. The Flower Parade passes Keukenhof around 3:30 p.m. If you miss the parade, you can see the floats on view in Haarlem on Sunday, April 24 until 5 p.m. There will also be an illuminated parade in Noordwijkerhout on Friday, April 22 at 9 p.m. To see the schedule of the route, go to www.bloemencorso-bollenstreek.nl.

Earth Day Festival

Are you interested in making some changes in your life to lessen your impact on the environment, but aren't sure where to start? Here's your chance to learn about the environmental non-profit organizations that exist in Holland. This free festival brings the International Earth Day concept to The

Hague, giving Dutch and Internationals alike a chance to celebrate with music, organic food, eco-shopping and hands-on activities. This year's theme is *Less Waste, More Beautiful City*. The focus this year will be on how to reduce your carbon footprint on multiple fronts, and with a special focus on the ocean, from ocean clean up to understanding the current state of the ocean ecosystems. www.earthdaynetherlands.com



Saturday, April 23
10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Christus Triumfatorchurch
Juliana van Stolberglaan 154, Den Haag

Macbeth for All Ages

STET (Stichting The English Theatre) presents the UK theatre company, Infinite Jest, in their return to The Hague with their unique take on Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. You are invited, if you dare, to enter a dark and bloody world of ambition, suspicion, murder, revenge and witchcraft. What compels Macbeth to turn from hero to villain? Self-will? Fate? Or is it the audience who holds his destiny in their hands? One of Shakespeare's



most profound plays is made accessible to younger audiences in this hour-long show using actors, puppetry, song, dance and audience interaction.

www.theenglishtheatre.nl

Saturday, April 23 – Sunday, April 24
Koninklijke Schouwburg
Korte Voorhout 3, Den Haag

Life I Live Festival

Starting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26, The Hague city center will be transformed into a free open-air music festival to kick off the celebration of the King's birthday (which is the following day). Local bands and DJs will



perform next to international acts on stages scattered around playing a variety of musical styles: soul, funk, hip hop, blues, indie pop, garage, punk, psychedelia, jazz and dance tunes. www.thelifelive.nl

National Restaurant Week

Twice a year, restaurants across the Netherlands celebrate National Restaurant Week with special discounts for three-course lunches or dinners. The spring restaurant week goes through April 10. Although the most popular restaurants are likely already booked up, it is worth checking out the website to see what is still available. Also, if you register on the website, you are entitled to reserve a table earlier than the general public during future Restaurant Weeks. *Eet smaaklijk!* www.restaurantweek.nl



Tulip Festival

This festival celebrates the famous tulip and ensures it blooms all over Amsterdam each spring. In 2015, nearly 550,000 tulip bulbs were planted in beds and pots around the city for the first festival. Additional bulbs have been planted for the second year, moving towards the goal of one bulb for every inhabitant of Amsterdam. All through the month of April, colorful and rare tulips can be seen in the gardens of museums, private homes and other city institutions. A free guide and route map showing the participating locations is available from the Amsterdam Visitor Centre at Centraal Station. www.tulpfestival.com





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

The Top of the World

by Mary Adams

The Jungfrau region has three giant peaks rising side-by-side to 13,642 feet (4,158 meters) above sea level: Eiger, Monch and Jungfrau. Eiger (meaning ogre) is appropriately named for the severity of its towering north face. It is the farthest east of the three peaks and is considered the deadliest. The north face has been referred to as the White Spider, White Cobra and Murder Wall, as climbers attempting to scale from this approach have been killed since first attempts began in 1935. Jungfrau (meaning maiden or virgin) most likely refers to the Augustinian nuns of Interlaken, whose convent owned large amounts of land in the area including pastures at the foot of the mountain. Ultimately, the name of the pasture was applied to the mountain itself.

Without risking a fatal fall from climbing the north face, the only possible ascent is from the mountain ridge or *joch* between Monch and Jungfrau. *Joch* refers to the dip in the middle of a yoke (or a saddle) and is used as a suffix to describe high Alpine passes. Jungfraujoch is the lowest point on the mountain ridge. This is where the Jungfrau cog-wheel train arrives at the highest railway station in Europe at an elevation of 11,332 feet (3,454 meters). I couldn't think of a better time to travel to the top of the world than when the train celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2012.

You might wonder who would even think of building a railway so high up in the Alps. Adolf Guyer-Zeller was wandering through the woods when he envisioned building a railway to the Jungfrau Summit by blasting a tunnel through the rock of Eiger and Monch. He foresaw a great tourist business. Construction started in 1896. The railroad was completed in stages with ticket revenues from rides to the viewing platforms at the lower stations used to finance the remaining work. In 1912, nine years overdue and millions of Swiss francs overspent, the construction crew finally broke through to Jungfraujoch.



On our last day of skiing, we stopped in Lauterbrunnen to buy tickets for the Jungfrau for the next day. The man behind the counter shook his head, "Don't buy now. Bad weather coming. Come back at 9:00 tomorrow." So we trooped back to the car and the apartment at Lake Thun. Our plan was to go to Hotel Kreuz for dinner. Have you ever noticed that many hotels in Switzerland have the same name? In this tiny city of Krattigen there are actually two Hotel Kreuzes. That night, they were both closed. In fact, everything was closed. It was as if the sidewalks had been dusted of snow, rolled up and put away until summer. So we went back to the apartment for the back-up plan: homemade chicken pot pies.

The following morning, Lake Thun was covered in a misty cloud. I wasn't worried, because in previous days, no matter how

foggy the weather seemed in Krattigen, the skies were a sparkling blue in the Alps. As we drove to Lauterbrunnen, however, the skies remained gray and turbulent. I was very disappointed to see a sign at the station saying that Jungfrau service was postponed due to a windstorm. I thought it might be nice to sit at the station café and have a coffee while we waited for Mother Nature to make up her mind, but it turned out that only take-away coffee was available. So we huddled in the ticket room with our hot drinks. After about 15 minutes, there was movement behind the counter. We finally could buy our tickets and board the train.

The train was full of skiers, who steadily departed as we made stops along on our slowly winding, upward journey. (I counted three Hotel Bellevues along the way.) By the time we reached Kleine Scheidegg, the train was all but empty. The winds were howling with swirling snow. As we left the train, I planned to make a mad dash for the Jungfrau for the final 5.5 miles (9 kilometers) to the top of the world, but the train station appeared to be deserted. By now the wind was really raging, so we staggered to the station restaurant. On the way, we noticed that the next Jungfrau left in an hour. So we took pictures, did some people watching – many skiers were braving the strong winds – and drank more coffee.

We had to wait another 30 minutes to ensure a safe track and clearance. I felt sorry for the windblown and frozen personnel dashing about outside the train car. Soon, we started chugging up the mountain face. The scenery was gorgeous from the rolling snow-covered

mountain tops to the deep green ice layers. And then, suddenly, darkness. The first section of the line was in the open air, but beyond Eiger Glacier, the train entered the tunnel. More than four miles traversed through the tunnel that Italian crews worked so hard to construct. Somehow, this part of the trip was different in my fantasy. It wasn't until I was in the tunnel that I read in the information guide, "The trip takes 50 minutes (you'll be inside a steep inclined tunnel carved out of solid mountain rock for about 80% of that time)." Now we were just passengers on a train watching LCD screens with infotainment.

The train stopped for five minutes at two intermediate stations: the Eigerwand (Eiger Wall) and Eismeer (Sea of Ice), where "passengers can marvel at the fascinating mountain world through panorama windows." During construction, these holes (now covered with windows) were used to remove excavated rock from the tunnel and are also occasionally used as access points by climbers and rescue parties. Everyone grabbed their cameras, clambered off the train and raced to the viewpoint to marvel. If you inched up to the window, you could see... clouds, snow and... hemlock if you looked very closely. In 1975, this very window was used for one of the final scenes of the film *The Eiger Sanction* in which Clint Eastwood played Dr. Jonathan Hemlock, an art professor, mountaineer and retired government assassin who returned to work to perform two more "sanctions". Hemlock travels to Switzerland and joins a party climbing up the Eiger north face. Sure enough, the Ogre is up to his usual tricks and climbers start to tumble to their >> 48



The Top of the World (cont.)

Continued from page 47

deaths. The surviving members retreat to the railroad station inside the mountain. Hemlock is saved, dangling alone a few meters from the tunnel window.

As a reader, you are probably as anxious as I was to get out of the tunnel and stand on the top of the world. So let's fast forward 40 minutes. It was windy and cold at the top. I saw the Aletsch Glacier, a glorious river of snow and ice. It has a length of about 14 miles (23 kilometers) and covers more than 46 square miles (120 square kilometers) making it the largest glacier in the Alps. It is composed of three smaller glaciers converging at Concordia, where its thickness is estimated to be near 3,300 feet (1 kilometer). It then continues towards the Rhone Valley before giving birth to the Massa River. I wish I could explain my exultation: I felt like the White Witch of Narnia wearing a fabulous crown of icicles; rather than freezing the world and associated meanies,



I would change its industrial heart to green. The Great Aletsch Glacier has been dramatically affected by ablation (erosive processes), retreating by up to 164 feet (50 meters) a year. What a pity.

Let's step further into my Ice Queen domain. The Ice Palace was a really cool place! In 1934, two mountain guides found this enormous cavern of ice: more than 3,000 square feet (1,000 square meters) with countless niches and passageways. It now serves as an adventure spot and ice sculpture garden. The palace must be cooled to -3° F (-19° C) to ward off the heat of the visitors.

As soon as we were ready to leave the Ice Palace and find a warm lunch, we learned that the winter storm had worsened. For safety reasons, no employees were allowed to come to work which meant that the restaurant and all the shops were closed. The next train would arrive in 30 minutes and it was mandatory to evacuate. I was very disappointed that our visit was cut short by bad weather.

The train ride down made no stops. In 35 minutes, we arrived in Kleine Scheidegg hungry for lunch. We stopped at (yet another) Hotel Bellevue. This was a grand old hotel dating back to the late 1800s when mules were used to get supplies to climbers on Jungfrau-joch. Of course, the mules have been replaced by train and snowmobiles and the rooms have been updated, but the Old World charm still oozes from the minute you step into the foyer.

Although outside dining was available on the terrace, we decided to join the other diners inside where we had an excellent view of the foolhardy skiers still bound and determined to have their day on the slopes. In due course, we wiped our mouths, pushed back from the table and boarded the train. We got to Lauterbrunnen and onto Krattigen without incident. The weather on Lake Thun was cold and windy. The Aare River seemed content to lap darkly against the shoreline and save its brilliance for summer visitors.



Dory Ritchie

by Greetje Englesman

SchuldHulpMaatje (Debt Relief Buddy Helpers) recently celebrated its fifth anniversary with a party in Leiden for 500 guests and an appearance by Queen Máxima. The Queen spoke privately with some of the clients who receive help in dealing with their financial problems. She expressed her appreciation for the selfless and professional commitment of the 1,600 SchuldHulpMaatjes volunteers across the country who helped 5,000 clients in 2015. The volunteers in attendance, including AWC Member **Dory Ritchie** (shown here next to the Queen), received a pen and certificate.

We are very proud of Dory!



2016 Red, White & Blue Gala

Continued from page 25

Stahili Foundation

You cannot help but be inspired by AWC Member Michelle Oliel. This petite woman has the perseverance of mighty men double her size. Stahili Foundation is based locally in The Hague and operates in rural Kenya. When not practicing international human rights law, Michele is a tireless advocate for the rights of the child and educator. Landing on the rich, red soil of Kenya for the first time in 2008, she was excited to volunteer at a rural orphanage and soon forged unbreakable bonds with many of the children she met. After learning of widespread exploitation, abuse and corruption throughout the orphanage, she became more steadfast in her commitment to help the children. She stepped forward to create change for these kids beyond the orphanage walls. In 2015, the FAWCO Foundation awarded Stahili with an Education Grant to assist in rescuing 30 vulnerable children from orphanages where they were forced to work, exploited for profit, physically abused, deprived of an education and neglected. Stahili reunites children with their families and provides education through to post-secondary school along with the tools the students and their families need. Stahili closed two corrupt orphanages ensuring that no child is abused in those particular institutions. Believing that education is the most powerful tool to break the cycle of poverty and make sustainable change in communities, Stahili currently supports seven children in high school. John, a victim of child labor, is the first child rescued by Stahili and will be attending college. Through support of the Red, White & Blue Gala, Stahili will support John and his dreams to obtain a Bachelor's of Commerce as well as other children with similar goals. www.stahili.org



To make a donation or purchase tickets to the Red, White & Blue Gala:
www.redwhiteandbluegala.com

Message from the President (cont.)

Continued from page 8

The March monthly meeting touched my heart. Mr. Keith Stadler, Superintendent of the Netherlands American Cemetery at Margraten, told stories of the dedicated American soldiers who gave the final great measure of devotion to the freedom of the Netherlands during World War II. He also told of the continued gratitude of the Dutch citizenry with their careful tending of the graves. I hope you will consider joining those of us who will travel to Margraten for the 2016 Memorial Day Ceremony on May 29. Thank you to **Roberta Enschede** for bringing Mr. Stadler to us.

And the fun continues with our wide array of activities. It delights me to see how our ac-

tivities sustain themselves by the actions and attention of the Members who enjoy them. Walkie Talkies, the tennis group, Cranium Nights, the Annual Chili Cook-Off, Kids' Halloween and Easter Parties, the monthly Daytime and Evening Book Clubs, and Chat, Craft & Cake on Tuesday mornings. I wonder if there is interest in an evening Chat, Craft & Cake (or Cocktails)? If so, the Club will support you enabling the activities that bring joy to your life.

With gratitude for your support,

Becky



In the spirit of Kick Off, former AWC Members gathered in Houston: Dena De Clute-Melancon, Deborah Reagan, Johanna Dishongh, Sara Crabtree and Jennifer Ward Hussey.

Classifieds

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Index of Advertisers

ACCESS

page 30

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page 35

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Inside Cover

The British School in the Netherlands

Back Cover

Bulthaup Zoetermeer

page 13

Crystal Cleaning Services

page 17

Expat Wedding Planner

page 21

Frans Burgers Tapijt

page 15

FRITSTAXI Airport Service

page 19

Intraco

Inside cover

Happy Critters

page 27

Kimmel & Co Makelaars kantoor

Inside cover

Marcel Vermeulen Jewelry

page 11

Petros Eyewear

page 11

St. James Church

page 45

Wassalon Weissenbruch

page 30

Your Cleaning Service

page 30

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.

Members: 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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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.

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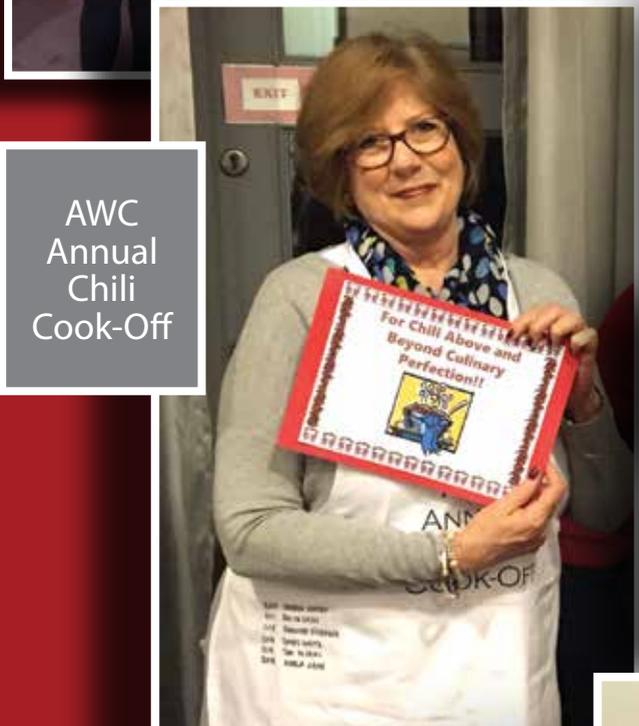
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