

Going Dutch



2016
March

In
this
issue

Switzerland
Christmas Markets
Adventures in India
AWC Red, White & Blue Gala

American Women's Club of The Hague



Location:
 Denneweg 56, 2514 CH The Hague
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 www.avedathehague.nl



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Going Dutch

March 2016



The gluhwein was flowing as we explored the Dusseldorf Christmas Markets on a rare cold day in an unusually warm December



Celeste shares her experiences at a friend's wedding in India



Our Women with Dutch Partners Group had a great time celebrating the New Year with an action-packed gift exchange

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

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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.



Dusseldorf
Christmas
Market



Message from the President

by Becky Failor

Spring is almost here! The days are getting longer and longer. There are crocus, tulips and narcissus all around. Keukenhof Gardens will soon open. It is a time of renewal and hope.

Our spring Red, White & Blue Gala will be on Saturday, April 16. We are marrying the red, white and blue of both the American and Dutch flags. This gala is our main opportunity during this Club Year to raise funds to provide hope and renewal for Stahili Foundation, MCH Antoniushoeve Ziekenhuis' *Look Good, Feel Better*, and SPOSA Child (see page 24 to learn more about these beneficiaries). The AWC donations make a difference in the lives of the children and women supported by these excellent charities. While this event is a fundraiser, it is also a FUN-raiser, a time to get together for a festive evening with your AWC friends as well as other local friends. Please mark your calendar to join me at this wonderful and fun gala night. If you'd like to help with the planning and organization of this wonderful event, please contact Karla Kahn at community@awcthehague.org.

There has been so much praise and warm feelings from the Tender Loving Care Dinner held on February 13. The women who were our guests were given a night to forget their cares and feel special. I am so proud that our Clubhouse was used for this dinner. I am so proud of each of the Members who helped make the night a success. A special thanks to **Sheyla Karman** for her wonderful catering. A huge hug and big thanks to **Pamela Pruijs-Bott** for conceiving of this idea and carrying it through to the final farewells on the night of the dinner.

And our social activities keep me smiling! Purses in Amsterdam. Fashion



and food at the Gementemuseum. It seems whenever there is an Out to Lunch Bunch event the weather is beautiful. I am still amazed at the "Chocolate Dream" desserts we ate at The Fish Club in Kijkduin. What a great tour and insider tips we received during our visit to the Forepark Sligro. Were you with us for the Chili Cook-off? The spicy chili and laughter warmed the night. You will have to wait to hear who is the current holder of the Best Chili Winner's Apron!

I encourage you to join us on Thursday, March 10 for our General Meeting (see following page). Our special guest speaker will be Keith Stadler, the Superintendent of the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten. This is the only American War Cemetery in the Netherlands, where 8,301 American soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the freedoms of others during World War II have been buried and the names of another 1,722 Americans are inscribed on the Wall of the Missing. You can show your honor to these men and women by coming to hear this special talk.

Afterwards, please stay for our annual Helping Hands Handbag & Accessories Auction (see page 31). So much fun, even if you don't buy much! In the meantime, please bring your lightly used handbags and accessories to the Clubhouse for donation.

With warmest wishes,

Becky



March General Meeting

by Roberta Enschede

Our guest speaker for this month is Keith Stadler, the Superintendent of the Netherlands American Cemetery at Margraten. Superintendent Stadler was appointed by the American Battlefields Monument Commission. He is responsible for Margraten where there are 8,301 American World War II graves and the Wall of the Missing on which 1,722 names are inscribed.

"Each man has a name," and a story to tell.

An Israeli poet wrote, "Each man has a name," and with that name is a story – a life. Margraten is not just a vast expanse in the green of Limburg. It is not just 8,100 white marble crosses interspersed by more than 200 Stars of David and 1,722 names on the Wall of the Missing.

Margraten is about Major General Maurice Rose, the only general buried there who his comrades said "was killed where he was found most of the time – up front." It's about Robert van Klinken, a Dutch-American auto mechanic from Washington who died in the land of his forefathers on September 20, 1944. It's about Medic PFC Lloyd R. Smith, known as Smitty. It's about Pvt. Dellapenta, one of the Screaming Eagles who was a sophomore at Cornell University when he volunteered, and before he died wrote home that he was "bothered by men going to Mass with their knives and guns strapped on."

Margraten is about six Congressional Medal of Honor recipients; three whose names are here. Their white crosses have a gold star, and on the length of the cross in gold, the words *Medal of Honor*:

Plot D, Row 21, Grave 10: Staff Sergeant George Peterson, New York, March 30, 1945
Plot D, Row 3, Grave 32: First Lieutenant Walter J. Will, New York, March 30, 1945
Plot B, Row 15, Grave 27: Lt. Colonel Robert G. Cole, Texas, September 18, 1944

Still to be spoken are the names of 8,294 heroes who rest under the crosses and the stars and 1,722 from the Wall.

Superintendent Stadler knows the stories of farm boys and minister's kids and auto mechanics and poets – veterans of the Normandy landings, the Battle of the Bulge, the Battle of Arnhem, Nijmegen, Etten-Leur and Best.

He is driving from South Limburg to give this presentation.

We hope you will come.

You are welcome to bring friends.

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 March 8.

Thursday, March 10

Social time: 10 a.m.

Meeting: 10:30 a.m.

Light Lunch: Noon

Handbag Auction: 1 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/990029



Ramblings from the Editor

by Melissa White

Some of you might recall when I confessed that I was a dinosaur as I had yet to embrace mobile technology and start using a smart phone. Well, those days are over! Much to my dismay, just as I was packing to leave for six weeks in Tokyo, my husband James surprised me with my very own iPhone. I was very skeptical as I'd had lousy luck using other touch screen devices, but I realized the importance of having a means to communicate with my daughter Ashlynn and access maps during our trip. Little did I know just how much I'd come to rely on that phone!

After our plane touched down in Japan, the first stop we made was to a kiosk selling

People are prisoners of their phones. That's why they're called Cell Phones.
~ Anonymous

SIM cards where I purchased a data-only package allowing me mobile Internet access. I thought I couldn't make phone calls since I didn't have a phone number, so I was surprised when my phone rang. Ashlynn quickly figured out that she could call me for free using WhatsApp or Facebook from the phone supplied by her modeling agency. I was relieved that James had the foresight to ensure that Ashlynn would be able to reach me as I hadn't anticipated just how crazy her schedule would be or how often we'd be able to meet up for lunch.

Since returning to Holland in early September, I rarely use my phone for making phone calls. Instead, I have finally learned the appeal of WhatsApp (the world's largest instant messaging service, sending messages over the Internet rather than via cellular networks). When Veronica, our eldest, left for university, James set up a "family chat" which we all use on a daily basis. She sends us updates and photos of her new surroundings and friends, which allows us a more intimate look into her days away from us

than phone calls alone could do. What a big change from the days when I left home; phone calls were costly and there was no Internet, so I can only imagine how left out of my new life my family must have felt. My girls also don't fight over who gets to use the phone next like my sister and I did constantly.

Although the camera isn't as good as my trusty Nikon, I do like having the ability to take a photo on a whim. I originally opened an Instagram account merely so I could stalk my daughters, but now I find myself posting photos of unusual things I spot as I'm out and about. I use the Nike app as a GPS to track how far James and I go during our training

walks for our planned trek this summer to cross England by foot (if all goes well, you'll find an article about our adventures in the September issue). And Google Translate was invaluable while in Japan and has come in very handy in Holland as well since *mijn Nederlands is slecht* (my Dutch is bad).

On the darker side of things, I am more-or-less addicted to a word game (James would claim it's "more" because I play it all the time when I'm using public transport, but I'd assert it is "less" because I have managed to control myself from ever playing it at home). I am definitely guilty, however, of hitting the on-button much too frequently to see if I've missed any messages. So I might not be a dinosaur any longer, but the jury is still out whether that's truly a good thing.

It is a good thing that my husband is not the type of guy to say, "I told you so!" because I really deserve it in this case – of course, to be honest, he usually is right. (Editor's note: James added this last paragraph when he was proofing this article.)

the Art of Seeing



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Newcomers

by Greetje Englesman

Welcome New Members!

Cynthia Lardner
Kimberly Lynch
Mary Ann Nation-Greenwall
June Postal
Holly Savoie
Daniella Smith-Walonker
Daniela Stewart

RSVP for all Newcomer Activities directly on
AWC GroupSpaces.com. Direct questions to
awcthehague.newcomers@gmail.com.

March Birthdays

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Georgia Regnault | 4 |
| Amber Gatewood | 12 |
| Mary Adams | 13 |
| Melanie Stringfellow | 18 |
| Kathryn Cok | 20 |
| Mary Jo Willemsen | 20 |
| Sarah Dunn | 24 |
| Jaimie Keppel-Molenaar | 26 |
| Pamela Pruijs-Bott | 26 |
| Joyce Ann Starks | 27 |
| Marilyn Tinsay | 31 |

Are you a Newcomer or a potential Member?
Are you looking for something special in
the American Women's Club? Maybe you
need help with understanding how to work
an appliance, how to read a bill, where to
find particular products, how to apply for
a public transport card (*OV-chipkaart*), or
something else—the list goes on and on! I
am a Dutch re-pat and I am happy to answer
any kind of question. Please feel free email
me at awcthehague.newcomers@gmail.com.

Appeal for Front Desk Volunteers

by Dominique Duysens

Have you ever stopped by the AWC Clubhouse on a Tuesday or Thursday to drop something off, search the library for a travel guide, or just wanted to pop in for a chat and cup of coffee? Or have you called to ask a question? If so, then you have benefitted from the wonderful ladies who volunteer to serve at the Front Desk. As a volunteer organization, the AWC needs each Member to find a way to contribute. If you have some free time on either Tuesday or Thursday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., please consider volunteering to “man” the desk.

Not only would you be in charge of the Front Desk activities (such as processing emails, phone calls, etc.), but you would be the heart of the Clubhouse during those hours. You would get to know a lot of Members, interact with potential Members, be in the know about what's happening at the AWC, and be part of the activities that take place during your shifts. We need you!

If you would like to volunteer or discuss working with us further, please let us know. Pick which day works best for you (and don't worry if you can't make every Tuesday or every Thursday) and then please contact **Siska Datema** (who makes the schedule of volunteers) at s.datema@outlook.com or me at awcthehague.2ndvp@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

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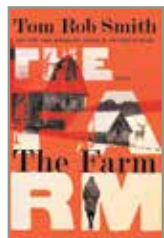
www.zoetermeer.bulthaup.nl

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 March Daytime Book Club selection is *The Farm* by Tom Rob Smith:



This page-turner is a psychological thriller written with the intricate plotting and pacing of a spy novel. Imagine if you were in Daniel's place. His mother told him that his father and other men in the community were involved in a terrible crime. His father,

however, claims his mother had a psychotic breakdown. Is she a liar, a fantasist or a victim of a conspiracy? Join us for this enthralling he-said she-said mystery.

Thursday, March 24

10 a.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

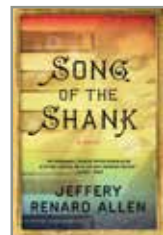
Recap of the December Discussion

The Buried Giant: *Was there a book in the time when they let us have a candle? Was it a son, or perhaps the lost little girl,*

who gifted us with writings that we could see before the fog settled on our land, Princess? Hazy words in candlelight—or was it in the dawn?—float somewhere in my remembering. If these sentences grab you, then you may enjoy this fantasy set in Arthurian England. Maybe. Or maybe it's a conceptualization of the nature of memory or brain function of the late middle aged. The only one who is certain what this book is about is the author, who seems to have written it for himself or to hear himself called a "genius" by book reviewers and half of the AWC Daytime Book Club. We couldn't agree on this one. Half of us hated it and didn't finish it; half of us enjoyed and want to read it again.

Book Club: Evening

The March Evening Book Club selection is *Song of the Shank* by Jeffery Renard Allen:



Thomas Greene Wiggins, born a slave in Georgia in 1849, became an international sensation as a pianist, performing under the name Blind Tom. This historical novel ranges from Tom's boyhood to the heights of his performing career, including encounters with

opportunistic teachers, crooked managers, crackpot healers and militant prophets. History and fantastical invention bring to life a man who profoundly changed all who encountered him.

Wednesday, March 16

7:30 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

Daytime Book Club Planning Ahead:

Thursday, April 28: *The Road to Little Dribbling* by Bill Bryson

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

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

Evening Book Club Planning Ahead:

Wednesday, April 20: *The Harder They Come* by TC Boyle

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

Wednesday, June 8: *Amnesia* by Peter Carey

Recap of the December – January Discussions

The Rise and Fall of Great Powers: We gave this story a mixed review. On the one hand, it was an easy, plot-driven read that neither bored nor taxed the reader; on the other hand, we found the title and the author's explanation of what he thought he achieved with this novel too ambitious. Perhaps this book would be a good choice for those who prefer an uncomplicated beach-type read. Those of us who had loved the author's previous work, *The Imperfectionists*, were disappointed.

The Buried Giant: Fans of Ishiguro can again count on a major departure in topic and style, as the author seems to generate a totally unique work of fiction every time. This novel defies ready description, and can be read as either a straightforward fantasy tale or pure allegory. While we gave this book 4 out of 5 stars, those considering adding it to their lists should expect and enjoy obfuscation, half-plots, and dungeons and dragons.

Chat, Crafts & Cake

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



Suzanne Dundas at awcthehague.crafts@gmail.com

Tuesdays

10 a.m. – Noon

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

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.

Friday, April 8

7:30 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

Free

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/999569

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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.

Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 15

Dinner Club

Sign up to share dinner at home with AWC friends and spouses/partners. **Kathy Tombllyn** 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. 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 Kathy at kthdsngns@aol.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, March 29

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. Once we have decided on the date and restaurant for that month, the details will be posted on the AWC Facebook Group and in eNews, and registration will open on GroupSpaces. 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.



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

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



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 (except specific holidays)

1 – 3 p.m.

Dekker Tennis Courts

Veerpolder 14, Warmond

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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.



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One-of-a-Kind Activities

by Mallery Clarke

Flowers, Foliage and Fun

This eclectic workshop has something for every taste! AWC Member **Jaimie Keppel** will guide you through



making ten cards in three different motifs using a rainbow of colors. From designs that range from trees to bountiful balloons to fresh and festive flowers, you'll leave with a card for any occasion and every person.

Sunday, March 6

3 – 5:30 p.m.

€ 20 Members (€ 25 nonmembers)

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1031298

Trivia Quiz Night

Back by popular demand! 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'll serve light snacks, soda, beer and wine. Come with your own team of six or meet new friends once you arrive.

Friday, March 11

7:30 p.m. sharp

€ 8 Members or Partners

(€ 12 nonmembers)

Cancellation deadline: March 7



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.

Tour of La Trappe Brewery

The Koningshoeven Brewery is one of the few breweries in the world authorized to use the "Authentic Trappist Product" logo. Ale can only be called Trappist when it has been brewed within the four walls of a Trappist monastery under the supervision of the monastery's monks, and when part of the proceeds is earmarked for charity. If you love Trappist beer, you won't want to miss this tour! La Trappe is one of only two Trappist brands of beer brewed in the Netherlands. We will tour the brewery, watch a movie about life at the monastery and have a taste of your choice. This will be followed by lunch (at your own expense) in the Tasting Room and the chance to enjoy even more La Trappe (also not included in price of tour). Transportation details will be emailed to participants.

Saturday, March 12

8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Bierbrouwerij De Koningshoeven
Eindhoveneweg 3, Berkel-Enschot**

€ 15 Members or Partners

(€ 20 nonmembers after March 5)

Limit 10



Your Color Silk Scarf Workshop

We all have a piece of clothing that just doesn't work for us because the color isn't right. In this workshop taught by AWC Member **Gabrielle van der Winden**, you will get a color assessment for your most complimentary colors. You will then be given a corresponding set of textile dyes to make your own 100% silk scarf at this workshop in Gabrielle's home-based workspace in Wassenaar. Gabrielle will explain different kinds of painting techniques. You don't need to be extremely creative or an expert painter to create a beautiful scarf. As silk is a natural product, the result will always be wonderful. While the scarves steam to set the paint, you can watch a demonstration on how to tie a scarf. You will go home with a personal color-card and a beautiful 100% silk scarf in your best colors.



Thursday, March 17

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

With Color Analysis: € 50 Members

(€ 55 nonmembers)

Scarf only: € 35 Members

(€ 40 nonmembers)

Maximum 5

Cancellation deadline: March 14

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1035458

A Healthy Living Workshop: Feeling Great & Looking Fabulous

A healthy lifestyle is forever. Take a little time for yourself and adopt those healthy habits that will have you feeling and looking great! ACE Personal Trainers and Health Coaches Helen Essers and Fiona Bradley, along with STOTT Pilates Instructor Trainer and MELT Level 2 Certified Instructor Jolanda Hoefnagel, will present some of the latest updates on women's health. Through interactive sessions, you will be amazed at the instant release of tension in your body that you will experience after your small-group session with Jolanda. During a coaching session with Fiona, you will find out what type of eater you are and how "mindful" eating can give amazing results. Helen will show you how healthy eating can be easy and fun without "forbidden" foods. Finish the afternoon with a food preparation demonstration (and tasting) with a focus on snacks. This workshop is sure to be an inspiring way to put you on a path to a healthy lifestyle or to give you continued motivation to challenge yourself even more.

Tuesday, March 22

1 – 3:30 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

€ 35 Members (€ 40 nonmembers)

Minimum 10 / Maximum 18

Cancellation deadline: March 11

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1031377

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

Continued from page 19

Mini Spa Night

Why not shake off the winter blues and treat yourself to a mini spa night at ASPA, an organic spa in The Hague? We'll meet at the spa and indulge in up to two 30-minute treatments per person (at own expense). You will receive one glass of Prosecco (tea and coffee are also available) as well as nibbles.



Treatment options include:

- Manicure € 35
- Eyebrow threading € 15
- Make up application lesson € 35
- Hair styling € 45
- Neck, shoulder & back massage € 45
- Mini facial € 35

When booking on *GroupSpaces.com*, please indicate your treatment choice(s). Payment for all treatments by bank transfer is due by March 16, after which no refunds are possible.

Wednesday, March 23

7 p.m.

ASPA

Alexanderplein 2, Den Haag

Cancellation deadline: March 16

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1036838

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

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 be-

tween 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

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Voorschoten

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| | |
|--|---|
| <p><i>every Sunday</i> Church Service</p> <p><i>with children's & youth programme</i></p> | <p>10.30 am BSN Senior School Voorschoten</p> <p>Contact: Ruan Crew (chaplain) chaplain@stjames.nl 071-5613020</p> <p>Tim Carroll (youth minister) youthminister@stjames.nl 06-46697651</p> <p>www.stjames.nl</p> |
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FOR SHELL PEOPLE WE DRIVE WITH SHELL RULES

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

Continued from page 21

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*. The castle was constructed as a manor house in 1642 during Holland's Golden Age and was used as a summer country retreat. 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! Over 7 million tulips, daffodils and hyacinths fill more than 32 hectares with color and fragrance. We will walk through the gardens and discover the latest 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

Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 17

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, March 3

9 – 11 a.m.

Ramona's House

FREE

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/785299



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2016 Red, White & Blue Gala

by Teresa Insalaco and Karla Kahn

Saturday, April 16
Nieuwspoor
Lange Poten 10, Den Haag
6:30 p.m. Reception
8 p.m. Dinner
Followed by Music and Dancing

The American Women's Club of The Hague has an 85-year history of philanthropy, whereby we have touched and improved lives in our community in The Hague and beyond. The tradition of giving back has been the primary focus of our organization since its inception and continues to this day with the generous support of our Members. Since 2002 alone, our charity galas have donated over € 1.5 million to our beneficiaries.



Please join us for this fun evening with an auction, dinner and dancing. Tickets are €85 for AWC Members or partners and € 110 for nonmembers. For additional information, please visit www.redwhiteandbluegala.com. For questions or to volunteer to assist the Gala Committee, please email info@redwhiteandbluegala.com.

Red, White & Blue Gala Beneficiaries

Our 2016 Red, White & Blue Gala will support the following organizations:

Look Good Feel Better

Look Good Feel Better for women at MCH Antoniushove in The Hague is a community service program that provides useful information specifically tailored to help women deal with the appearance-related side effects of cancer treatment. Guided by experienced volunteers from the cosmetic industry, patients learn how to care for their skin and apply make-up to help minimize the appearance related side-effects of their treatment. Women are also shown practical and creative ways to help deal with impending hair loss – with the opportunity to try on wigs, headscarves and turbans to suit their needs. The workshops are designed to empower the women with practical tips and tricks to boost their self-esteem and confidence while undergoing treatment. Your support of the 2016 AWC Red, White & Blue Gala will help fund these workshops so they can be free of charge to local women undergoing cancer treatment in The Hague. www.lookgoodfeelbetter.nl



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Red White & Blue

GALA

Sponsored by AWC The Hague

Nieuwspoor
Saturday, 16th April, 2016
18:30

Black Tie
RED CARPET

2016 Red, White & Blue Gala (cont.)

Continued from page 25

SPOSA Child

Based in the Netherlands, Stichting SPOSA Child (Save and Protect our Sexually Abused Child) was established in August 2010 as an independent, small, non-profit charity foundation. Through the gift of education, its mission is the rehabilitation and healing of sexually and physically abused children on the island of Negros in the Philippines. The 2016 AWC Red, White & Blue Gala will support SPOSA's efforts to provide a complete education through sustained funding for their scholarship program for 13 girls. The SPOSA Child Educational Scholarship Fund covers costs such as uniforms, books and other school materials, physical education, transportation, meals and reintegration counseling. AWC Member **Marilyn Tinsay** serves as the Chairperson of SPOSA Child. www.sposachild.com



Stahili Foundation

Working with families and community in rural Kenya, the Stahili Foundation uses education as a tool to end exploitation, to keep children in a family together, and to break the cycle of poverty. While most of the children that Stahili supports have either endured years of abuse and exploitation in an orphanage or have faced other vulnerabilities, they have loving relatives or members of the community who want to care for them, but cannot due to severe poverty. Stahili empowers the children's guardians and allow them to give the children a life they deserve.

Stahili monitors their well-being and provides them with:

- Protection from exploitation, cruelty, and abuse
- Education through post-secondary school
- Access to medical and psychosocial support
- Food, clothing, and hygiene needs
- Shelter

Encouragement and mentorship Stahili currently supports 36 children from the ages of 5 to 24 and plans to send their first student to university and to advance an additional number of students to high school in 2016. AWC Members' support of the 2016 AWC Red, White & Blue Gala will fund these goals. AWC Member **Michelle Oriel** is Co-Founder of the Stahili Foundation. www.stahili.org



Hedy Kohlinger-Bosman

by Georgia Regnault

Word reached the Club at the beginning of January that Honorary Member Henriette Kohlinger-Bosman passed away on December 29, 2015, at the age of 90. Hedy, as she was known to us, was born in The Hague and lived in Wassenaar until moving into the Martha Flora Nursing Home in The Hague. She was a petite, quiet and always well-groomed woman, who stood for years at the side of her American husband, Charles Kohlinger, who was very active in the American Chamber of Commerce. I was pleased to see that in her last years, she attended several of the Honorary Member Teas at the Club.



We send our condolences to her family and friends.



AWC Ladies at the AWCA Gala



MARCH 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|
|  |  | 1 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m. | 2 Pilates 10:15 a.m. De Stijl, Mondriaan & Appel exhibits 11 a.m. | 3 Wassenaar Coffee and Conversation 9 a.m. AWC Board Meeting 10:30 a.m. | 4 | 5 |
| Iceland Spa Adventure | | | | | | |
| 6 Flowers, Foliage & Fun- Card Making Workshop 3 p.m. | 7 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m. | 8 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m. | 9 Pilates 10:15 a.m. | 10 Coffee 10 a.m. General Meeting 10:30 a.m. Helping Handbags Auction Noon | 11 2nd Annual Trivia Night 7:30 a.m. | 12 Tour of La Trappe Brewery 8:30 a.m. |
| Iceland Spa Adventure | | | | | | |
| 13 | 14 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m. | 15 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m. | 16 Pilates 10:15 a.m. Out to Lunch Bunch 1 p.m. Evening Book Club 7:30 p.m. | 17 Your Color Silk Scarf Painting Workshop 9:30 a.m. | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m. | 22 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m. Feeling Great & Looking Fabulous Workshop 1 p.m. | 23 Pilates 10:15 a.m. Mini Spa Night 7 p.m. | 24 Daytime Book Club 10 a.m. | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m. | 29 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. Heart Pillow Workshop Noon AWC Tennis 1 p.m. | 30 Pilates 10:15 a.m. | 31 | Spring is in the Air! April 7: Mauritshuis' Storage Depot April 9: Amsterdam Street Food Tour April 16: AWC Red, White & Blue Gala April 21: Keukenhof Gardens and Castle | |



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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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FAWCO Corner



by Elizabeth Kennedy

Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas, a United Nations NGO with consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council www.fawco.org

New Hopes for FAWCO in 2016

New Brand: A new logo and a refreshed mission statement are to be adopted and launched this month at the interim meeting in Frankfurt.

New Target Program: The education and awareness phase of the next Target Issue, education, is to be launched as well in Frankfurt.

New Event: SAVE THE DATE! A jointly sponsored FAWCO / The FAWCO Foundation Symposium, *Backing Women: Stand Up Against Human Trafficking*, will be held October 7 to 9, hosted by the International Press Club of The Hague. If you are interested in attending and have more questions on this event, please contact AWC Member **Mary Adams**.

Don't Forget to Register to Vote.....Yes, AGAIN!



It's that time of year again, and 2016 is going to be a big year. *We fought for the right - let's use it!*

Remember that the law says that overseas Americans must register every year, so even if you are used to receiving your ballot, request it anyway. If you don't receive your ballot in time and want to use the "emergency" federal write-in absentee ballot (FWAB), you must have requested your ballot in a timely fashion this year. Here's how you do it: Go to the FAWCO home page (www.fawco.org), click on "Register to Vote" at the bottom left, and then Request Your Ballot / Register Now.

Tell those around you who hesitate that 37 states now allow young Americans who have never lived in the US to vote at the voting address of their parent or legal guardian. Tell them also that if they vote "federal" (President, Vice President, Senators and Congressperson) using the federal post card application (FPCA), they are not subject to state taxes as a result. And tell them how truly important their vote is!

8th Annual Helping Handbags Auction

It's also that time of year again: the AWC is hosting the FAWCO Handbag Auction. Back by popular demand, this promises to be a fun event. If you have any gently used handbags or other accessories (such as scarves, jewelry, and gloves) that you would like to donate for this auction, then please bring them to the Clubhouse by March 8. If you are in search of something new, then stop by the auction on March 10. The event will follow the regularly scheduled March General Meeting and a light lunch. All of the proceeds from this event go towards supporting The FAWCO Foundation programs.

Come show your philanthropic heart during this special and exciting fundraiser!



This event is brought to you by
The American Women's Club of The Hauge

You're invited to an egg hunt

Hop on over for some fun!
We'll look for eggs until we're done!

The American Women's Club of The Hauge
Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 19, 2016
15:00-17:00pm

Cost: Members €5/child or €12/family
Non-members €8/child or €15/family

AWC Club House
Johan van Oldenbarneveltlaan 43,
2587NJ, Den Haag

RSVP via GroupSpaces by March 13th
Would you like to help?
If so contact: **Trena Cormier** at
northern_autumn@hotmail.com

- We will have:**
- Easter crafts
 - Snacks
 - Easter egg hunt
 - A special visit from the Easter Bunny!



Kids' Club

by Trena Cormier

Spring Party & Easter Egg Hunt

Calling all kids: the Easter Bunny is coming to the AWC! Hosted at the AWC Clubhouse, we will have a party with yummy snacks, fun crafts and games. The Easter Bunny will make an appearance, and your photos will help to prove "there really is an Easter Bunny." We will enjoy hunting for hidden Easter eggs and each child will take home an Easter basket. Please note the number and ages of the children when registering through GroupSpaces. Feel free to invite your friends! If you have questions or want to volunteer to help with this fun event, contact me at northern_autumn@hotmail.com or 063 155 0370.

Saturday, March 19
3 – 5 p.m.

€ 5 per child or € 12 per Member family
(€ 8 per child or € 15 per nonmember family)

Cancellation deadline: March 13



Heart Pillow Project

by Eileen Baker

BSN Students Make Heart Pillows

Among the many Heart Pillows delivered last year, 20 sets were made by a very special group of students from the British School in the Netherlands in Voorschoten. In addition to their academic studies, they must complete CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) Projects to fulfill a requirement for their International Baccalaureate Diploma. The Heart Pillow Project provided an opportunity for them to develop their creativity, set clear goals and give back to their community. The BSN Family Association generously donated the funds needed to purchase the fabrics and other supplies. Once the pillow sets were completed, they were passed onto the AWC

and we donated them on their behalf. They did a great job!



The Dutch Daily

by Eileen Harloff

Just Have Patience

How often have you been told by your family, teachers, friends, even by strangers, to have patience? The thought behind this admonition is that eventually something, somehow, will happen. And this is just what took place at the beginning of this year when, after 50 years of promises, the missing 7 kilometers of the Rijksweg A4 between Schiedam and Delft was finally officially opened. This new link will lessen the pressure on the A13 and part of the A20, as well on other roads around Rotterdam for an estimated 128,000 vehicles per working day. Why the half-century delay? The planning procedure called for discussions with potentially effected citizens that often led to protests, which led to revised plans, which, in turn, must again go through the lengthy planning procedure. Finally, the discussions, protests and changes have taken their laborious course and the road is open.

From the Hotel World

The Van der Valk Hotel in Tiel is the first hotel in the country to fill a hole in the market by setting aside 60 rooms for people needing nursing help; for example, chronically ill people who want a short vacation stay, patients who have left the hospital but cannot yet care for themselves at home, or caregivers who need a break. The ward is served by a professional nursing team who are available to the patients 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The cost of an overnight stay, including food and drink, is € 245. The local care sector has been surprised by this unusual move of the hotel and has not yet given its support or approval.

Meet My Teacher

Recently, students from the Thamen School in Uithoorn, North Holland, were introduced to a new temporary math teacher named Zora. She made quite an impression when she began class by dancing on the table to *Gangnam Style* and Michael Jackson's *Thriller* while being filmed by the enthralled students. Zora



© roi Shtratski

is a robot that is being used in an experiment conducted by faculty and students of the Free University in Amsterdam. Zora's work will be to help the pupils learn multiplication tables, uses of graphs and numbers sequences, all of which are tasks that require repetition and practice. Among the questions of the researchers are: Will students be less reluctant to ask the same question over and over of a robot than of a teacher? Do autistic students feel more attracted to an unemotional robot than to a person? How "sociable" can a robot be without distracting the pupils from their task of learning? The pupils' regular teacher is interested in the experiment, but points out there is still a need for personal contact with pupils by answering their questions and discussing their concerns, actions which are obviously beyond the capabilities of a robot. One pupil surprised the researchers by asking what Zora eats; the same has been observed with some older people who want to offer cookies to robots who help them.

Waste Not – Recycle

The idea of a restaurant serving food that would normally have been thrown away came from four employees of an Albert Heijn (AH) store in Amsterdam a few years ago. AH even initially funded the non-profit enterprise, and Instock Restaurant (www.instock.nl) has successfully operated ever since. The menu changes daily as the supply of "rescued" food shifts depending on what products are available from their various



sources; on average, their dishes consist of 90% of products that otherwise would have been thrown away. Needless to say, all of Instock's products must be fit for consumption. In the beginning, the cooks had to pick through the food offered them. Now that there is awareness on the part of producers and sellers of food that older or unpopular foods can be put to good use rather than tossed out, ingredients are already sorted, ready for giving to food banks and others. The restaurant receives fruit, vegetables, bread and potatoes from AH; from a fish shop, they rescue scraps that are edible but would otherwise not be used. The cost of a "dish of the day" or a three-course menu is reasonable, and all profits are ploughed back into the business. In addition to its permanent location in Amsterdam, the business has been expanded to include a ready-meal takeout store in the De Pijp neighborhood of Amsterdam and a food truck that travels to events and festivals.

At Least He's Not Purple

Perhaps you've heard of *The Sheep Has Five Legs* – a film with Fernandel in the title role – but a calf with six legs is another matter.



It certainly is seldom that such an unusual animal is born, but this is what happened in January to the astonishment of the owners of a dairy farm in Nieuwberg. This unique calf has four normal legs and two extra complete legs arising behind its head. While young, it's cute; when it's full grown and weighs almost 900 pounds (400 kilos), it's a different kettle of fish. For the present, the dairy farmers are planning to keep the calf, and give him loving care as long as he requires. Tomorrow will take care of itself.

Unusual Oyster

Another surprising gift of nature has come from the world of bivalve mollusks: the pearl oyster. These oysters can produce pearls by covering a tiny parasite with nacre, an iridescent substance otherwise known as mother-of-pearl. In general, a pearl appears once in 15,000 oysters. Imagine the surprise of a fish dealer in Yerseke in Zeeland when at a mussel festival last August, he opened a Japanese oyster fished out of the Oosterschelde and immediately spied a pearl. After examining it more clearly the following day, he was further amazed when he found nine more pearls. A further examination by x-ray discovered that there were actually 21 pearls in the oyster. Such an unusual find led to great interest by many people to own such a unique oyster, so the fish dealer decided to put the pearl-filled oyster up for auction. To his amazement, it was bought for € 2,600, which he then donated to the Princess Máxima Center for the treatment of children with cancer. The buyer, who remains anonymous, donated the oyster to Naturalis, the natural history museum in Leiden, where it can be viewed by the public.



Announcements

IamExpat Fair

This year's IamExpat Fair will be once again held at Amsterdam's Westergasfabriek, a former gasworks that serves now as a major cultural venue. The fair will be located in Zuiveringshal West with stalls from a wide range of businesses and organizations covering topics such as education, banking, housing, careers, taxes, family, health and leisure. Workshops and presentations will be running throughout the day in Het Ketelhuis. For free tickets, register on www.iamexpatfair.nl.

Saturday, March 5

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Westergasfabriek

Pazzanistraat 37, Amsterdam

DFAS Art Lecture

Meet me at the Waldorf

Built at the height of the Depression and famous even before it was opened, the Waldorf Astoria Hotel on Park Avenue in Manhattan was enjoyed for its glittering Jazz Age interiors created by leading European designers, artists and sculptors. This is DFAS' 25th Jubilee Lecture. Lecturer Mary Alexander has 30 years' experience as a lecturer, with a Master's Degree in History of Art from University College London. Non-DFAS member fee is € 12. www.dfas.nl

Tuesday, March 8

Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Lecture begins at 8 p.m.

Cultural Centrum Warener

Kerkstraat 75, Wassenaar



TEFAF – The European Fine Art Fair

The world's leading art and antiques fair will be held in Maastricht from Friday, March 11 – Sunday, March 20.

This massive fair features 50,000 art objects from 275 dealers from 20 countries in a space as large as 7 football fields. What sets this fair apart from others is that, despite the dealers being the world's finest, each item



is still investigated for its quality, condition and authenticity. Even contemporary works are vetted and checked against The Art Loss Register. Enjoy the stimulating atmosphere full of dealers, collectors, academics, art critics and curators from major museums around the world. If you're unable to attend, consider purchasing the catalog which is a work of art in itself. For more information, go to www.tefaf.com.

St. Patrick's Festival

The Grote Markt will be transformed into the "Groene Markt" to celebrate all things Irish. There will be an Irish market as well as Irish dancers and bands.

Sunday, March 13

Grote Markt, Den Haag

1 – 7 p.m.

Amsterdam Boat Show

From Wednesday, March 16 – Sunday, March 20, the HISWA Amsterdam Boat Show will be held at the Amsterdam RAI. As the largest watersport exhibition in the

Photo by Loraine Bodewes

Photo courtesy of RAI / HISWA 2015



Netherlands with over 250 exhibitors and 40,000 visitors anticipated, it features a huge range of boats, nautical accessories, sportswear, vacations and water sports services. There is free entrance for children under 17 who will enjoy the Water Fun Zone where they can surf on real waves. For more information and discounted advance tickets, see www.hiswarai.nl

Keukenhof Opens

Each year more than seven million flower bulbs are planted in the historic park in Lisse, which opens its doors for the spring season on March 24. The central theme for 2016 is the "Dutch Golden Age," the era when Holland became rich through worldwide trade, featuring a 100,000 flower bulbs in a mosaic of a Delft Blue tile on which the trade across the seas and the rich canal-side houses of Amsterdam are depicted. Consider joining the AWC for a visit (see page 22). www.keukenhof.nl



Movies That Matter Festival

The Movies that Matter Festival, an initiative of Amnesty International, takes place Friday, March 18 – Saturday, March 26 at Filmhuis Den Haag and Theater aan het Spui in The Hague. This festival presents around 70 human rights feature films and documentaries from around the world. Many of these films will be screened for the first and only time in the Netherlands. Most film screenings are followed by an in-depth program which might be an introduction, debate or talk show. Most films are in English or subtitled. For the program and tickets, go to www.moviesmatterfestival.nl.

New Bike Parking Downtown

Since last spring, The Hague has done a lot to improve the bike parking situation downtown. New parking facilities for 2,600 bikes have opened on the Grote Marktstraat and Rabbijn Maarsenplein, under the central public library and behind the Bijenkorf. Construction will shortly begin on an underground facility for 8,500 bikes in front of Den Haag Centraal. The use of bikes in The Hague increased 12% between 2010 and 2014 with even larger increases predicted in the future. In addition, all guarded bike lock-ups can now be used free of charge for the first 24 hours.

The Hague to Get Ferris Wheel

The Hague *gemeente* has given the approval for a 130-foot (40-meter) high Ferris wheel to be constructed on an "island" on the northern side of the Scheveningen Pier. Construction will take at least 15 weeks with the aim to be completed in time for summer. A ride in one of the 30 air-conditioned cabins will take approximately 20 minutes. In addition, approval has been granted for the construction of 13 hotel rooms on the pier. www.pier.nl



AWC and the Arts

by Jane Choy

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

A Modern Art Tour

We will have a special tour of two interesting modern art exhibits at the Gemeentemuseum. If you don't have a *Museumkaart*, save time by buying your entrance ticket online in advance at www.gemeentemuseum.nl. Lunch (at own expense) will follow for those interested.

Mondrian & De Stijl

Piet Mondrian and De Stijl ("The Style" was a Dutch artistic movement from 1917 – 1931) finally have a permanent home-base in the Netherlands. Besides Rembrandt and Van Gogh, the body of work of De Stijl is the only art form to be included in the Canon of Dutch History (50 topics providing a chronological summary of Dutch history). Yet until now, there was no one place in the Netherlands where you could go to get an overview of this most important Dutch contribution to modern art. Without De Stijl, not only the homes and streets, but the very cityscapes of the western world would look very different. Moreover, the group that grew up around Mondrian and Theo van Doesburg continues to inspire artists, designers and architects to this day. The Gemeentemuseum is now dedicating an entire wing to Mondrian & De Stijl, allowing the museum to showcase the world's largest Mondrian collection.



Eastside Windmill at Night, 1907-1908

Karel Appel: A Retrospective

Internationally, Karel Appel (1921 – 2006) is perhaps the most renowned Dutch artist of the latter half of the 20th century. Since it is now ten years since his death, it is time for a new generation of visitors to look afresh at an *oeuvre* that many people still associate with Cobra and the 1950s, although it actually spanned a period of more than 60 years. In this major retrospective, therefore, Cobra is just one of the many aspects of Appel's work that will be reconsidered from a number of (sometimes unexpected) points of view. The show will revisit, for example, the artist's early interest in psychopathological art, his stylistic experiments and his highly personal – and sometimes almost abstract – interpretation of traditional subjects like the nude, the portrait and the urban or rural landscape. This exhibition will be a pivotal part of a wider international reappraisal of Appel's work, which is also to include exhibitions in Paris, London and Washington.

Wednesday, March 2

11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Gemeentemuseum

Stadhouderslaan 41, Den Haag

€ 15 Members (€ 17.50 nonmembers)

PLUS Museum Entrance Fee (€ 13.50 or free with *Museumkaart*)



Black Clouds over the City, 1984

Minimum 15 / Maximum 20

Non-refundable

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1031305

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

Cancellation deadline: March 30

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1032237



Did you know that you can connect with the AWC on LinkedIn:
<https://nl.linkedin.com/in/awcthehague>

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



Our Indian Adventure: Part 1

by Celeste Brown

Like many people, I have a “bucket list” of things I want to do or accomplish in my life. Many of them have been checked off (skydiving, performing in front of a large audience, making people laugh/smile) and others are still hanging in suspense (literally, since one of them is bungee jumping!). Little did I know, though, that a friend’s wedding invitation would be the key to crossing two other items off of my list: to visit India and to attend an exotic international wedding.

Sangbreeta is a 28-year-old friend from Leiden Toastmasters. In the last few years, I have become her “Leiden Mom,” a kind of surrogate mother since her own parents live in Nagpur, India. Sangbreeta came to Leiden to complete her Master’s Degree and, as fate would have it, she met and fell in love with a Dutchman. When they became engaged to be married, I (along with her many Facebook friends) shared vicariously in the moment through the photo showing her petite Indian frame jumping into the air at the Museumplein in Amsterdam and soaring, for that one moment in time, well beyond the height over her kneeling Dutchman!

It was soon announced that they would have two weddings: the first one would be a civil service in Leiden in early August and the second one would be a traditional Hindu wedding in Nagpur in early December. And we would be invited to both! Plans began to be hatched.

The August wedding was a typical Dutch wedding at the Leiden Stadhuis (city hall). The most exotic aspects were that several of her aunts wore beautifully colored *saris* even though her mother chose to wear a chic western-style cocktail dress. It was a special day to meet Sangbreeta’s parents and other family members, knowing we would be seeing them again in India four months later.

My husband Jaap and I were already making plans for our Indian adventure. Where would we go? Nagpur, of course, would be the site of the weekend long festivities. It is located exactly in the middle of the country, which gave us access to anywhere and everywhere we would want to visit, but where? Delhi, the capital? Mumbai, the business hub? Varanasi, the holiest Hindu city? A tiger sanctuary, one of which is located very close to Nagpur? Goa, the well-known beach area south of Mumbai, the business capital? Agra, the home of the Taj Mahal? Rajasthan, the area known for its Mughal palaces and forts? And this was just the beginning of our first list. Needless to say, we needed to prioritize and cull down our list for potential sightseeing.

Our first major decision was to decide how long we would be gone: three weeks.

So we started with that parameter. Five days in Nagpur and the rest on the road. We also decided that during our time on the road, we wanted to spend two nights in each location/hotel so we would save ourselves from the daily exhaustion of traveling, sightseeing and then moving on.

Our final itinerary? Delhi for two days before heading to Nagpur for the wedding festivities followed by two weeks of traveling: Agra, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kumbhalgarh, Udaipur, with Mumbai as our final stop. It turned out to be a good schedule, and we returned home on December 20 with an unexpected extra suitcase, over 2,000 photos, and unforgettable memories of the sights and sounds of spectacular India.

The wedding was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for us. The bride’s parents had organized a weekend full of special events for their family and close friends as well as their 25 international guests. Friday evening was a get-together dinner at a local private club. The food was prepared and served outside, which was perfect for us. Despite the fact that December is “winter” in India, the 77° F (25° C) daytime temps made for comfortable “summer” temps for those of

us from the Netherlands. No coats/jackets for us! The female Indian guests were ablaze in beautifully colored and decorated *saris* and the men in long *kurtas* and Nehru-style vests.

Saturday morning was a tour of a local Hindu temple for the international guests. After lunch, all the ladies were treated to *mehndi* which is henna applied in elaborate designs to the hands of the bride and her family and friends. A “bangle man” from the local market was on hand to make sure the ladies’ arms were sufficiently decorated with colorful bracelet bangles. Sunday afternoon was the *haldi* ceremony where turmeric paste is applied to the faces of the bride and groom by family and friends.

Both *mehndi* and *haldi* rituals are Vedic customs from the Vedic period of Indian history when the oldest scriptures of Hinduism were written. They are intended to be a symbolic representation of the outer and the inner sun. Vedic customs are centered on the idea of “awakening the inner light.” It is tradition to wear yellow clothing to the *haldi*, which I suspect comes from the possibility of getting yellow turmeric on your clothing which won’t come out in the wash! >> 42



Our Indian Adventure: Part 1 (cont.)

Continued from page 41

Saturday evening was the *Sangeet*, the traditional song and dance evening. What fun! Everyone enjoyed the full dinner and open bar, but the entertainment was the highlight. The bride and groom created a skit to illustrate the beginning of their relationship and family members contributed their talents as well. Friends were asked to participate in the group numbers and the groom's medical school friends "let their hair down" as dutiful back-up dancers. The evening ended with a dancing free-for-all!

The highlight of the weekend was, of course, the wedding evening itself. Since the couple would prefer not to have their photos published, you'll have to take my word that the bride looked stunning in her red and gold *sari* and the groom spectacular in his traditional long Indian jacket and pointed shoes. The reception started around 7:30 p.m. as invited guests ascended the decorated stage to greet the couple and their parents, present their gift, and have a photo taken. Dinner for the 500 guests was served buffet-style both inside and out.

The wedding ceremony started around 10:30 p.m., a later time than originally planned since it was deemed necessary that it take place "at the most auspicious time." It began with the Hindu priest, father of the bride, and groom sitting under a square canopy in the hotel garden. The father and groom took turns repeating the old Sanskrit text that was read aloud by the priest. About an hour later, Sangbreeta (hiding her face behind two betel leaves) was carried by male friends (including Jaap) in seven circles around the groom, then Sangbreeta and Justin threw flower garlands around each other's necks seven times as well. They then took their places on the ground under the tent with the priest for more rituals: a fire ceremony, the bride's mother holding a scarf over the bride's head, the couple's hands being tied together to symbolize their connection, walking together on seven nuts on top of seven betel leaves on the ground to symbolize moving together through life's hardships, the groom applying red powder to the bride's hair to mark her as a married woman, family members repeating Sanskrit text and tossing flower petals on the couple, and much more. The ceremony ended at 1:30 a.m.



During the wedding, I sat in my front row seat watching the rituals unfold in front of me, mesmerized by the colors, unfamiliar activities, unknown language, but somehow understanding the reasons behind all of it. Universal themes of love and connection seem to exist beyond the boundaries of language.

Next to the wedding rituals, another "ritual" was taking place. It is a tradition that the bride and groom are barefoot during the ceremony. The bride's friends and groom's friends go to great lengths to steal and hide the shoes of "the other side." If the shoes aren't located by the end of the wedding, negotiations begin to determine how much money must be paid to get the shoes back. Somehow Jaap and I were unaware of this tradition until, at a certain moment during the wedding, a friendly scuffle broke out as some friends tried to steal (or recover) shoes. During an attempt to protect the groom's shoes, the best man's trousers split in a very embarrassing way. By the end of the evening, the groom's friends paid 7,000 rupees (€ 98) to get the groom's shoes back that originally cost only



600 rupees (€8.40)! By that point, everyone was happy (they were paid) or tired (it was a long weekend). The bride's family went to find some food since they hadn't eaten all evening. The hotel was very accommodating and no one went to bed on an empty stomach.

The next day, the international guests who hadn't yet departed and local family gathered one last time to share stories and email/Facebook addresses over lunch. Everyone was tired but happy, but none happier than the bride's parents. Dipankar and Khushi Moitra are the proud father and mother who had traveled to the Netherlands in August to see their daughter marry in the Dutch style. But they were committed to giving their only child a full Bengali wedding, complete with cultural traditions from their home city of Calcutta. They were the ultimate gracious hosts, smiling and greeting everyone with their innate warmth. Jaap and I feel a strong kinship with Dipankar and Khushi and we look forward to welcoming them to our home when they come to visit Sangbreeta and Justin in the Netherlands.

Next month's *Going Dutch* will include "Our Indian Adventure Part II" which will focus on our travels, our misconceptions of the country and its people, and some "lessons learned." Stay tuned.



Women with Dutch Partners

by Roberta Enschede

After the Holidays Get-Together

Celeste Brown graciously opened up her home once more to the AWC Women with Dutch Partners group. It was, as the Dutch like to say, very *gezellig* with about 20 AWC Members in attendance. **Anne van Oorschot** took the train all the way from Tilburg and then a bike rental from the railroad station. That's dedication!

Everyone brought a favorite finger food. **Kim Vered's** salad was a huge success. She even had to email the recipe to everyone.

We exchanged fun gifts and then some of the ladies "stole" gifts! Don't get worried. It was part of a game Celeste introduced. The idea was that if you picked a gift you didn't like, you could look around and steal one from someone else. The victim of the theft could then pick another gift. One woman stole house slippers and another stole a clock, in spite of the fact that the person who had originally chosen the clock had hidden it from sight. It made for some good laughs and, of course, character analyses!

On a serious note, it was a gathering of women who have much to share whether they are new or have lived in Holland a long time. Women married to Dutchmen have different experiences. They bridge two worlds. That can be a challenge or a blessing and sometimes a bit of both.

Celeste and all who joined in the fun hope that even more of our friends will join us next year.

Thank you, Celeste. You reached out and we shared a very happy beginning of 2016 together.



Schloss and Schuss

by Mary Adams

In last month's issue of *Going Dutch* I shared some thoughts about arriving in Switzerland for a skiing holiday. Those adventures now continue as we make our way onto the ski slopes.

Upon our arrival in Thun, Switzerland, I wished to be annointed in Swiss fairytale dust, so we climbed up the mountain to the castle. We were greeted by a small sign on the door that said: Closed. We carefully picked our way through a garden trail, stepping over scaffolding and refurbishing tiles, cement, etc. until we arrived at another gate with a sign that said: Open at 1 p.m. With a few hours to kill, we decided to walk down the mountain to explore the old city.

The walk down was really nice, because we were on an ingenious medieval covered walkway. This gazebo acts as an intersection between four crossroads. Turn right or left and you can cut across the mountain to residences.



Continue downward and enter the old town. Go upward and the final destination is the castle and churches. The mountain pedestrian highway is still in use, as many of the locals passed by with their shopping bags. We made our way down a steep wood-arched walkway to the town center. Thun traces its heritage from the 12th century. It was initially established as a river crossing and grew to become a flourishing market town by the 15th century.

When we reached the town, I realized what the guidebook meant when it mentioned "walking on rooftops." Obere Hauptgasse is a doubledecker street with shops above and below the balconies. Thun was a major ceramics center from 1880 to 1930. The well-known Thuner Majolika is very distinctive slip-decorated earthenware using bright colors against a dark background. For a long time, pottery was practiced on small farms to produce goods for their own use called *bauernkeramik*, meaning farmer or peasant-style ceramics. Demand for peasant-style ceramics



soared with tourism in the 19th century. In the trade's heyday, many manufacturers presented decorative ceramics, exhibition pieces and Thun Majolika at fairs in Paris and London. Sadly, not one shop in Thun carried Majolika pottery. Our day in Thun ended with a nice fish dinner (no, not thunafish!).

With Grindelwald out of the running for skiing, Jerry decided that Murren was our best bet. We stopped in Lauterbrunnen to rent skis. I think of ski preparation as a dark mathematical art. You present your boot size, height, weight and then calculations are done to ensure maximum speed and safety for the slopes. I was relieved that the man behind the counter turned out to be from Montana. He seemed relieved to talk in English. We had a chat and I ended up with Blizzards, complete with my name (as shown here). Jerry loaded the skis into the car and we set off for two days of adventure.

The Murren ski lifts are about 20 minutes away from Lauterbrunnen. I must admit that I feel a bit like a child when it comes to ski prep. Jerry hustles around, pulling off my snow boots and easing my feet into the ski boots; he tightens the straps and clicks while at the same time somehow managing to get

ready himself. I sat on the tailgate and started to pull off my boots. I reached a round for my ski boots... wait a minute. I found one, but where was the other? I had a flashback: I left my ski boot on the



sales counter at Intersport. I smiled up at Jerry. "What's wrong?" he asked. "Well, I think we need to re-boot this ski session." "Re-boot? What are you talking about?" I gulped, "I left my other ski boot at the store." Just like in cartoons, his eyes popped out. "Let's go get it." We piled everything back into the car. We raced back to Intersport, where Montana grinned and held out the boot. Then zoom – back to the parking lot.

Here is the first gondola from the central parking. You can see Jerry's Blizzard skis with my baby Blizzards hiding in the corner. As we got further up, we could see more of the valley. I think that skiers feel a certain anticipation in the gondolas. Most of them are excited about hitting the slopes. I take the opportunity to see what ski clothes are popular. Last year, transparent ski boots were the rage. >> 48



Schloss and Schuss (cont.)

Continued from page 47

I learned to ski in Colorado when I was already in my 30s with a fully developed sense of terror of being out of control. Jerry learned as a teenager and was fearless on the black slopes – skiing backwards, downhill, anything for a challenge. We are a perfect mismatch. I am cautious. I worry that I will fall. I worry that I'll go too fast. I worry that we won't have time for lunch. Don't get me wrong, I do like to ski. I like to ski slowly down a wide road with a small tilt and no bumps. The last time I skied in Austria, a kamikaze snowboarder ran me down. Since then, I like to ski by myself. Lots of people make me very nervous and I tend to talk to myself while I ski, "I can DO it. I CAN do this. Ohhhhhhh!"

I like how most skiers always take a pause to observe before they begin. I am on the lazy winding blue road, which is intersected by several red and black routes. Here a group of skiers decide to go off track. They are making final adjustments before they take the plunge. As I pass them, I am muttering to myself, "left pole, RIGHT pole..." as I have a bad tendency to use the wrong pole. Jerry is skiing behind me on this first run. We make it all the way down with a few totters and no falls. I am ecstatic, "Let's go again!" We ski into the chair lift area. On the way up, I tell Jerry that he can ski the blacks, as my challenge will remain on the blues. He usually skis two slopes to my one. The first day, I did not fall at all. The second day, however, all I did was fall. In fact, I fell flat on my face right before the chairlift. It was one of the awkward positions – the one that coined the word "akimbo." I couldn't seem to coordinate leg movement with my skis on. It was exhausting to try to maneuver myself to a sitting position, which seemed to take an ice age with other skiers whizzing past me. Suddenly, a helping hand was there – a snowboarder. When Jerry schussed in five minutes later, I proclaimed, "Lunch break."

Even though lunch on the mountain is always expensive, I love this part of ski culture.



It is ski-in and ski-out mentality – always the same uninspired fare of bratwurst, spaghetti and schnitzel – but there is something special about a casual meal in your ski clothes under the open sky, watching adults play in the snow. We had two mountain lunches. I'll tell you about the first one, but then I'll have to kill you.... as we were on *Her Majesty's Secret Lunch Service*.

The James Bond film was shot here in 1969 and the production company actually



co-funded the completion of the revolving restaurant. If you look at it through your Bond eyeglasses, you will see Piz Gloria, the secret allergies investigation clinic owned by the dastardly Ernst Blofeld. In the movie, it is supposed to be close to St Moritz; hence the name Piz for mountain. But who cares about the movie when Mother Nature can put on a 24-hour show of 200 mountain peaks? For those who really need a bond-ing experience, the restaurant also has an exhibition, shop and film screenings. However; I was there on a lunch mission. If I had not been at an altitude of 9,150 feet (2,790 meters) and wearing my Blizzards, my order would have included a "shaken-not-stirred" martini.

Unfortunately, it has lost a bit of its 1960s glam; definitely more French fry sightings than Diana Rigg sightings. Sadly, Piz Gloria has become a truck stop in the sky – but hey dude, there is a thin line between tacky and cool! The allure and sexy setting keeps a snazzy, fizzy, piz-zy excitement in the air. Confession: I wandered about taking a million photos of the mountain peaks. The majesty of nature was more intoxicating than a gin martini.



There are certain things that a camera cannot capture – the pounding of your heart, the sunshine, the blue sky as a parasailer floats by, the stillness, the gurgling of your stomach after a full meal of *spatzle* laced with smoked bacon... so to end my Schilthorn experience, I will show you the Lauterbrunne Valley – all the way to the mist of Lake Thun of the mighty River Aare.

The next installment: travel with me by rail to the top of Europe in freezing storm conditions and then re-join the Aare River in the historical Swiss capital of Bern.





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by AWC Honorary Member **Sheila Gazaleh-Weevers**
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Security installation
Intercom installation
Camera installation
Internet
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