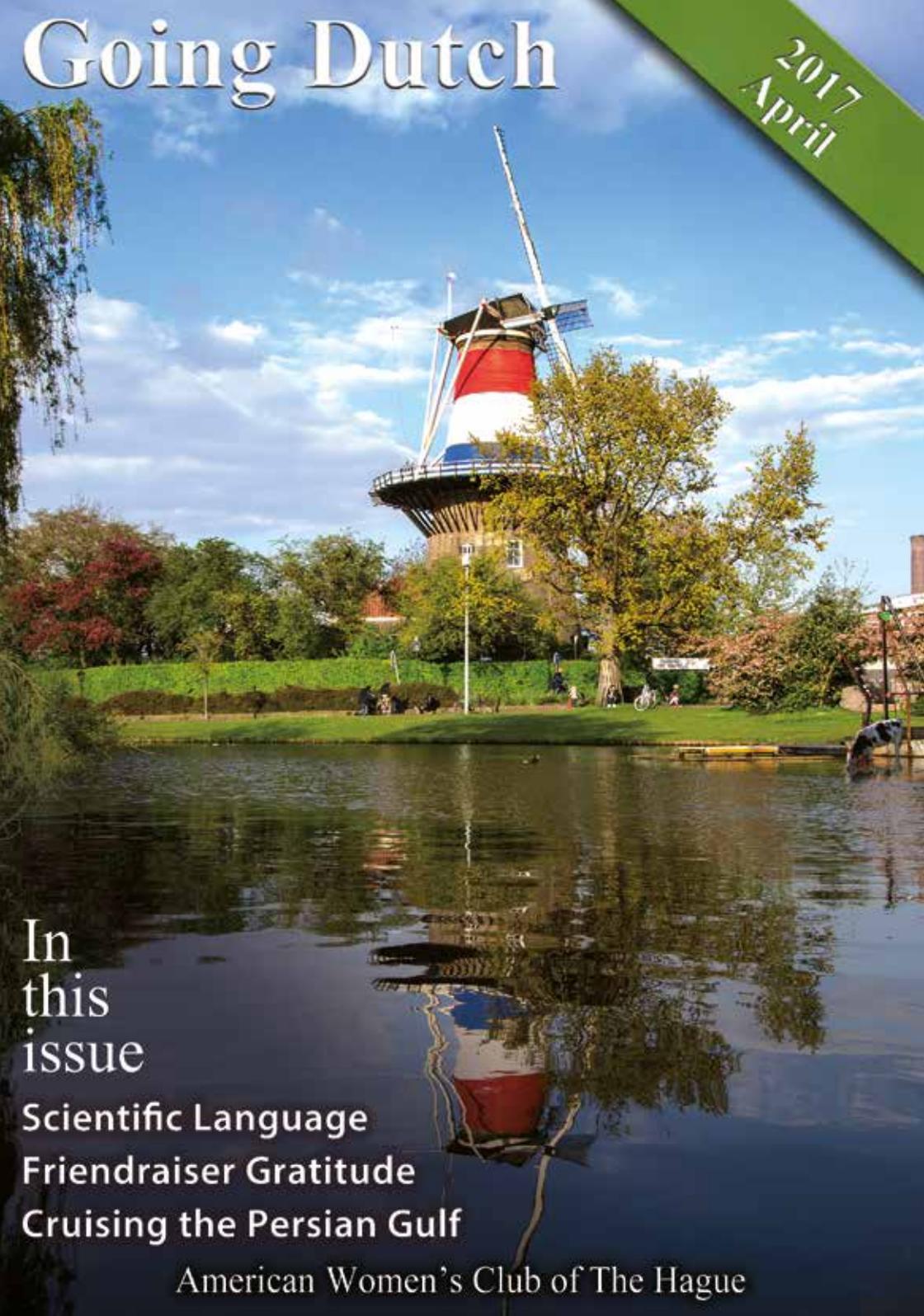


# Going Dutch



2017  
April

In  
this  
issue

Scientific Language  
Friendraiser Gratitude  
Cruising the Persian Gulf

American Women's Club of The Hague

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## Going Dutch

April 2017



2017 got off to a good start with our  
Spring Kick Off



Our first Fundraiser was a smashing  
success!



The AWC continues to give back to our  
local community with our TLC Dinner, Toy  
Drive and Toiletries Drive

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

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goingdutchmag@gmail.com

**Clubhouse Hours**  
Tuesday and Thursday  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday Closed

**Editor**  
Melissa White

**Design and Layout**  
Teresa Mahoney

**Cover Photo**  
Leiden in May 2016

**Photography**  
Greetje Engelsman, Melissa White,  
Wikimedia Commons

**Advertising**  
Open

**Proofreaders**  
Ellen Bolick, Celeste Brown, Jane Gulde,  
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**Printer**  
www.dwcprint.nl

**Dues** (Effective 2016-2017)  
€ 110 per year (€ 66 after January 1)  
€ 90 business, professional  
€ 55 valid US military id  
€ 35 student  
Add € 15 new member registration fee

AWC Bank Account Number  
ABN-AMRO  
43.14.21.757  
IBAN: NL42ABNA0431421757  
KvK Den Haag  
40409274

**Deadlines:** Submissions are due no later than the last Monday of the month preceding the publication month. For example, for the combined May/June issue, submissions are due before Monday, March 27.

**Please Note:** Articles submitted to *Going Dutch* will be published subject to space limitations and editorial approval. All rights reserved; reprints only by written permission of the Editor. Please email to: goingdutchmag@gmail.com

**Legal Notice:** Articles in *Going Dutch* express the views and opinions of their authors alone, and not necessarily those of the AWC of The Hague, its Members or this publication.

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Trena Cormier  
Becky Failor  
Paula Looijmans  
Siska Datema-Kool

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**Assistant Treasurer** Laurie Martecchini  
**At Home in Holland** Becky Failor  
**Board Advisor** Jessie Rodell  
**Caring Committee** Naomi Keip  
**Community Service Coordinator**  
Pamela Pruijs  
**eNews:** Suzanne MacNeil  
**FAWCO** Julie Mowat  
**Heart Pillow** Jan de Vries  
**Holiday Bazaar** Mary Ann Nation-Greenwall  
**Library** Ellen Bolick  
**Kid's Club** Open  
**Membership Coordinator** Shirley Newlin  
**Newcomer Activities** Greetje Engelsman, Holly Savoie  
**Parliamentarian** Georgia Regnault  
**Programs** Suzanne MacNeil  
**Public Relations** Open  
**Tennis** Molly Boed  
**The Arts** Jane Choy  
**Tours** Open  
**Volunteer Coordinator** Laurie Martecchini  
**Webmaster** Julie Otten  
**Website Assistant** Open  
**Women with Dutch Partners** Open

## AWC Mission Statement

The AWC 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. Membership in the club is open to women of all nations who are friendly and welcoming to American culture. The association does not endeavor to make a profit. The AWC is a 100% volunteer organization.



**Spring  
Kick Off**



# Message from the President

by Becky Failor

As President of the AWC, I see myself as an “ambassador” for the Club in the community. This sometimes means explaining to others what we do or encouraging someone to join our Club. I tell them Membership is open to English-speaking women of all nationalities who embrace the American spirit, which then often leads to being asked what the American spirit is. While I have never perfected an answer, I usually say it means feeling free, having fun, and helping others.

I love to tell others about the fun things we do. While we are not just “Ladies who Lunch,” I do enjoy our relaxing and tasty Out to Lunch Bunch gatherings (see page 16). Ladies work on their beautiful craft projects every Tuesday, our book clubs have spirited discussions monthly, and the Women with Dutch Partners get together for fun times at least annually. We learn about the Netherlands throughout the year. Recently, we visited Europe’s largest urban farm located in The Hague and **Greetje Engelsman** taught us about the Dutch elections. **Jane Choy** always offers us new opportunities to explore our art rich environment. There were those days at the spa that **Seanette Meserole** organized, classes to make mosaics, the chili cook-off (on page 54 see James White, husband of **Melissa White**, get first prize for his Growler Vegan Chili), and our gourmet evening on the Hoftramm the first of this month.

I also explain that we not only help our Members, but also our community.

Community service is a strong and vital part of our Club. **Pam Pruijs** has spear-headed teams of our Members in several great community service efforts in the past few months (see page 38). In

November and early December, our Front Office looked like aisles at a drugstore as we collected toiletries. And I was so happy we had “too many toys” to give away for Sinterklaas.

In February, I was surprised and delighted to be one of the ladies who benefited from the special attention and love from the Tender Loving Care Dinner for Women in Need. The Clubhouse was transformed into a beautiful venue. From the minute each lady walked in, she was embraced by a feeling that she was special and cared for. We were entertained by a young American woman who is studying at the Royal Conservatory and by our own **Mary Ann Nation-Greenwall** singing songs from *Porgy and Bess*. The food, catered by **Sheyla Karman** with desserts thanks to **Sabine Crowley** and the American Embassy chefs, was fabulous. I, like each of the ladies invited to attend, went home on a high and grateful for the special care of the AWC Members.

Also in February, we held a Friendraiser to build support of our upcoming Red, White & Blue Gala (see page 26). Business people from all over The Hague were there. Wines were donated by Prins Wijn (located very close to The Fred on Prins Mauritslaan—if you go there please, thank them and tell them you are from the AWC). We told the attendees about the AWC and each of our three beneficiaries for our Gala and encouraged them to buy tickets (go to page 22 to learn more about the Gala).

When asked why the AWC is so active in community service and philanthropy, I use a phrase I learned from **Georgia** >>19



# April General Meeting

by Suzanne MacNeil

## Board Election, FAWCO and Breast Self-Exams

As we always do in April, AWC Members will vote on the slate of officers for the 2017-2018 Club Year (go to page 40 to meet the candidates). Don’t worry—your vote will count! 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 11. Once the election is complete, our Club’s FAWCO Representative, **Julie Mowat**, will discuss the 43rd Biennial FAWCO Conference in Mumbai which is being held March 30 through April 2.

In addition to Club business, our guest will be Jeannie Blaylock, a television news anchor in Jacksonville, Florida. Jeannie started the Buddy Check 12 program in 1992 after a friend died of breast cancer. Buddy Check 12 is simple: choose a buddy, choose a day each month to do a breast self-exam and remind your buddy to do her/his self-exam. Pairing with a friend, mom, sister, brother or other important person in your life has helped thousands of women and men find lumps and other palpable abnormalities and has saved lives. Jeannie will be in The Hague for a week to mark the 25th

anniversary of Buddy Check 12 and to meet with women and men at various clubs and organizations to provide the Buddy Check 12 Kit.

On a personal note, my father felt a lump near his nipple four years ago and immediately thought of all the years he’d watched Jeannie on television share stories about breast cancer. My dad went to his doctor and was sent to a surgeon. The lump was breast cancer and he had a mastectomy. It’s because of Jeannie that my dad is still alive. I hope you’ll be at the meeting to learn more about Buddy Check 12 and how important it is to take control of your health.

We invite everyone to join us afterwards 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).

**Thursday, April 13**  
**Social time: 10 a.m.**  
**Meeting: 10:30 a.m.**  
**Luncheon: Noon**  
**AWC Clubhouse**  
[www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1084843](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1084843)



Welcome New Member!

Ingrid Masselink Andreas

# Ramblings from the Editor

by Melissa White

If you've been an expat for more than a year, there's a good chance that you've encountered one of the major downfalls of expat life: having to say good-bye to dear friends. Whether you are the one moving on or they are, it's never easy when you realize that you don't know when your paths will cross again.

Hopefully most of you have not experienced another pitfall of being an expat: being forced to move out of a rental house you love. In the 11 1/2 years that my family has lived in Holland, this has happened to us twice. The first time was our own fault as we foolishly convinced the owner to sell his house before

Since the house was originally for sale as well as offered for rent when we moved in four and a half years ago, we always assumed that they'd try selling it again once we left. The timing is definitely not ideal as Ashlynn has major exams coming up and I have one final issue of *Going Dutch* to crank out.

Ashlynn unselfishly said we could go ahead and downsize now and move to another town, but while she might be ready to take the plunge, after much soul searching I know that I'm not ready for that. As silly as it probably sounds, I'm not ready to give up walking my dog regularly with my close friend Gillian. I'm not prepared to part with

*Happiness doesn't have just one address.*

~ Anonymous

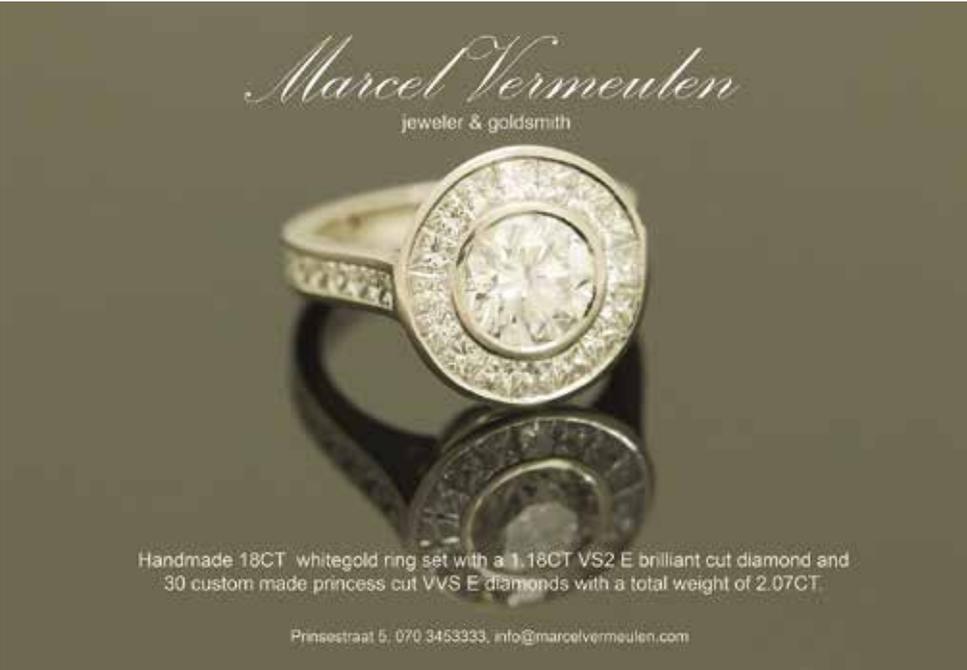
discovering that we couldn't afford to buy it; he sold it to another family, and we had to move on. However, it's just as well that we didn't buy it as the real estate market seemed to peak the day of the sale and we would have had serious buyer's remorse. Ironically, if we'd just kept our mouths shut, we might still be happily renting that charming waterfront house in a suburb of Leiden.

Since then we've always felt our future in this wonderful country to be too precarious to buy property, so we have continued to rent. We eventually moved to Voorschoten to live closer to school, but have always known that we'd prefer to be in The Hague or Leiden after our youngest leaves for university. In the meantime, we hoped to sit out Ashlynn's final two years of high school in our comfortable house.

If I'd only paid attention to our rental agreement, it wouldn't have come as a complete shock when we were given notice by our landlord that they were moving back into their house before the end of the school year.

my family costume closet because you just never know if we'll need to be four mermaids again soon. I'm not ready to be further than a short walk away from my dear hiking buddy, Carlin. So instead of venturing to another city, we're moving to a smaller house just one mile away. We'll soon be in our fourth house in Holland, but for the first time we're staying in the same city so I'm hoping it will be the easiest move of all.

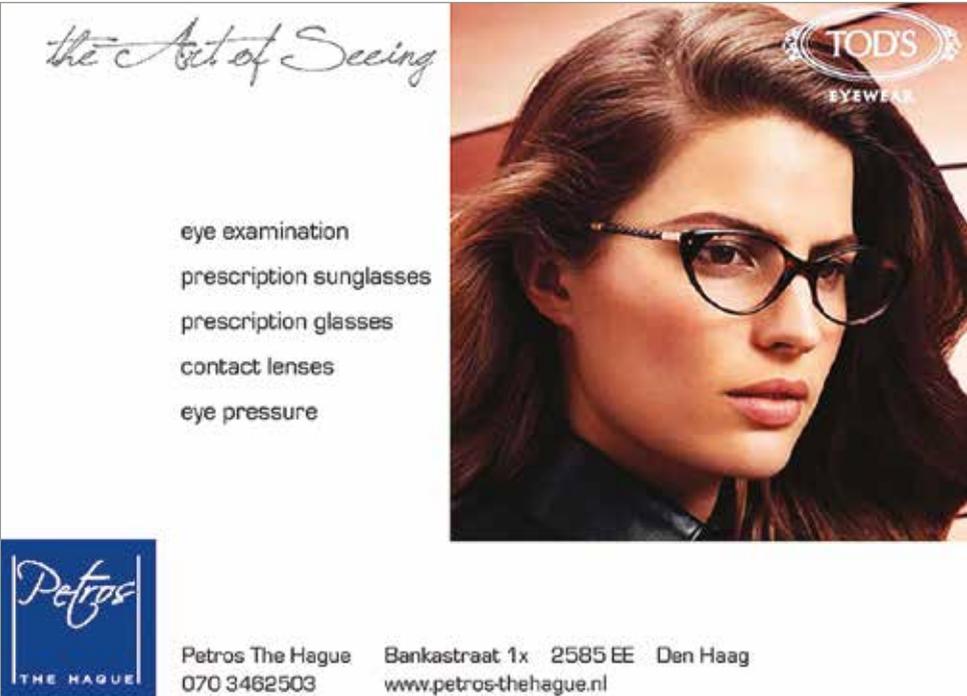
Frankly, I'm too selfish to want too much change right now at the same time that my husband James is changing careers and I am also changing jobs. As much as I was looking forward to taking a break once I step down as Editor next month, instead I am dusting off my old accounting hat and stepping up to be Treasurer (meet the entire slate of officers on page 40). Looks like the AWC is still stuck with me after all! Ironically, when Roberta Enschede asked me if I'm as good with numbers as I am with words, I couldn't help but laugh since the only writing I ever did in my previous life were analyses of accounting results.



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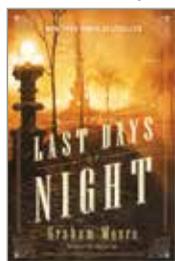
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# Ongoing Activities

## Book Club: Daytime

The AWC Daytime Book Club is open to all book lovers and is always open to new Members. There is no obligation to attend every meeting or lead a discussion. We take turns bringing a snack. Any questions? Please email **Teresa Mahoney** at [awcthehague.bookclub@gmail.com](mailto:awcthehague.bookclub@gmail.com). Happy reading!

The April Daytime Book Club selection is *The Last Days of Night* by Graham Moore:



The inventors involved in the battle to electrify America take center stage in this historical fiction novel based on actual events about the nature of genius and cost of ambition by the Oscar-winning screenwriter of *The Imitation Game*. The story is told by Paul Cravath, an attorney hired by George Westinghouse to take on Thomas Edison in a battle over lightbulb patents. While this might sound dry, the pacing of this thriller keeps the story driving forward.

**Thursday, April 20**

**10 a.m.**

**AWC Clubhouse**

**FREE**

## Recap of the January Discussion

***Brother of the More Famous Jack***: Barbara Trapido's debut novel was published in 1982 to rave reviews. Heralded as a virtuoso coming-of-age novel set in Britain and Italy in the 70s, Trapido sets out her stall from

## Daytime Book Club Planning Ahead:

Thursday, May 25: *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J. D. Vance

Thursday, June 22: *Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders

Thursday, July 27: *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah

Thursday, August 24: *Moonglow* by Michael Chabon

the beginning as a writer capable of very evocative prose. Narrator Catherine is 18 when she finds herself captivated by the charismatic Goldmans, the family of one of her university professors. Conventional to her bones, Catherine quickly falls for the eldest son, who rebuffs her cruelly for her bourgeois background and attitudes. On the rebound, Catherine moves to Italy and falls in with a rather disreputable crowd, beginning an affair with a married Italian who impregnates her and deserts her after the birth of their daughter. After the infant dies, Catherine returns to England and suffers a nervous breakdown. On recovering, she encounters the younger son of the Goldmans, and begins an affair with him, eventually marrying him, bearing another child, and moving to Ireland to begin a career in knitting designer sweaters. Most of the group found this book to be an enjoyable read and would recommend it, but others found it to be tedious with a weak narrative. >> 14

## 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](mailto: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.

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# Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 12

## Book Club: Evening

Calling all readers! The Evening Book Club would love to have you join us this year. We typically meet on the third Wednesday of each month, with some alternative dates when that is a public holiday or school vacation. Whether you come once, or are available to join us every month, you are most welcome. Interested, want to know more, or get on our mailing list? Please contact **Rebecca Fry** at [awcthehague.bookclub@gmail.com](mailto:awcthehague.bookclub@gmail.com). Happy reading!

The April Evening Book Club selection is *Barkskins* by Annie Proulx:

By the Pulitzer Prize award-winning author of *The Shipping News*, this is an epic, multigenerational novel of dynasty building and, ultimately, ecological and cultural destruction of the world's forests. Beginning in the 1600s, the book tracks the lineage of two French immigrants who become woodcutters—barkskins—in the Canadian region of New France. Spanning over 300 years, intimately detailed scenes reveal the complex inner lives of the characters; the forest itself becomes a character, bringing wealth, taking lives, and slowly dwindling.

**Wednesday, April 12**

**7:30 p.m.**

**AWC Clubhouse**

**FREE**

## Recap of the February Discussions

**The Underground Railroad:** We enjoyed a lively and thought-provoking discussion about Colson Whitehead's novel centered around the tribulations and fate of a runaway slave named Cora. An imaginative story about an actual railroad under the ground in slave country, this novel will especially appeal to those readers who liked *12 Years A Slave*. All agreed this is a well-written and interesting book, deserving of a recommendation.

## Evening Book Club Planning Ahead:

Wednesday, May 17: *One in a Billion: The Story of Nic Volker and the Dawn of Genomic Medicine* by Mark Johnson and Kathleen Gallagher  
Wednesday, June 14: *Eligible* by Curtis Sittenfeld

## 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](mailto:awcthehague.crafts@gmail.com)

Tuesdays

**10 a.m. – Noon**

**AWC Clubhouse**

**FREE**



## Dinner Club

The most awaited Dinner Club of the year is International Night. With all the travels and cooking classes taken by AWC Members, many have mastered delicious foods from all over the world. Please come share with us these wonderful cuisines! It would be really fun if you dress international if possible. Register through *GroupSpaces* or contact organizer **Krishna Thakrar** at [kthakrar2000@gmail.com](mailto:kthakrar2000@gmail.com) to join in the fun.

**Saturday, April 8**

**7 – 11 p.m.**

**AWC Clubhouse**

[www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/I108629](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/I108629)



## April Birthdays

Julie Jones	4
Amber Broughton	5
Mallery Clarke	6
Michele Thompson	8
Vesna Southwick	23
Krishna Thakrar	25

## Heart Pillow Project

The AWC is in its 9th 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, stuff or wrap! What a wonderful way to meet new friends while contributing >> 16

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# Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 15



your fellow AWC Members for a fun night out at the movies, of course! We'll meet in the lobby of the theater (either Pathé Spui, Pathé Buitenhof, or Filmhuis Den Haag) and buy our own tickets. **Rebecca Fry** coordinates this activity, and chooses a movie beginning as close to 7 p.m. as possible. There is no need to sign up, and all are welcome. The time and movie listing for that month will be announced through eNews. Questions? Contact Rebecca at [fry\\_rebecca@hotmail.com](mailto:fry_rebecca@hotmail.com).

**Monday, April 3**

[www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1076853](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1076853)

## 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 **Greetje Engelsman** at [greetje.engelsman@gmail.com](mailto:greetje.engelsman@gmail.com).

This month we will have an Indonesian lunch at Istana (behind the Bijenkorf). Indonesia was a Dutch colony from 1800 to 1949 with many Dutch citizens working there within the Dutch government and companies. At the end of WWII, the Indonesian people fought against the Dutch Army for independence ending with the transfer of the sovereignty from the Netherlands to Indonesia in 1949. By that time there were already quite a few Indonesian restaurants in the Netherlands, so-called *Indische* restaurants. When big groups of Dutch workers returned to the Netherlands after the war, many more Indonesian restaurants popped up, starting in The Hague where many repats from Indonesia settled.

Today there are many Indonesian restaurants in The Hague, some influenced by the Chinese



kitchen while others are authentic. We choose to visit Istana ([www.istana.nl](http://www.istana.nl)), a restaurant that has been in The Hague for 40 years. During lunch you will have the opportunity to taste typically spicy Indonesian food. If you wish, you can drink the Bintang Indonesian beer.

**Friday, April 7**

**12:15 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Istana**

**Wagenstraat 71-73, Den Haag**

**Registration deadline: April 5**

[www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1101624](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1101624)

## 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 >> 18

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 **Jan de Vries** at [awcthehague.heartpillow@gmail.com](mailto:awcthehague.heartpillow@gmail.com).

**Tuesday, April 11**

**Noon – 2 p.m.**

**AWC Clubhouse**

**FREE**

**Visitors Welcome**

[www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1073456](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1073456)

## Ladies' Night Out at the Movies

What are your plans on the first Monday evening of each month this Club Year? Joining



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## Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 17

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](mailto: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](http://GroupSpaces.com) to get email updates or email [Emily van Eerten](mailto:Emily.van.Eerten@gmail.com) at [vaneerten@gmail.com](mailto:vaneerten@gmail.com) or [Greetje Engelsman](mailto:Greetje.Engelsman@awcthehague.newcomers@gmail.com) at [awcthehague.newcomers@gmail.com](mailto:awcthehague.newcomers@gmail.com).

### Mondays

9:30 a.m.

FREE

### Wassenaar Coffee & Conversation

Do you live in Wassenaar and environs and long for the camaraderie of the AWC without driving to the Clubhouse? One of the Members living north of The Hague will host a casual coffee at her home on the first Thursday of each month for Members and prospective Members. **Suzanne Dundas** will provide information as to the hostess of the month and directions to her home when you sign up.

Thursday, April 6

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

FREE

### 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.



## Message from the President (cont.)

Continued from page 8

**Regnault**, “We each are trying to ‘bloom where we are planted.’” If I then get a quizzical look, I explain that most of our Members call, or originally called, a different country “home” and we are now “planted” here and want to make our lives “bloom.” And part of the American spirit is helping others. So we try to help our local community as well as those in the world who cannot help themselves, like children in Kenyan orphanages or sexually abused girls in the Philippines.

Another example of giving back is our participation in FAWCO and The FAWCO Foundation. April starts with the 43rd Biennial FAWCO Conference in Mumbai, India. Our Club will be represented by our FAWCO Representative **Julie Mowat**, FAWCO Counselor **Celeste Brown**, and FAWCO Foundation VP Fundraising **Mary Adams** as well as non-resident Member and FAWCO 3rd VP **Johanna Dishongh**. I would have loved to have gone, but I was uncertain how quickly I would recover from my broken leg. As I write this I am hopeful that the Stahili Foundation’s proposal entitled “Threading the Future” will be chosen as the Target Program for Education. We are proud of **Michele Oliel**, who founded Stahili Foundation and developed this proposal, one of the 3 finalists of the 18 proposals submitted.

This month we will elect a new slate of AWC Board Members. My deepest thanks to the Nominating Committee, ably lead by **Suzanne MacNeil**. Once elected, our new Board will lead us into the next year. I am sure our Club will thrive under their leadership. I am dedicated to helping them transition smoothly into their important roles. Please see the article on page 40 for an introduction to each candidate. If you are unable to attend the meeting on April 13, please submit a proxy ballot (see page 9).

Another key position in our Club is changing hands. As I announced last month, **Melissa White** is training **Suzanne MacNeil**

to become the editor of our beloved *Going Dutch*. I am delighted that **Teresa Mahoney** will stay on doing the layout for the magazine. Suzanne wants to build a team to edit the magazine, so please offer her your assistance. I hope you will express your appreciation to Melissa and Teresa for their years of work and thank everyone who makes *Going Dutch* possible, including our advertisers.

Keep sharing that American spirit,

*Becky*



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# One-of-a-Kind Activities

by Trena Cormier

RSVP directly on [AWC GroupSpaces.com](http://AWCGroupSpaces.com). Direct any questions to [awcthehague.activities@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Behind the Scenes at the Flower Parade

Spring in the Netherlands is synonymous with flowers! Each year over one million visitors flock to the Keukenhof Gardens to marvel at the colorful floral displays. One of the most crowded days is when the annual Flower Parade of the Bollenstreek travels through the towns along the route. This year the parade will roll from Noordwijk to Haarlem on Saturday, April 22. Would you like to take a peek behind the scenes and find out how these floats are made? In the three days before the parade, the floats will be “pierced,” that is to say, covered and decorated with bulb flowers. Many hundreds of volunteers will be busy for days with the piercing or pinning of thousands of hyacinths, tulips and daffodils to the floats. This unique event can be admired at the hall of DeLeeuw Flowerbulbs in Sassenheim.

We will travel from Den Haag Centraal (DHCS) by train and bus for approximately 45 minutes (check GroupSpaces for starting time) to the tennis club converted into a warehouse for floats. We will join a 30-minute guided tour that will include a short presentation about the history of DeLeeuw Flowerbulbs and an expla-

nation on how these magnificent floats are made. After the tour, we will linger in the hall to watch the volunteers transform these floats into fragrant works of art. Optional lunch is at own expense. For more information: [greetje.engelsman@gmail.com](mailto:greetje.engelsman@gmail.com)

**Thursday, April 20**  
**DeLeeuw Flowerbulb**  
**Rijksstraatweg 52, Sassenheim**  
**€ 5 Members (€ 10 nonmembers) includes Admission, Tour and coffee or tea**  
**Minimum 5 / Maximum 20**  
**Cancellation deadline: April 13**  
[www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1106373](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1106373)

## Zaanse Schans Day Trip

With its traditional green painted houses, warehouses and windmills, Zaanse Schans ([www.dezaanseschans.nl](http://www.dezaanseschans.nl)) gives the feeling of having stepped back into the 18th and 19th centuries. This is not a traditional open air museum, but rather a colorful living and working neighborhood. International tourists have flocked to the Zaanse Schans for generations, and it still attracts nearly a million visitors per year. There is no entrance fee to visit the outdoor portions, but entrance fees vary at

museums, workshops and windmills. You can visit the Albert Heijn Museum Shop, a cheese farm, a clog workshop and a pewter foundry. If you're interested in visiting the Zaanse Museum, which houses the Verkade Experience bringing the history of the Dutch cookie and chocolate company to life, or the Museum of the Dutch Clock, bring along your *Museumkaart* for free admission. If you don't have a *Museumkaart*, you may consider purchasing a Zaanse Schans Card for € 15 which includes free and discounted museum entrances.

We will travel there together, but feel free to explore at your own pace. We can buddy up to take advantage of NS discount cards. Meet at Starbucks at Den Haag Centraal (DHCS) at 9 a.m. to catch the train, which will take a little more than 1.5 hours with at least one transfer. We will gather at a meeting place to exit at 3:30 p.m. in order to arrive back at DHCS around 5:30 p.m. Bring your *OV-chipkaart* and money for lunch and attractions.

**Tuesday, May 9**  
**Meet at Starbucks at DHCS at 9 a. m.**  
**FREE**  
[www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1106170](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1106170)

## Humane Farm Tour

It's the stuff of a children's book: a hen is happier living with the pigs because the other hens are mean to her. The manager of a factory farm wouldn't notice and might not care, but the farmers care at Op Hodenpijl ([www.ophodenpijl.nl](http://www.ophodenpijl.nl)). They'll happily let a unique chicken hang out in the pig stall or join the pigs when they go swimming. Op Hodenpijl is a vibrant country estate just down the A-4 from Delft. It used to be a church and parson-

age. Now it's an airy art gallery, concert hall, holistic business center, organic restaurant, and a humane farm that sells its own seasonal produce and local artisanal organic food. Join us for a one-hour tour of the farm and herb gardens followed by an optional lunch at De Herdershof, the light-filled restaurant featuring produce from its own gardens and greenhouse. Ingredients that they can't grow themselves are supplied by local vendors who work with respect for nature, animals and humans. You'll choose your lunch, vegetarian or not, from the menu before the tour. We'll carpool from the Clubhouse and/or from Wassenaar and meet at 11 a.m. at the door of the restaurant.

**Friday, May 19**  
**11 a.m.**  
**Op Hodenpijl**  
**Rijksstraatweg 20, Schipluiden**  
**Tour: € 7 Members (€ 12 Members)**  
**Lunch: At own expense**  
**Minimum 6 / Maximum 12**  
**Cancellation deadline: May 14**  
[www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1100057](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1100057)



Contact:  
Revd Ruan Crew (Chaplain)  
[ruan@stjames.nl](mailto:ruan@stjames.nl)  
071-561 3020  
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# 2017 Red, White & Blue Gala

by RWB Committee

The American Women's Club of The Hague has a long history of philanthropy, where 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 €95 for AWC Members or partners and €125 for nonmembers. For additional information, please visit [www.redwhiteandbluegala.com](http://www.redwhiteandbluegala.com). For questions or to volunteer to assist the Gala Committee, please email [info@redwhiteandbluegala.com](mailto:info@redwhiteandbluegala.com).

## Red, White & Blue Gala Beneficiaries

Our 2017 Red, White & Blue Gala will support the following organizations:

### Center for Personalized Cancer Treatment

No two cancers are alike, just as no two people are alike. The Center for Personalized Cancer Treatment (CPCT — [www.cpct.nl](http://www.cpct.nl)) is utilizing new technologies to analyze DNA. These groundbreaking techniques can pinpoint the origin of cancer and any changes in DNA that are responsible for the growth of cancer cells. This allows doctors to choose the best treatment for each person as an individual rather than generic chemotherapy treatments.

The AWC is spearheading a campaign to raise funds to enable Medische Centrum Haaglanden to join the CPCT network to transform cancer therapy by “using advanced technological tools



to predict who will respond to a specific cancer treatment.” Ultimately, through cutting edge targeted therapies, residents of The Hague will benefit, improving the odds in their battle with cancer. Please join the AWC in supporting Medische Centrum Haaglanden in conjunction with CPCT's research agenda, which brings together hospitals throughout the Netherlands and the world to build a solid scientific foundation for this new era of treatment. Let us help the ones we love win the battle against cancer.

Saturday, May 13  
Hilton The Hague  
Zeestraat 35, Den Haag  
6:30 p.m. – 1 a.m.



### SPOSA Child

What would you be prepared to do to help protect a child from sexual abuse? Education will give her back her life and her dignity. Help us save a child.

Based in the Netherlands, Stichting SPOSA Child (Save and Protect our Sexually Abused Child— [www.sposa-child.com](http://www.sposa-child.com)) was established in 2010 as an independent, small-scale, non-profit charity foundation. Their mission is rehabilitation and healing of sexually and physically abused children through the gift of education on the island of Negros in the Philippines. The 2017 Red White & Blue Gala will support SPOSA's efforts to provide a complete education through sustained funding from a scholarship program for girls. The SPOSA Child Educational Scholarship Fund covers costs such as uniforms, books and other school materials, physical education, transport to/from school, meals, and reintegration counseling. AWC Member **Marilyn Tinsay** founded and serves as Chairperson of SPOSA Child. >> 24



# 2017 Red, White & Blue Gala

Continued from page 23

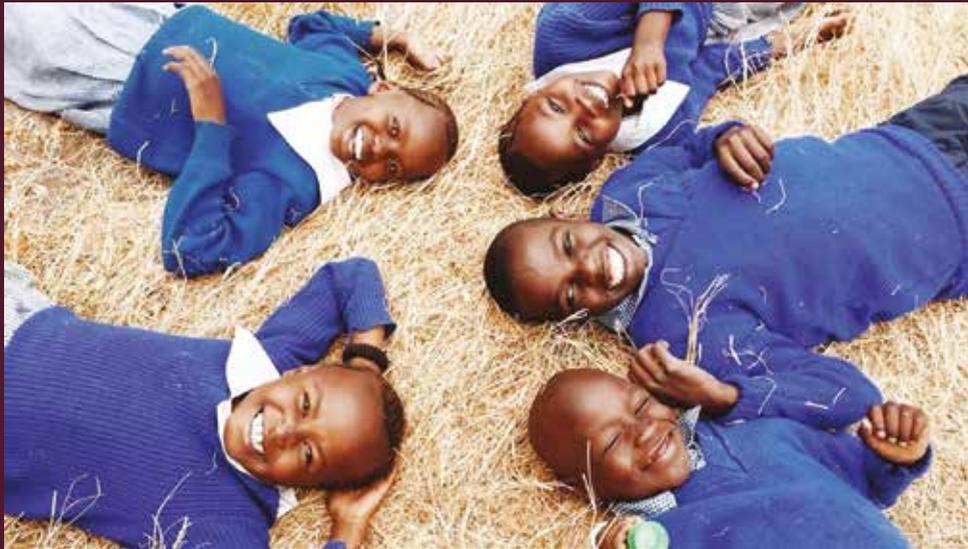
## Stahili Foundation

Working with families and the community, the Stahili Foundation ([www.stahili.org](http://www.stahili.org)) uses education as a tool to end exploitation, keep families together, and break the cycle of poverty. While most 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 allows them to give the children a life they deserve. Stahili monitors their well-being and provides them with:



- Protection from exploitation 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 children from the ages of 5 through 24, and is advancing an additional number of students to high school. Your support of the 2017 Red, White & Blue Gala will help fund these goals. AWC Member **Michelle Otiel** is Co-Founder of the Stahili Foundation.



To make a donation or purchase tickets to the Red, White & Blue Gala:  
[www.redwhiteandbluegala.com](http://www.redwhiteandbluegala.com)

Red White & Blue

GALA

Sponsored by AWC The Hague

HILTON THE HAGUE  
Zeestraat 35, 2518 AA Den Haag

Saturday, 13th May 2017  
18:30 - 1:00

Black Tie  
RED CARPET



## *Friendraiser Gratitude*

by *Mary Ann Nation-Greenwall*

The AWC's first Friendraiser Happy Hour was a great success! We were joined by more than 50 people including Members, partners, beneficiaries and friends on February 21 for an evening of fun. A big thanks to Prins Wijn, who generously donated the wine for the evening and to our Members who made the delicious hors d'oeuvres.



A great time was had by all, and we are overwhelmed with gratitude for all of the support pledged that evening from the community. I want to give a heartfelt thanks to the Friendraiser Team: **Celeste Brown, Jan de Vries, Dominique Duysens, Jan Essad, Becky Faylor, Amber Gatewood, Dena Haggerty, Teresa Insalaco, Suzanne MacNeil, Sunita Menon, Sue Merrick, Michelle Oliel, Georgia Regnault, Holly Savoie, Krishna Thakrar, Emily van Erten and Chelsea Wald.**

I hope you enjoy the pictures from the event!



# APRIL 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>Upcoming Spring Events:</b> <b>May 9:</b> Zaanse Schans <b>May 10:</b> Walkie Talkies in Woerden <b>May 13:</b> Red White & Blue Gala <b>May 19:</b> Humane Farm Tour				1  Private Dinner on the Hoftramm <b>5:45 p.m.</b>
2	3 Walkie Talkies <b>9:30 a.m.</b>  Ladies' Night at the Movies <b>7 p.m.</b>	4 Chat, Crafts & Cake <b>10 a.m.</b> AWC Tennis <b>1 p.m.</b>	5 Pilates <b>10:15 a.m.</b>	6 Wassenaar Coffee and Conversation <b>9 a.m.</b> AWC Board Meeting <b>10 a.m.</b>	7 Out to Lunch Bunch <b>12:15 p.m.</b>	8 Kid's Spring Easter Party and Egg Hunt <b>3 p.m.</b> Dinner Club- International Night <b>7 pm.</b>
9	10 Walkie Talkies <b>9:30 a.m.</b>  <div style="background-color: red; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;">Passover</div>	11 Chat, Crafts & Cake <b>10 a.m.</b> Heart Pillow Workshop <b>Noon</b> AWC Tennis <b>1 p.m.</b>	12 Pilates <b>10:15 a.m.</b>  Evening Book Club <b>7:30 p.m.</b>	13 Coffee <b>10 a.m.</b> General Meeting <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Lunch <b>Noon</b>	14	15
16  <div style="background-color: red; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;">Easter</div>	17 Walkie Talkies <b>9:30 a.m.</b>	18 Chat, Crafts & Cake <b>10 a.m.</b> AWC Tennis <b>1 p.m.</b>	19 Pilates <b>10:15 a.m.</b>  <div style="background-color: red; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;">Dutch - American Friendship Day</div>	20 Behind the Scenes at the Flower Parade <b>TBD</b> Daytime Book Club <b>10 a.m.</b>	21	22  <div style="background-color: red; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;">Earth Day</div>
23	24 Walkie Talkies <b>9:30 a.m.</b>	25 Chat, Crafts & Cake <b>10 a.m.</b>	26 Pilates <b>10:15 a.m.</b>	27 Front Office Closed  <div style="background-color: red; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;">King's Day</div>	28	29
30						



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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](http://WWW.FAWCOFOUNDATION.ORG/BACKINGWOMENBOUTIQUE)

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[www.access-nl.org](http://www.access-nl.org)

# Dutch-American Friendship

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 as he wrote in a letter to Abigail "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 at-

tended 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; Senator Chris Van Hollen; Ivo Daalder, former American ambassador to NATO; and so many more.

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 presents a Certificate of Appreciation to a Dutch person who has significantly contributed to that friendship. In the words of John Adams, "There are no friends more faithful than they." Once more, the commemoration will be in cooperation with the US Embassy. For further information, contact me at [robertaenschede@yahoo.com](mailto:robertaenschede@yahoo.com).

# The Dutch Daily

by Eileen Harloff

## Library Revival

Beginning in 2005, the number of members of public libraries in the Netherlands declined rapidly to the point that numerous neighborhood branches were closed down. Since 2015, however, the trend has reversed and nowadays



libraries are becoming increasingly popular, especially with younger people. This has come about because of expansion of their activities, far beyond loaning out books, to providing a number of other activities. In Gouda, for example, the city library has joined forces with a café, regional archive and craft printer workshop, and all are now located in a former chocolate factory. So successful has this new venue become that it was chosen as the country's best library in 2015. Facilities available to the public are meeting rooms, study cells and work areas. In addition, there are classes in subjects such as foreign languages and getting along with the computer. Sometimes debates are held on public topics, or talks are given on painters, and demonstrations are organized on dance, music and other topics of the day. Some libraries even have comedy evenings. All these kinds of activities are free of charge, with a modest membership fee required for the loan of books and associated printed material, CDs, DVDs and audio books. The day of the library is on the rise!

## Tijn in the Sky

Do you remember the story in last month's "The Dutch Daily" about Tijn Kolsteren, the six-year-old who is suffering from incurable brain cancer? And how he wanted to raise funds by polishing people's nails for a small fee, for an organization that grants last wishes to sick children? And how this idea caught on throughout the country and resulted in raising € 2.6 million? Well, since then Tijn has gone through his last series of radiation treatments, after which his wish of going to Disneyland Paris was fulfilled. Sadly, he is no longer able to walk and now gets about by wheelchair. A great honor has been granted in his final days by the naming of an asteroid that circumvents the sun after him. Asteroid 6327 (discovered by an American astronomer in 1991) is now known as asteroid Tijn. In receiving this honor, Tijn joins a select group of Dutch men and women who also have been so honored, among whom are Vincent van Gogh, Anne Frank and national football hero Johan Cruyff.

## When Tulips Bloom, Can Spring Be Far Behind?

At the end of February, the Dam in Amsterdam was filled with 200,000 tulips which were offered to the public in honor of the opening of tulip season. According to the Royal Association of Flower Bud Culture, growers



this year will be producing at least two billion bulbs, twice the amount produced ten years ago. The public relations department of the association has done a tremendous job over the years promoting tulips as a Dutch icon. Gifts of tulip bulbs are given on visits abroad by businessmen, family, friends and even royalty. Tulips are also generously supplied for public displays—the tulips that bloom each year in the garden at the White House, for example. Moreover, photographs of the Dutch tulip fields have promoted tourism from other countries far and near. About 90% of the tulips grown here are exported, with 50% going to Germany. Russia, too, imports considerable numbers, especially around Women's Day in March, when warm colors such as red, yellow and orange are favorite gifts.

Why are tulips in this country such favorites for bouquets and flower beds? Here again the growers' association has a ready answer. In the past years, they have become a favorite flower to be sold in supermarkets and flower stalls because they are easy to transport, come in a variety of colors and forms and, very importantly, are inexpensive. The growers' association prizes the look of tulips in vases, so I am now examining the 20 tulips I currently have in my living room. Half are a lovely yellow color, the other half are red and yellow. At first they all stood straight up in the vase (it's probably too full). Now, the dual-colored are thrusting their stems outside the vase, in supplication for more space perhaps. They have been beautifying my living room for almost a week and look like they have a couple of days left, and they were only € 2.50 a bunch. I'm off to buy some more tomorrow.

## Tattoos Hit the Hospital

Wouter Keizer is director of a creative agency in Rotterdam. After the birth of his child, he regularly visited Rotterdam's Sophia Children's Hospital and wanted to do something for the young patients. He came up with the idea of setting up a one-day pop-up tattoo shop at the hospital. He recruited a couple of tattoo artist friends and they set to work offering to decorate the plaster casts of young patients. They also went onto the wards and offered their services there, which were accepted with great delight by bedridden cast

wearers. At the end of the day Keizer realized that casts are often not just a one-time remedy, but are part of a treatment that has to be continued, sometimes over a substantial period of time. So now the tattoo shop is a fixture, and one that brings pleasure and entertainment to the young cast wearers, and even to patients who do not wear casts but must come regularly to the hospital for treatments. One eight-year-old lad requested a big butterfly on a one-day cast, which he wanted to show off the next day at school.



## For Love of Mondrian

A Hague funeral home has been so inspired by the current exhibition of paintings of Piet Mondrian at the Gemeentemuseum that it is offering a Mondrian-style casket for € 800 extra. This offer, it is said, is part of a "growing request" for unusual caskets. The funeral home reports that already a handful of people have indicated that they would like to be buried in this new design of casket made by Beerenberg, a Dutch company specializing in unique caskets.



# Scientific Language: It Doesn't Mean What You Think!

by Debbie Reagan with Introduction by Anne van Oorschot

If you are not too new to the Club, you may remember Debbie Reagan. A past AWC Board and Club Member, Debbie moved several years ago to Beijing and then to Houston, but still maintains a Nonresident AWC Membership. She is currently working on increasing the sustainability of the Houston Independent School District, the seventh largest school district in the US, while finishing her Master's in Sustainability and Environmental Management through Harvard University Extension. Debbie is also a member of FAWCO's Environmental Task Force and a frequent contributor to FAWCO's Environment Bulletins. She writes about science both knowledgeably and humorously, as you will see in the following article on the trouble with scientific language. Don't miss the link at the end to a website about Spurious Correlations. It's hilarious!

\*\*\*\*\*

I constantly bump into a roadblock when talking about science with my non-scientist friends. Words such as "significant," "correlation," and "confidence" have very specific meanings in science and these meanings differ from how the general public uses such terms. Below is a quick primer on what scientists are trying to say when they use these terms, but before I start, I need to explain a little bit about how reasonable science experiments are designed.

## Designing a Science Experiment

First, you need a hypothesis, which is a statement that can be tested and is not necessarily a question. Here's a simple example: Marigolds exposed to morning sunlight have a different growth rate than marigolds exposed to afternoon sunlight. My "null hypothesis" is that there is no difference. My "alternative hypothesis" is that there is a difference. Note that there is no judgment about which group might have a higher growth rate.

Next, you must design your experiment. You must decide how big your sample size is



because you cannot measure every marigold plant in the world. The more samples you have, though, the more likely you will be able to evaluate your experiment using statistical tests. You must also decide what "parameters" you will measure to determine growth. Will it be the number of flowers? Number of leaves? Plant height? Plant weight?

Just as important in the design process is controlling variables. There are many things that go into growing a plant such as the type of container, soil, water, air quality, temperature, and nutrients. A good scientific experiment tries to hold all variables, except one, equal.

## Significant ≠ Important

When a scientist says that a finding is "significant," he or she is talking about statistical significance and has concluded that that the result is not due to random chance. It does not mean that the finding is important or meaningful. The experimenter used one of many types of statistical tests on the data and has rejected the null hypothesis.

Scientists love rejecting their null hypothesis. If you reject your null hypothesis, you have a positive outcome and are more likely to be published. As the British economist Ronald Coase said, "If you torture the data enough, nature will always confess." It is a cautionary statement that sometimes the positive outcome just isn't there.

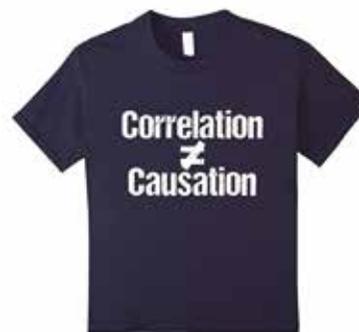
## Confidence ≠ Certainty

Good scientists are never 100% certain of their findings. They talk about being 95% confident that their findings are "significant." Now you may think that they mean there is a 5% chance that they are wrong. Nope! What they are saying is that if they run the experiment 100 times, the test results from the sample group will be representative of the general population 95 times. There could be 5 times when they measured no difference in growth of the marigolds. This is a tough concept to grasp, but creates much of the confusion over how science information is reported.

Another, more practical, way to think about this is to think about how you use probability in your own decision making. It is raining outside. Do you stay dry by running between the raindrops or do you stay dry by using an umbrella? Statistically, you have a chance of staying dry, but a rational person pops open the umbrella.

## Correlation ≠ Causation

I need a t-shirt with these words printed on it! In the real world, there are many, many variables that cannot be controlled during an experiment. If I were measuring marigolds that I found in the natural environment, it would



be much more difficult to control all of the variables and determine which variable (or variables) influenced growth the most. Nature is messy.

How do you feel about the statement, "As sales of ice cream increase, drowning deaths increase, therefore ice cream causes drowning"? Correlation between ice cream sales and drowning deaths is very strong. It is also a false conclusion. Both ice cream sales and water-based activities increase in the summer. It is the increase in water-based activities that is the cause of the increase in drowning deaths. Be very wary of reports that equate a correlation with causation.

A scientific study without statistical analysis is junk science of the worst sort. Critical analysis of scientific papers is a highly specialized skill set and much is lost in translation when trying to squeeze technical information into a 700-word newspaper article or 30-second news bit. I urge you all to be "critical" in the sense that you use skillful judgment as to the truth or merit of scientific claims.

## To Learn More

Want to learn more about scientific terms and how to sniff out junk science? Try these out:

**Spurious Correlations** at [www.tylervigen.com](http://www.tylervigen.com). A Harvard Law student created this website that graphically illustrates silly correlations between different statistics.

**How to Lie with Statistics** by Darrell Huff. This 144-page book, first published in 1954, is still relevant today.

*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!*



# FAWCO Corner

by Julie Mowat

## 43rd FAWCO Biennial Conference in Mumbai

By the time you are reading this, I will have returned home from Mumbai and will be able to tell you all the exciting things that are happening with FAWCO including which organization was selected for the Target Program. A new Target Program is chosen every three years to increase awareness of the subject within FAWCO Member Clubs and to raise funds for that specific organization. Lots of information on the selected project will be given and how as a Club we can support the fundraising efforts.

## Handbag Auction

One way that our Club can contribute to the FAWCO Target Program is to hold our much anticipated Helping Handbag Auction. Please mark your calendars for Thursday, October 12 after the General Meeting. More details to follow.

## Regional Meeting

Regional Meetings are organized and held annually to bring Members of the FAWCO Clubs within a region together to network, share Club Best Practices, listen to interesting speakers and much more. The FAWCO Region IV Regional Meeting date has been set and will be held in Antwerp on September 22 – 24. All AWC Members are welcome. More details to follow.

## Club Workshops

FAWCO offers workshops and presentations that include: FAWCO and The FAWCO Foundation overviews, US tax information, the United Nations Team, as well as practical coaching and information on managing Club finances, by-laws, conflict management, presentation skills, team building, and social



media skills. Do you have ideas for workshops or feel that our Club has a need for a workshop that is not listed? Please let FAWCO know by contacting AWC Member **Mary Adams**.

## Educating About the Environment

Our own **Anne van Oorschot** is the FAWCO Environment Task Force Co-Chair. This is an excerpt from her latest FAWCO bulletin:

“The first FAWCO Target Program’s issue was water, which was—and is—an important environmental topic. Since Education is currently the Target issue, you may think that “the environment” needs to wait until an environmental issue is chosen as the new Target to be relevant in the Target Program. I would have to disagree! I think education and environment are linked in two essential ways: 1) the environment has such a profound influence in people’s lives that it affects—and sometimes determines—many other aspects of their lives; and 2) education is needed to understand the effects of environmental situations, changes and problems as well as how to deal with them.

**Environmental Problems = Poverty  
= No Education**

Awareness and concern about environmental degradation has grown among people of different nations, cultures, religions and social classes. However, not everybody realizes that the negative effects of environmental changes are disproportionately felt by the poor. The natural resources that are life sustaining for all of us—clean air, clean water, fertile soils, trees which turn carbon dioxide into oxygen, etc.—are also the basic economic assets of hundreds of millions of people.

Living in poverty necessitates that people focus on day-to-day survival, which >> 42

# AWC and the Arts

by Jane Choy

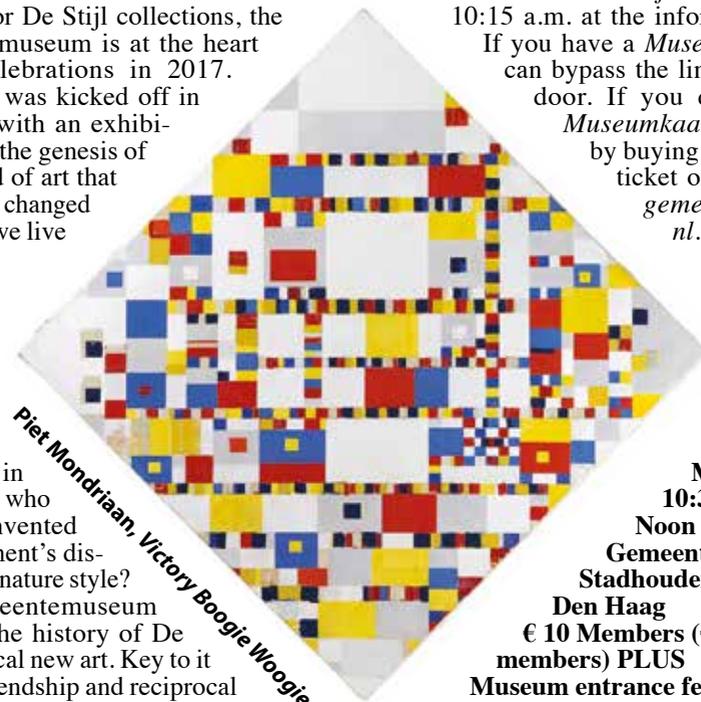
Perhaps you have noticed red, blue and yellow blocks all over The Hague? This is because 2017 is the 100th anniversary of the launch of the Dutch art and design movement known as *De Stijl* (The Style). The Netherlands is marking the centenary with a year-long program of events under the title *Mondrian to Dutch Design: 100 years of De Stijl*. As home both of the world’s greatest Mondrian collection and of one of its major De Stijl collections, the Gemeentemuseum is at the heart of the celebrations in 2017. The event was kicked off in February with an exhibition about the genesis of a new kind of art that has forever changed the world we live in.

De Stijl’s iconic red, yellow and blue palette is still in vogue, but who actually invented the movement’s distinctive signature style? The Gemeentemuseum unravels the history of De Stijl’s radical new art. Key to it was the friendship and reciprocal influence between the movement’s two foremost painters: Piet Mondrian and Bart van der Leck. At the time, artists united under De Stijl, an art movement in which Mondrian played an active role for several years and rocked the foundations of modern art, architecture and design. After Rembrandt, Vermeer and Van Gogh, this group of visionaries is considered one of the most important Dutch contributions to international art. The exhibition *Mondrian*

& *De Stijl* will give you a glimpse of their world. The *Inventing a New Art* exhibition is the first ever to examine the exact nature and lasting influence of the relationship between Mondrian and Van der Leck.

We will have a combination tour of the exhibitions: *Piet Mondrian and Bart van Der Leck: Inventing a New Art and Mondrian & De Stijl*. We will meet 10:15 a.m. at the information desk.

If you have a *Museumkaart*, you can bypass the line at the front door. If you don’t have a *Museumkaart*, save time by buying your entrance ticket online at [www.gemeentemuseum.nl](http://www.gemeentemuseum.nl).



*Piet Mondrian, Victory Boogie Woogie*

**Wednesday,  
May 3  
10:30 a.m. –**

**Noon**

**Gemeentemuseum  
Stadhouderslaan 41,  
Den Haag**

**€ 10 Members (€ 15 non-members) PLUS**

**Museum entrance fee (€ 14.50 or free with *Museumkaart*)**

**Minimum 12 / Maximum 18**

**Cancellation deadline: April 15  
[www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1108510](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1108510)**

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

*Federation of American Women’s Clubs Overseas, a United Nations NGO with consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council*  
[www.fawco.org](http://www.fawco.org)



*Giving Back to the Local Community*



# Slate of Officers 2017-2018

We are pleased to introduce the candidates for the 2017-2018 AWC The Hague Board. The election of Officers will take place during the General Meeting on April 13. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please submit a proxy ballot.

**President – 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 U.S. After living in Germany for a year, her eyes were opened to the world and since then, she has traveled and lived on 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 California, where Mary Ann held various positions, including Vice President of Volunteer Services at the Pasadena Humane Society. While volunteering with the 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. Currently Mary Ann is the acting chair of Club & Community Development at the AWC.



**Vice President – Dena Haggerty:** Dena was born and raised in Wisconsin, but likes to think she’s European. After spending her senior year in Germany, she developed a bad case of wanderlust that has yet to be cured. She returned to the US for college, earning a Bachelor’s Degree in History at the young age of 20, despite spending every spare moment flying back and forth to Europe. Unable to find a job and still suffering from a wicked case of wanderlust, she joined the U.S. Army as a Military Policewoman. While stationed at NATO in Germany, she met her husband, a flying Dutchman. After being given her freedom from the Army, she went to law school in Ohio. Thereafter, she moved to Holland with her husband and became a commercial lawyer specializing in intellectual property for more than a decade. Deciding that the law was not really for her, she moved to Germany to start a B&B. Three years later, she realized that running a B&B wasn’t her thing either. Dena’s husband encouraged her to self-publish her first novel. Deciding that she may have indeed finally found what she wanted to do when she grew up, she wrote *Buried Appearances*. When her husband was transferred to Istanbul, she couldn’t pack up her bags quickly enough. In Istanbul, she managed to write a further seven books. Considering the political climate in Turkey, she moved back to the Netherlands—the country she calls home—in 2016. She’s currently working on her 11th book while dreaming about the next one.



**Treasurer – Melissa White:** After Melissa earned a BS in Finance from San Diego State University, she swore she would never be an accountant, but soon found herself working in corporate accounting as a financial analyst. She left the corporate world in 1994 to start a business with her husband James. The business didn’t survive, but their marriage did and so did her transformation to a full-time mother in North Carolina. They moved to Holland in November 2005 with their two daughters (now 19 and 16). Melissa confesses that being a full-time mom in The Hague is a lot more fun than being one in NC. After eight years of being Editor of *Going Dutch*, Melissa will be stepping down reluctantly as Editor. What she will miss most about leaving her *Going Dutch* position is closely working with **Teresa Mahoney**, so she’s thrilled that they’ll be on the Board together. For fun, she runs with the Hash House Harriers (where she met James), writes a family blog ([www.suitcasekids.com](http://www.suitcasekids.com)) and travels as much as possible.



**Secretary – Mallery Clarke:** Mallery grew up in Texas and moved to the Netherlands three years ago, shortly after graduating from Texas A&M University with a BS in Event Management. While at Texas A&M, she served as President of the Student Event Planner’s Association. She also served on the National Board for the Student Event Planners Association as the “E-Mentor Program” Director where she helped facilitate the professional development of hundreds of undergraduate students across the US with leading event industry professionals. Mallery and her Dutch fiancé Menno are busy planning their June wedding in Italy. Since joining the AWC, Mallery has served on several committees: 85 & Counting Gala (2015), Red White & Blue Gala (2016), and Nominating Committee (2016 & 2017). “I am so appreciative of my AWC community for the support and encouragement (not to mention all of the fun) given to me. I look forward to giving back to the organization that has become like a ‘Home away from home’ during my transition to living abroad.”



**Club and Community Development – Laurie Brooks:** Laurie was born in Alabama and will always have southern roots, but she has also lived in Maryland, Texas, Washington, and Colorado. She graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a degree in English, while studying software languages on her own. After landing a job as a technical writer, she quickly moved into engineering and has been in IT ever since. After working for Lockheed Martin as a satellite ground systems engineer, she moved on to project and program management for international aerospace companies. Most recently, she spent several years traveling to England, almost weekly, to work with Rolls Royce Aerospace. Laurie loves to read and do cross stitch, and in her younger years enjoyed skydiving and scuba diving. In 2009, she met her husband through her job, and in 2010 moved to Houten, near Utrecht, to help raise two stepsons. She is currently the FAWCO Rep for the AWCA in Amsterdam. Laurie was a technical coordinator for the STAND UP Against Human Trafficking Symposium, and is working on redesigning the FAWCO website. She is very excited to become more involved with the AWC and looks forward to the challenges and joys involved in her new role.



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# Slate of Officers (cont.)

Continued from page 41

**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 a Master's Degree in Law Philosophy. She was appointed to the Board in November 2015 as the AWC's first-ever Dutch Board Member. She would love to continue to further redefine the function of the Clubhouse Administrator position. Dominique 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. And I am discovering my talent for this job more and more, so I would love to continue."



**Communications – Teresa Mahoney:** Teresa is originally from Minnesota, but has now lived abroad for more years than she lived in the U.S. She came to Holland 19 years ago with her British husband, Chris, and they have raised two children here, Max (22) and Lauren (19). Teresa worked in finance and accounting before moving to Geneva in the late eighties. After receiving her MBA from the University of Geneva, she resumed her career in the banking industry. Teresa is thoroughly enjoying being an empty nester, allowing her to jet off at a moment's notice to visit her kids who are studying abroad and friends in far-flung corners of the world. Teresa and **Melissa White** have been working together to produce *Going Dutch* for almost eight years, and she is sad to see the editing team break up but excited to start working with **Suzanne MacNeil** who will take over the role of Editor, and is happily relieved that she and Melissa can continue to work together on the AWC Board.



# FAWCO Corner (cont.)

Continued from page 36

leaves them little opportunity to pursue education. As we saw in the Water Target Program, if there was no good access to clean water, women and girls had to walk long distances to a clean water source, using time that could otherwise have been used to go to school. Combined with a simple lack of available time, the poor often have insufficient access to education and information. They lack access to the very information that could teach them to manage the available natural resources in a sustainable and sound manner. Today

more than ever, education remains the key to escaping poverty, while poverty remains the biggest obstacle to education. Environmental degradation is both a cause and a result of poverty and lack of education." To read the rest, go to: [www.fawco.org/global-issues/environment/3635-environment-bulletin-february-2017](http://www.fawco.org/global-issues/environment/3635-environment-bulletin-february-2017)

On a final note, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jjbbmow@msn.com](mailto:jjbbmow@msn.com) if you want to learn more about FAWCO.

# Kids' Club

by Sue Merrick

## 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 containing some small gifts/toys/treats. Children of all ages are welcome. 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 [suehou714@yahoo.com](mailto:suehou714@yahoo.com).

**Saturday, April 8**

**3 – 5 p.m.**

**€ 8 per child or € 15 per Member family (€ 13 per child or € 20 per nonmember family)**

**Cancellation deadline: April 3**

[www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1099222](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1099222)



# Announcements

## National Museum Week

For more than 30 years, over 400 museums across the country offered a special weekend with free or discounted entrance including free films, slide shows, tours, demonstrations and workshops. The fun has been expanded to an entire week from April 3 – 9 with the theme of *Our Real Gold*. For more information and to see which museums are participating, visit [www.nationalemuseumweek.nl](http://www.nationalemuseumweek.nl).

## Scottish Country Dancing Potluck

The St. Andrew's Society of the Netherlands invites the AWC to a Potluck Ceilidh (Scottish country dancing). There is no previous experience needed. Similar to American squaring

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 potluck item for the buffet. [www.standrews.nl](http://www.standrews.nl)

**Friday, April 7**

**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. Contributing artists will be displaying their work at over 40 various locations, which are >> 44

# Announcements (cont.)

Continued from page 43

marked with eye-catching window signs. **Saturday, April 8 and Sunday, April 9 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

[www.kunstenarsinhetstatenkwartier.nl](http://www.kunstenarsinhetstatenkwartier.nl)



## Free Palm Sunday Concert

The American Protestant Church of The Hague (APCH) Choir presents *Journey of Passion* on Palm Sunday with passionate music by Mozart, Bach, Clydesdale, and Fauré. Conductor: John Bakker. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. For seat reservations, email [musicdirector@apch.nl](mailto:musicdirector@apch.nl). [www.APCH.nl](http://www.APCH.nl)

**Sunday, April 9 at 4 p.m.**  
APCH

Esther de Boer-van Rijklaan 20, Den Haag

## DFAS Art Lecture

### Four Magnificent Royal Danish Castles

Denmark is blessed with no less than 14 royal castles. Over the centuries, the Danish kings enriched the land with a vast collection of buildings, from early simple dwellings to sumptuous palaces. In this lecture, four of the



most famous and splendid castles will be discussed: Rosenborg, Fredriksborg, Amalienborg and Fredensborg (Palace of Peace). Lecturer Hanne Sutcliffe includes the life stories of many of the Royal Danish families. Non-DFAS member fee is € 12. [www.dfas.nl](http://www.dfas.nl)

**Tuesday, April 11**

**8 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.)**

**Cultural Centrum Warenar  
Kerkstraat 75, Wassenaar**

## Flower Parade

On Saturday, April 22 at 9:30 a.m., the 70th 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 *Dutch Design* 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 23 until 5 p.m. There will also be an illuminated parade in Noordwijkerhout on Friday, April 21 at 9 p.m. To see the schedule of the route, go to [www.bloemencorso-bollenstreek.nl](http://www.bloemencorso-bollenstreek.nl).

## Life I Live Festival

Starting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, 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 and continuing for the first time on Thursday, April 27 for King's Day itself. During these two days, more than 30 local bands and DJs will perform next to international acts on 10 stages scattered around playing a variety of musical styles: soul, funk, hip hop, blues, indie pop, garage, punk, psychedelia, jazz and dance tunes. [www.thelifeilive.nl](http://www.thelifeilive.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 14. 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 smakelijk! [www.restaurantweek.nl](http://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 and third year, moving towards the goal of one bulb for every inhabitant of Amsterdam. All through the month of April and midway through May, colorful and rare tulips can be seen in the gardens of museums, private homes and other city institutions.



A festival guide and route map showing the participating locations is available for € 2 at the information points. [www.tulpfestival.com](http://www.tulpfestival.com)

## Developments in Scheveningen Harbor

Plans are under way to transform Scheveningen Harbor into a modern center for the fishing industry with a focus on tourism as 85,000 square meters in new construction and renovations are scheduled to get started in 2018.



Simonis will open a new restaurant and the area will get a three-star hotel, new parking garage and proper connection to the boulevard. A fish attraction to enhance the tourist experience is also being considered.

## Free English-language Dutch Journalism

The ad-free online Dutch journalism platform *The Correspondent*—"Your antidote to the daily news grind"—has started publishing some articles in English with the intent to expand internationally in the near future. As some AWC Members may already know, the journalism is excellent. Topics run from local to global and from personal to political. Even if you aren't a Correspondent member, you can periodically receive newsletters with links to free articles, updates and sample stories. [www.decorrespondent.nl](http://www.decorrespondent.nl)



# Cruising the Persian Gulf

by Eileen Harloff

Nowadays, I am not happy to be in a crowd—nor am I terribly excited about ships and extended cruises. I've had many trips across the Atlantic and back, along the west coast of Central America and through the Panama Canal to Miami, up and down the coast of Norway, and on a small ship around South America's Cape Horn. On the latter trip, in the middle of the night we passed from the currents of the Pacific Ocean into the currents of the Atlantic Ocean; they were so strong that our suitcases flew off their stands and crashed to the floor.

Despite my reservations, I went along with three friends on a seven-day cruise in December 2016 around the Arabian Sea on the MSC Fantasia. Our staterooms were on the ninth deck with ocean views. Launched in 2008 by movie star Sophia Loren, our 3,000-passenger Italian ship was 1,100 feet

(333 meters) long and 125 feet (38 meters) wide with a staff of 1,400 men and women from all around the globe. The ship boasted a "gastronomic kitchen" with two evening sittings (we chose the first, 7 p.m.), a 24-hour buffet and room service. For exercise there was a fitness room offering dancing lessons as well as fitness classes and the services of a personal trainer. And, of course, there was a sizable swimming pool with chairs alongside for baking in the sun. In the theater were music and other performances.

So what more could one want from a short winter vacation in the sun? What I wanted was the opportunity to visit the area where places were named Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Bahrain, about which I had heard so much but knew so little. I embarked on a voyage of discovery by a comfortable means of transportation with three congenial traveling companions as well

as large family groups, babies in their carriages and people from all parts of the planet.

First I wanted to garner information on where we were going and what there was to see. We were sailing in the southern part of the Persian Gulf known as the Arabian Sea, between Saudi Arabia and Oman. Formerly pearls were the main source of income in this area, which were known far and wide for their beauty and worth but were all but wiped out by the depression of the 1920s and discovery of cultured pearls. In the late 1800's the *emirs* (princes) of six main clans in the region signed an agreement with Great Britain that they would limit foreign relations to the British, and this treaty held until 1971 when the British pulled out their troops from the area and the six clans, augmented by a seventh, established the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The government of this member country of the United Nations consists of a president who is the head of the most powerful clan, a prime minister from another powerful clan, and a high court composed of the leaders of the seven Emirates along with representatives that they themselves choose and whose task is to examine proposed laws.

Only about 15% of the population of the Emirates are natives of the region; the rest are workers from the oil industry—on which, with the 7th largest oil reserves in the world,



the financial health of the region rests—the building industry, home help, public servants, etc. The natives pay no taxes and lead a life of comparative wealth. The rest of the population are considered itinerant, and cannot become citizens, receive any benefits from the government, or own property. The financial situation is not currently at its best, so building projects are being postponed and many migrant workers cannot find jobs.

We flew from Schiphol to Dubai, where we were to transfer to our ship. Unfortunately, we were diverted to Oman instead; once the fog lifted, we flew to Dubai. A tour of Dubai was on our program, so despite having spent the night on the plane, we were given a whirlwind bus tour through the city before being taken to the ship. I should have read *Cruises for Dummies* before embarking >> 48

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# Persian Gulf (cont.)

Continued from page 47



on this voyage, so that I would have known some of the ins and outs of life on a ship of this size. To begin with, we were always waiting for the elevator, and this proved to be an interesting game. Which of the four elevators would come first, would there be room if it stopped, and would we be able to reach the button to indicate which floor we wanted? It was a daily game at which we eventually became somewhat proficient, with my traveling companion standing at one side of the elevator bank and me at the other side, ready to jump in and hold the door until we were both aboard. And then there was the question of which restaurant we should go to: the one where you wandered about picking up items from various counters and then made a dash for a seat, or the Red Velvet dining room where we shared a table with two delightful English women and were served by a waiter from Honduras? Where was one to go for the life jacket drill, and why didn't

everyone participate? Which line should we stand in to register for city tours? What were we supposed to wear to a gala evening? As far as cruising goes, we were in kindergarten, but our cabin was pleasant with its outside window, our neighbors weren't noisy, our friends/mentors were down the hallway and they and the ship's staff and fellow passengers were usually there to direct us when we went astray.

My main interest was the cities where we docked. Usually we took a bus tour, as private tours were very expensive and, when you have no sense of direction, you don't want to go wandering about in a new place where the people may not speak your language. After a night at sea our ship made its first stop at Abu Dhabi, the capital and largest (in size, not population) of the Emirates. As we were on a minimally priced bus tour our visit was only three hours, and thus quite limited.

Our first stop was the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, the third largest mosque in the world with a maximum capacity of 41,000 people. Completed in 2007, it was named after the sheikh who is considered the main founder of the UAE. Though I have seen many mosques in many countries, this mosque was one of the most beautiful, with natural materials such as marble, stone, gold, semi-precious stones, crystals and ceramics.

From there we went through the center of the city, which we subsequently found was similar to all other cities we visited in the Emirates: a dense nest of extremely tall buildings of varying designs, but mostly having some particular quirk that makes them stand out in the crowd. Outside the center are many new houses, grouped in neighborhoods shaped as flowers or some other attractive pattern, all looking new, neat and empty—I assume their inhabitants were all at work. Everywhere construction was going on or has been halted until the economy picks up again. In the neighborhood of the native population we saw impressive mansions à la Hollywood which could be reached by driveways winding through beautifully kept lawns and bordering flower beds. At one location our guide commented that to our right was a new palace of

one of the sheiks. We also were told that one could identify the wealth of an automobile owner by the number on his license plate: the lower the number, the richer and more prominent its owner.

Our next stop, which we viewed from our ship, was Sir Bani Yas Island, which is reached from the dock by small boats. This was a sporty person's dream destination: swimming and lazing in the sun, horseback riding, sailing, hiking, deep sea fishing, falconry or archery, mountain biking, etc. Our English tablemates went over early and stayed all day, coming back sunburned and very enthusiastic. We remained on board and went to look for the library, which proved to be a couple of small rooms. Several older people were ensconced in comfortable chairs, looking like they had been there since we boarded. The books were mainly in Italian and the silence was golden.

Doha was an attractive city approached by way of the corniche along the coast which offered a view of the high buildings of the city center across the water, with the 985-foot (300-meter) Aspire Tower as the winner. A main claim to fame these days for Doha is that they are to be the host city of >> 50



# Persian Gulf (cont.)

*Continued from page 49*

the World Football Championship in 2022. During our bus tour we saw various neighborhoods with shopping areas, and the man-made island under construction that is shaped like an oyster and named The Pearl, referring to the Emirate's history. We had a short time to walk through the old souk with its narrow walking-only streets and shops selling a variety of items. We then went to a camel resting place. The animals were previously used for racing and were tethered, so we were able to walk among them. We ran into our English tablemates, and one of them excitedly told us that when she was offering some food to a camel, he bit her stomach! Obviously, it was not a serious bite as she turned up at the gala dinner that night in good form. Earlier she had been at the captain's reception and was quite taken with the ship's charming Italian captain; we were too embarrassed to admit that we hadn't even known that such an event was taking place.

The following day we decided to take the free bus from the ship to the center of Bahrain, another skyscraper-dominated city. After a look around a large shopping center, my cabin mate and I decided to take a trip with a brightly-colored bus that could be boarded

just outside the shopping center. We thought it would be a rather simple matter, but it turned out to be very complicated. There was such a demand for this bus that drivers could not keep to the schedule, and so the crowd waiting to take the tour kept growing. Inside, the seller of tickets could not accept credit cards, but only local money, which led to frustration and angry exchanges. In short, it really was a mess. Babies in carriages were crying, children kept running off, families became divided. Was it worth the effort? To our rescue came a woman who was offering to sell two tickets as her husband was not feeling well and they wanted to return to their hotel. So we joined the crowd outside, and managed to get on the second bus. As this was a hop-on, hop-off bus, we had thought that we would do just that, but shortly into the journey we realized that if we were to get off we might have a long wait for another bus to come along. We decided not to give up our seats in the front row and had a nice conversation with our guide, a Filipina who had lived in Bahrain for several years and who was very happy with her life there.

Our final trip ashore was to Dubai. We took a taxi into town, walked about in a huge mall with stores of every description and a large aquarium in which, amongst the various fish, were two men in wetsuits and helmets who were pretending to attack each other with long spears. The crowds watching this spectacle were also huge, and we were soon tired and decided to go outside and sit by the pool to wait for a dancing waters show at sunset. The sidewalks were jammed as we waded through crowds of people speaking myriad languages and found seats at an outdoor restaurant just opposite where the water ballet was to take place in



front of the world's tallest building: the Burj Khalifa. Opened in 2010, the neo-futuristic skyscraper is 2,722 feet (830 meters) high and houses luxurious hotels and many water displays. Our English tablemates later reported that they had bought expensive tickets to go to the top of the building, where there was a fantastic view. We were completely enamored of the water ballet that began as the sun was setting, in a large pool in front of our outdoor restaurant. Out of various banks of fountains came undulating spouts of water framed by colored lights accompanied by Arabic and western music. Some of the surges were as high as 500 feet (150 meters). When the show was over and we were waiting for the taxi back to our ship, we were privy to another colored light show on a tall building at the edge of the plaza. Judging by the number of people who came to watch this display, the dancing fountains were a great hit, and for us a fitting ending to our cruise.

Since my return, the short visit to the UAE has been on my mind. One cannot help but be impressed with the change that has come to this area in the last 40 years: from desert to model cities, where the business areas are crowded with high buildings of interesting designs, and the many city roundabouts are small gardens with flowers and trees. We were told that these flowers and trees are carefully attended and watered two or three times a day, as otherwise they would wither and die within a short

time. The people one sees on the streets are mainly foreigners; the native men are clad in white with a black strip around their headpieces and therefore are easily identified. Many of the women we saw were dressed in black, but whether they were natives or immigrants we could not tell. From people who have worked there we have heard that life is great, that the various national groups live together in neighborhoods and, outside of working hours, have similar activities as back home; they even can attend a church or temple. However, it looks from the outside that wealth is the motivating factor—with the very rich natives at the top, down to the very poor who, many now without jobs, have little. In a recent TV program, some of these immigrants from India revealed that they saw their future as short-term. They would not be able to go back home if they did not find work, as they could not repay the money lenders who helped them get there.

I suspect that if one were young and working in the Emirates, living in an expat community would be an interesting short-term experience, though restrictive in the long-term. For me, it had a Hollywood film-like feeling—everything was new, unusual in design and size, and yet not quite real. As for another cruise, I enjoyed this one, but in the future I would prefer a smaller ship with fewer passengers and some interesting lectures about the places we would visit.



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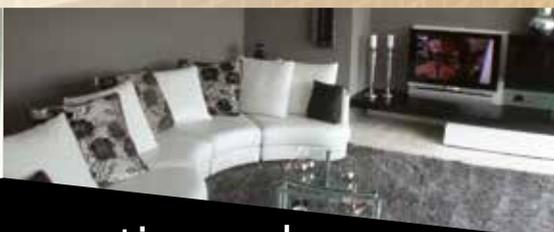
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