

Going Dutch



2015
April

In this issue

Slate of Officers
Helping Handbag Auction
Memory Trip to Indonesia
AWC's 85th Birthday Benefit

American Women's Club of The Hague

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Going Dutch

April 2015



We enjoyed the 50 Years of Bond Exhibit
and Chili Cook-Off with our men



See the winners at our most successful
Helping Handbags Auction ever



Eileen shares a special trip to Indonesia
where she learned about her husband's
roots

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

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Heart Pillow Eileen Baker
Holiday Bazaar Jan Essad, Julie Schipper
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AWC Purpose Statement

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



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50 YEARS
OF BOND
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Message from the President

by Linda Divon

My two-year term as President of the American Women's Club of The Hague will soon be coming to an end. I feel grateful for having had this wonderful opportunity of playing a major role in the Club and for being an integral part of the AWC, which is marking its 85th birthday this year.

The things that make this Club so special are twofold: reaching out to Newcomers to welcome and to support them, but also being an organization that is aware of the challenges facing our host country as well as the larger challenges and problems in our world today. We, of course, will not be able to solve all the world's woes, but having this awareness, this caring and then actually doing something to make a difference through our fundraising projects and philanthropy – this is what makes the AWC stand above other clubs and other local women's groups and organizations. It is this "reaching out" and helping others that makes our Club unique.

Our Hearts & Minds Gala in 2014, under the gifted, dedicated leadership of **Jan de Vries** and her talented team, successfully brought in almost € 60,000 and the proceeds went to three Dutch beneficiaries: Lighthouse Special Education, a school located in The Hague for international children with special needs; Laat Ze Maar Lachen (Let Them Laugh), a volunteer organization that provides outings for children who are not able to enjoy their childhood to the fullest due to poverty; and Hulphond Nederland, an organization that trains dogs to work with children with disabilities.

This year the AWC has continued with its annual fundraising Helping Handbag Auction with the proceeds going to the FAWCO Target Project: Free the Girls. With the generosity of our AWC Members, we raised an all-time high of € 3,000 (see page 22 for further details and photos).

Another important fundraising event for the AWC is its annual Holiday Bazaar. In addition to being a successful fundraising two-day event, it is a fun, high-energy event with unique items for sale, our famous AWC bake stall, wonderful raffle items and even our very own Santa Claus who gets us into the holiday spirit!

Leading up to the Sinterklaas holiday, there is the annual AWC gift bag workshop.

Small toys, sweets and goodies are collected, packaged in holiday bags and delivered to 85 children ranging from babies to teenagers. The Morgenster Food Bank was our beneficiary last year and was also the recipient of our Food Drive Collections the year before. The AWC ladies are again hands-on in making a difference in the lives of those children from extremely poor backgrounds whose families rely heavily on this Food Bank.

In 2007, the AWC began the Heart Pillow Project, currently overseen by **Eileen Baker**. Over 1,000 pillow sets have been distributed to breast cancer patients at local hospitals: Bronovo, Leiden LUMC, MCH Antoniushove and MCH Westeinde. The



April General Meeting

by Trena Cormier

Rather than feature a guest speaker, this month's General Meeting will cover a variety of topics including an update on the recent FAWCO Conference in Rome and an update on the progress made by the Constitutional Committee in updating the AWC Constitution, By-Laws and Policies & Procedures.

We will also hold an important vote to elect Officers for the 2015-2016 AWC Executive Board (go to page 26 to meet the candidates). If you are a Regular Member and are unable to attend this meeting, please submit a proxy ballot, available by email from the Front Office prior to April 7.

After the conclusion of the Club business, we invite everyone to join us for a potluck. Please RSVP on GroupSpaces at www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/924485 and mention in the comments which dish you plan to bring (please plan on your dish serving around six to eight people).

Free babysitting will be available for children between six months and five years of age. In order to have the correct ratio of babysitters to children, you **must book in advance**. Call the Front Office at 070 350 6007 or email awcthehague@gmail.com before Tuesday, April 7 to reserve your place.

Thursday, April 9

Coffee and Newcomers Meet & Greet: 10 a.m.

Meeting: 10:30 a.m.

Potluck: Noon

AWC Clubhouse





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Ramblings from the Editor

by Melissa White

My 17-year-old's decision on whether to go to university in the US or the UK has been a constant topic of discussion in my house for the past one and half years. You might recall reading in November 2014 that my family visited seven US universities in four states last April. We've also made five visits to the UK for university tours. Veronica decided to apply to just one school in the US: Northwestern University, outside of Chicago. Unlike America where there is no limit to how many applications you can submit as long as your parents are willing to pay the application fees, you can apply to only five universities in the UK. I'm sure you can imagine how proud her father James and I am that Veronica got offers from all six schools.

The doors we open and close each

day decide the lives we live.

~ Flora Whittemore

Luckily, Veronica has had someone besides her parents and the school counselor to talk with about this difficult decision: her mentor. For the past 15 months, Veronica has had weekly Skype calls with Beatrix from Sea Change Mentoring, which specializes in matching up third culture kids with mentors that were third culture kids themselves. While Beatrix's parents are Spanish and French, she was born in Mexico City, raised in London and went to graduate school in Canada. Now living near Cancun, Mexico, Beatrix provides Veronica with a fresh perspective from someone who's been there herself.

While waiting for Veronica's decision – the biggest decision she's faced in life thus far – I realized that no matter which country she chose, I'd have my reservations. If she opted to go to the US, I'd miss her terribly, knowing that I wouldn't be able to pop over to see her in a school play or at parent's week since, frankly, we'd be broke. Instead, if she chose the UK, I'd wonder if I'd pressured

her with my pole dancing jokes to go the less expensive route and she would hold it against me if she ends up unhappy there. As much as I've told myself that this was her decision to make, I've always known that this decision was bigger than just her – it's actually a decision that impacts our whole family.

After nearly constant debate of the American versus British systems, Veronica made a decision. Somehow I'd imagined her announcement would occur over an emotional family dinner. Instead, she sent me a Facebook Message: "I think I've decided to go to the UK for uni." Although that might sound a tad noncommittal to an outsider, I immediately knew this was a big step for Veronica. Although I was disappointed by her choice of the method of delivering this bombshell, I am absolutely thrilled that she'll be nearby. Her little sister Ashlynn is already looking forward to spending weekends visiting Veronica, which may sound sweet but I suspect that her real motive is going to university parties.

Although I had assumed that she would accept the offer from Northwestern without hesitation, I think Veronica even surprised herself when she realized that she wanted to stay closer to "home" and that home is no longer the US. The nasty Chicago winters and the requirement to take two more years of French also steered her towards the UK. She has narrowed her options down to two schools; ironically, neither looks anything like Cambridge or Hogwarts as they are both just 50 years old. Now she is comparing their curriculums and researching which offers the better options for studying for a year abroad in Australia.

It is ironic that I thought that the US was too far away and now not only does Veronica hope to study for one year in Australia, but Ashlynn is already investigating Australian campuses: "Look, Mama, this one has a private beach." Guess you have to be careful what you wish for!



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Newcomer Activities

by Greetje Engelsman and Sue Merrick

Meet & Greet for Newcomers

Are you a Newcomer or a potential AWC Member? Do you have questions or are you looking for a friendly welcome and introduction to the AWC? Join the Newcomers Team for coffee 30 minutes before every monthly meeting to share your questions, challenges and successes. Plan to stay for the General Meeting and hear presentations on interesting topics and learn all about the AWC. Do you have an urgent problem to solve? Feel free to email us at awcthehague.newcomers@gmail.com.

Thursday, April 9

Coffee: 10 a.m.

Meeting: 10:30 a.m.

AWC Clubhouse

Visit to de Haagse Markt

De Haagse Markt (www.haagsemarkt.nl) is the biggest market in The Hague with 540 stalls filled with fresh vegetables, fruit, fish, meat and clothes. There are a lot of exotic products, including ingredients for Tex-Mex recipes. This large outdoor market is visited daily by tens of thousands of visitors and is a meeting place for many cultures. We will meet at the Starbucks at Den Haag Centraal Station (DHCS) and will travel together by Tram 6 to the entrance of the Haagse Markt. Please let us know if you will be meeting us at either Starbucks or the market when registering on *GroupSpaces*. There will be an option to join us for lunch (at own expense). Bring your OV-chipkaart, shopping bags and camera!

Friday, April 17

Meet at Starbucks at DHCS at 10 a.m.



Welcome New Member!

Sally Myers

RSVP for all Newcomer Activities
directly on AWC GroupSpaces.com.

Direct any questions to
awcthehague.newcomers@gmail.com.

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.

April Birthdays

Kagari Arnoldi	1
Vivian Jung	1
Una Mulvihill	1
Tina Tinch-Boshuijer	1
Lynn Roberts	3
Amber Broughton	5
Stephanie Hazejager	5
Mallery Clarke	6
Susan Shaw	6
Polly Spinnler	6
Eileen Baker	19
Vesna Southwick	23
Deborah Reagan	23

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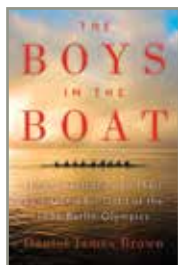
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Ongoing Activities

Book Club: Daytime

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

The April Daytime Book Group selection is *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown:



After our enjoyment of *Unbroken*, we turn again to history for another true tale of beating the odds during desperate times. Join us as we discover how nine working-class boys from the American West struggled to earn their way through school during the depths of the

Depression and then showed the world at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin what true grit really meant.

Thursday, April 23

10 a.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

Recap of the January – February Discussions

The Marriage Plot: This novel was inspired by the premise that modern life (specifically the availability of divorce) has removed the conflict that fuelled many classic novels, such as those by Bronte and Austen, “for if a woman can just get divorced, who cares if she marries badly?” Fortunately, this novel does allow its young college graduates to aspire to more than wedded bliss as a life goal, albeit with some dead ends and twists in their first post-collegiate year. All-in-all a

Daytime Book Club Planning Ahead:

Thursday, May 21 *Star of the Sea* by Joseph O’Conner

Thursday, June 25 *Saturday* by Ian McEwan

mixed review with some members loving the novel, declaring it “comic” and “an excellent representation of the intellectual hubris that can characterize college students,” and at least one member declaring she “pretty much hated all of it.”

The Middlesteins: Food can show love and be a tool of control. Food, by surfeit of quantity or lack of quality, can kill. The irony, of course, is while food is “a wonderful place to hide,” one’s abuse of food will, in time, come out in the open. This novel is about the family of obese and diabetic Edie Middlestein, an intelligent wife, mother and lawyer who can’t stop eating...whatever... even though she and everyone around her knows she is killing herself. Despite this dire synopsis, this is a comic novel which captures current middle class America perfectly. The Americans among us felt right at home and the international members of our book club found the details of American life, e.g. a \$20,000 b’nai mitzvah, fascinating. The book was enjoyable, but fell far short of genius. Edie, in particular, was not a well-developed character even though she is the nucleus around whom all the action rotates.

Evening Book Club Planning Ahead:

Wednesday, May 20: *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson

Wednesday, June 10: *Orfeo* by Richard Powers

Book Club: Evening

The April Evening Book Group selection is *Tree of Smoke* by Denis Johnson: This 2007 novel won the US National Book



Award for Fiction and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. It tells the tale of a man named Skip Sands who joins the CIA in 1965 and becomes involved in the “Tree of Smoke” project in Vietnam. Find out for yourself why one reviewer in *The Guardian* said, “It’s a big, dirty, unmade bed of a book and, once you settle in, you’re in no hurry to get out.”

Wednesday, April 15

7:30 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

Recap of the January – February Discussions

We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves:

While we were perhaps “not completely beside ourselves,” we did enjoy a festive New Year celebration, great company, and a spirited and thought-provoking discussion. The novel is told by Rosemary, who is beset by dysfunction both humorous and sad as she attempts to understand herself and her life after the disappearance of both her brother and her “sister” Fern (for those who didn’t read our earlier description of this novel, Fern is a chimpanzee). One of our members (whose name shall be withheld to protect the guilty), gets the willies even thinking about lower primates, so had trouble stomaching the more intimate details of family life with a totally anthropomorphized chimpanzee. Everyone enjoyed reading this fast-paced novel, though we weren’t sure in the end whether it was primarily a political book or an unusual coming-of-age story.

Valley of Amazement: We were extremely disappointed in this weak, melodramatic offering from Amy Tan. Unlike her earlier works, this book contains absolutely nothing to recommend it, especially when time is short and the possibilities for great reads are long. Although some of us disliked it marginally less than others, with descriptors ranging from “total drivel” to “reminiscent of a particularly bad

Harlequin Romance,” we all agreed it was a superficial, repetitive, poorly written, tedious book, chock full of irritating clichés and boring, whiny characters. Don’t waste your time. Give this book a pass!

Chat, Crafts & Cake

Let’s get creative! The AWC will be 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 those supplies and bring them to the Clubhouse so you can chat with fellow AWC Members and visitors while you work. You might even be able to pick up some suggestions from a fresh pair of eyes. Each week, a different Member will bring a cake made from a never-before-tried recipe for tasting and critiquing. We’re sorry, but babysitting is not available and thus we can’t accommodate children. Questions? Contact:

Suzanne Dundas at awcthehague.crafts@gmail.com

Tuesdays

10 a.m. – Noon

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

Visitors Welcome

Dinner Club

Sign up on *GroupSpaces.com* to share dinner at home with AWC friends and spouses/partners. **Rebecca Niles-Pourier** will set the dates, place couples (or individuals) randomly, and assign the hostess. Then each hostess will set a theme and guests will be asked to prepare a dish. For example, if the theme is Italian, then one person might bring antipasto, one brings bread, one brings Italian wine, >> 16



Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 15

etc. The hostess may choose to cook the main course or do it all, but then you might be asked to contribute some money towards the cost. It will be up to each hostess how they want to structure the meal. You may be asked to host one dinner for eight, six or four guests (depending on your space at home) and then you will be a guest at someone else's home the next time. This is a fun way to share an evening with new AWC friends while enjoying a great dinner! Future dates include Saturday, June 20. Contact Rebecca at awcthehague.wwdp@gmail.com to join in the fun.

Saturday, April 25

Locations and Meals Vary

Sign-up deadline: April 18

Dutch Conversation Coffee

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

Wednesdays, April 1 and 15

10 – 11 a.m.

Clubhouse

FREE

Heart Pillow Project

The AWC is in its 7th year of making heart-shaped pillows to support the arms of breast cancer patients in local hospitals. Each pillow is made with tender loving care, wrapped in

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

Tuesday, April 21

Noon – 2 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

Visitors Welcome

Tennis League

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

Tuesdays thru April 21

1 – 3 p.m.

Dekker Tennis Courts

Veerpolder 14, Warmond

€ 275 Members (€ 325 nonmembers)

Cancellation Policy

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



Walkie Talkies

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

Mondays

9:30 a.m.

FREE

Wassenaar Coffee & Conversation

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

item/785299.

Thursday, April 2

9 – 11 a.m.

Ramona's House

FREE

Walking Wassenaar

Join **Bronia Ichel** and **Ramona Oswald** for Walking Wassenaar, a way to get fit and explore the Wassenaar area. We'll meet in front of Jumbo (formerly the C1000) with underground parking available on Luifelbaan and Van Hogendorpstraat. Join us afterwards for coffee and/or lunch at your own expense.

Fridays

10 a.m.

Luifelbaan 1, Wassenaar

FREE



One-of-a-Kind Activities

by Becky Failor

"Perfect" Cocktail Contest

It's time again to shake, stir and mix things up at the next AWC "Perfect" Cocktail Contest. The best way to start spring and summer is with a mouthwatering contest where we challenge each other to make the perfect cocktail (for ideas, see page 38). Let's track down Holland's best cocktail ingredients and create a selection of delicious concoctions from exotic to sophisticated – you be the judge! Non-alcoholic cocktails are also welcome. Include a note to let us know if you plan to enter the contest when you register at www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/662906. Please note that if a couple enters the contest, one person is considered a contestant and will be free, while the other will need to pay to participate.

Saturday, April 11

8 – 11 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

€ 10 Members or Spouses

(€ 15 nonmembers)

Contestants gratis

Minimum 10

Cancellation deadline: April 1



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

Direct any questions to awcthehague.activities@gmail.com. Payment must be made within 5 calendar days of reserving or your name will be moved to a waitlist. Payment can be made in the Front Office by PIN or by bank transfer to the AWC account NL42ABNA0431421757.

Quiz Night and Dinner

Join us for a lively evening guaranteed to be fun-filled with laughter and some friendly competition. You don't have to be a master of trivia to participate or win as you combine your special knowledge with others at your table. Enjoy appetizers and drinks before and during the first part of the quiz, and dinner and dessert during the final portion. Prizes will be awarded for the winning teams. Go to www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/858414 to register.

Saturday, April 18

6:30 – 10 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

€ 15 Members or Spouses

(€ 20 non-members)

Cancellation deadline: April 15

Partner Appreciation Event

POSTPONED

We have decided to postpone the Partner Appreciation Event that was originally scheduled for April 18. Please check out the fun Quiz Night and Dinner now planned for that evening.

Visit to Keukenhof Castle and Keukenhof Gardens

Keukenhof Gardens is the most beautiful spring garden in the world! More than 7 million tulips, daffodils and hyacinths fill over 32 hectares with color and fragrance. The pavilions

feature 30 alternating flower and plant shows. We will walk through the park and have lunch in one of the restaurants (at own expense). After lunch, we will walk through the gardens to Keukenhof Castle for a guided tour in English. This castle is the center of the historic estate Keukenhof, located in the heart of the flower bulb region. Its origins are connected to the success of the Dutch Golden Age's Dutch East India Company (VOC) as it was constructed in 1642 by Adriaen Maertenszoon Block, a former Commander of VOC. In 2012 an extensive restoration was completed and today it again has the allure of a 17th century estate.



We will meet at Starbucks at Den Haag Centraal Station (DHCS) at 9 a.m. We'll travel by train to Leiden Centraal (bring your OV-chipkaart), and then catch a special express bus to Keukenhof (this ticket will be purchased in conjunction with your Keukenhof Gardens entrance ticket). Please buy your ticket online in advance for the Keukenhof Gardens: www.keukenhof.com (unless you are driving, choose

the € 23.50 Combi Ticket which includes the bus from Leiden). We will pay for the tour of Keukenhof Castle at the door (€ 12.50 for regular entry or € 3.50 with *Museumkaart*). Go to www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/957101 to register.

Wednesday, April 22

Meet at DCHS at 9 a.m.

Keukenhof Castle Tour at 1:30 p.m.

Cancellation deadline: April 14



Optician with
an eye for eyes

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85 and Counting!

by Emily van Eerten

In celebration of our Club's 85th Anniversary, the American Women's Club of The Hague and the FAWCO Committee have planned a delightfully entertaining evening at the Nieuwspoor in The Hague city center. Home to the Dutch Press Club (where members are known as *Poorters*), the recently renovated Nieuwspoor is nestled on the outside edge of the Binnenhof with the entrance just across from the American Book Center. Stylish and chic – and normally bustling with journalists, politicians, lobbyists, press attachés and the like – the AWC will have the run of the place on the evening of May 9!

American author and Steinway Artist Robin Meloy Goldsby will start the evening in the bar area with a charming program of solo piano music and stories from her two books: *Piano Girl* and *Waltz of the Asparagus People*. Demonstrating her “wicked sense of humor and keen eye for the absurd” (*Publishers Weekly* starred review), Goldsby “quicksteps from bumptious to bawdy to trenchant in this hilarious, truth-telling performance of her music and beautifully-written words” (Betsy Burton, Salt Lake City International Jazz Festival).

Robin's stories about life as an American musician living and working in Germany prove



especially entertaining to her European audiences. Marian McPartland of NPR Piano Jazz describes her music as “Beautiful, just beautiful,” but you should also be prepared for more than a few laughs as she shares her hysterical yet recognizable accounts of getting used to living in Europe. To get a feel for her beautifully phrased observations, check out her blog at www.robin.goldsby.de/category/blog/.

This fun evening would not be an AWC event, however, if we did not make it COUNT. Following Robin's program, we will adjourn to a buffet dinner in a spacious room overlooking the Tweede Kamer, followed by a live(ly) auction of just a few covetable items. Other high-quality items will be available as part of a silent auction throughout the night. Proceeds



from the auctions will go to support some of the AWC's most beloved charities. We aim to: sponsor a FAWCO Foundation Development Grant; partially fund the training of a puppy/future service dog with Hulphond Nederland; help Laatz Ze Maar Lachen treat underprivileged children to relaxing and creative outings; and continue to support members of the international community in The Hague whose children have special education needs through Lighthouse Special Education.

Your ticket includes:

- Glass of Prosecco and bar snacks
- Performance by Steinway Artist Robin Meloy Goldsby
- Buffet dinner with two glasses of wine, coffee and tea (additional drinks are available for purchase)
- Live auction
- Silent auction

For tickets and information, please contact: AWC85th@gmail.com

Don't miss this joyous evening celebration!

85th AWC Anniversary Concert & Benefit Auction

Saturday, May 9

Doors open at 6 p.m.

Nieuwspoor

Lange Poten 10, Den Haag

€ 100 AWC Couple (AWC Member + Partner)

€ 55 AWC Member (€ 60 nonmembers)

Our Boy, Yankee

by Jan de Vries

Following the AWC Hearts & Minds Gala in June 2014, the AWC's generous donation to Hulphond Nederland allowed us to sponsor an existing therapy dog, Whisley, and adopt a puppy. Hulphond asked us to submit four potential names, one of which would be chosen by the trainer when the AWC puppy arrived.

Originally we intended to draw from a hat four names submitted by the Membership, but the submissions were of such a high quality that a drawing seemed too random. So we formed a three-woman jury and scored the names. Ultimately, we submitted Yankee and Lincoln for boy names and Liberty and Troelie for girl names.

The AWC puppy, a Labrador retriever, was born on January 15. He is currently in socialization training with one of Hulphond's best training families.



Well done AWC! These dogs really do make a difference in assisting people with a wide range of disabilities from behavioral therapy to PTSD to epilepsy as well as providing assistance for the physically disabled. Time will tell what valuable role Yankee will play in helping those truly in need. It will be fun to follow his progress with the updates promised by Hulphond.



Helping Handbags Auction

by Emily van Eerten

Ladies of the American Women's Club: Do You Know How Awesome You Are?

Following the February General Meeting, a good crowd stuck around for a delicious lunch provided by our volunteers as a lead-in to our Helping Handbag Auction. To make the afternoon even more festive, several corks were popped so that everyone could enjoy a glass (or two) of bubbly as we got down to business. Well, I say "business," but let's face it, this was just plain FUN. Under the stylishly gifted direction of co-auctioneers **Johanna Dishongh** and **Loren Mealy**, more than 65 items fell under the hammer with laughter, conviviality and general bonhomie in abundance. An even greater number of desirable items were available for direct purchase at our improvised "Boutique" in the Front Office with a minimum donation of € 5.

We were fortunate to have some coveted high-value items, such as two gorgeous genuine Hermes scarves (won with some ruthless bidding by **Linda Divon** and Johanna). We were also very happy with the many nearly new, excellent quality brand-name items and equally with the maybe-not-as-good—but still good quality—knock-offs. From a real mink hat and scarf combo to several "vegan leather" items, everyone walked away with value for their donations. The atmosphere in the room was one of friendship and good spirited cheer. When everyone in the auction room assures you that a scarf is really a gorgeous color for you, how can you not keep bidding? As **Georgia Regnault** remarked as she went to pay for her six auction prizes, "This is so much more fun than just writing a check." Her little granddaughters are certainly going to have a blast with their glamorous beaded bags to class up their dress-up box.



The AWC has been hosting a Helping Handbag Auction to benefit FAWCO charities since 2009, and the results just keep getting better and better. Last year we raised an incredible €2,000 with this fun activity. This year was even better! In fact, fifty percent better! **We raised an astounding € 3,000** which will benefit the FAWCO Target Project charity Free the Girls, an organization dedicated to helping women and girls rescued from human trafficking by assisting them to start their own business and giving them support and training to make it a success.

The success of this event in no small part goes to the good-hearted volunteers who made it possible: co-auctioneers Johanna and Loren, **Jan de Vries**, **Sunita Menon**, **Laurie Martecchini**, and to all those who donated items; encouraged others to donate items; cleaned, sorted and organized items; brought food; helped with set up; processed payments; and cleaned up. It is a gratifying thing to know that so many women in this Club are willing to help out where needed, when needed. Thank you all!





AWC
Handbag
Auction



Slate of Officers 2015-2016

We are pleased to introduce the candidates for the 2015-2016 AWC The Hague Executive Board. The election of officers will take place during the General Meeting on April 9. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please submit a proxy ballot.

President – Becky Failor: Becky was born in Tucson. Her father was in the military so Becky experienced her first expat experience between the ages of nine months to four years in England. Her teenager and undergraduate college years were in the Detroit area. She and her husband Hugh have lived in Holland since August 2010. Becky worked as a Nuclear Chemist and she focused on safe working operations for 14 years for a US Department of Energy research laboratory. After several years of organizing tours for the AWC, Becky stepped into the position of Vice President in January 2015. She says, “The AWC has helped me integrate into Dutch life and enjoy living here. I’ve made many friends through the AWC. I would like to continue to be on the AWC Board to perpetuate the opportunities and support the AWC offers to a wide range of women and their families living in and around The Hague.”



Vice President – Sue Merrick: Sue grew up in Louisiana and graduated from Louisiana State University with a master’s degree in social work. While in graduate school, she met Bill and they married in 1982. Sue worked as a social worker until the birth of their first child, Alison, now 26. Two years later, their son Andy was born. Planning activities and working with volunteers are skills Sue has developed over the years through her varied experiences as a PTA president, newsletter editor, Girl Scout leader and youth group counselor. After her children left for college, Sue worked in several different jobs: a tutor in a Title X school, Interim Director of Children’s Ministries, and Interim Director of Youth Ministries. Before Bill’s job at Shell moved them to the Netherlands last summer, Sue had her own business as an independent educational consultant. She says, “The AWC has been a crucial factor in our quick and seamless adjustment to expat life! I am excited to be involved with an organization with such strong, fun and interesting women.”



continued on p 41>>

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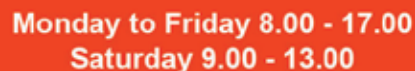
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APRIL 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Upcoming Spring Events: May 9: AWC and FAWCO Benefit Concert May 21: Officer Installation June 28: WWDP Ladies' Brunch		1 Dutch Conversation & Coffee 10 a.m.	2 Wassenaar Coffee and Conversation 9 a.m. AWC Board Meeting 10:30 a.m.	3 Wassenaar Walkie Talkies 10 a.m. Happy Passover!	4 Happy Easter!
5	6 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	7 Chat, Crafts'n Cake 10 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	8	9 Newcomers Meet & Greet 10 a.m. General Meeting and Member Potluck Luncheon 10:30 a.m.	10 Wassenaar Walkie Talkies 10 a.m. Art History Lecture: Still Life and Architectural Painting 10 a.m.	11 Spring/Summer Cocktail Contest 8 p.m.
12	13 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	14 Chat, Crafts'n Cake 10 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m. DFAS Art Lecture: The Sacred Art of Angkor 7:45 p.m.	15 Dutch Conversation & Coffee 10 a.m. Evening Book Club 7:30 p.m.	16	17 Visit to Haagse Markt 10 a.m. Wassenaar Walkie Talkies 10 a.m.	18 Quiz Night and Dinner 6:30 p.m.
19  Dutch - American Friendship Day	20 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	21 Chat, Crafts'n Cake 10 a.m. Heart Pillow Workshop Noon AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	22 Visit to Keukenhof Gardens and Castle 9 a.m. Earth Day	23 Daytime Book Club 10 a.m.	24 Wassenaar Walkie Talkies 10 a.m.	25 Dinner Club TBD
26	27  King's Day	28 Chat, Crafts'n Cake 10 a.m.	29	30		



www.access-nl.org

Announcements

Home Made Easter Market

The first Home Made Market in 2015 coincides with Easter. Enjoy live music while browsing a variety of booths with homemade decorations, jewelry and art, and delicious delicacies.

Sunday, April 5 and Monday, April 6

11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Lange Voorhout, Den Haag

www.homemademarket.co.nl



Statenkwartier ArtRoute

Many artists live in the neighborhood surrounding the AWC Clubhouse. The fourth ArtRoute coincides with the 100 year celebration of the Statenkwartier. Fifty-one contributing artists will be displaying their work at 40 lo-



cations, which are marked with eye catching window signs. Brasserie Berlage (President Kennedylaan 1) is hosting an overview exhibition with examples of the participating artists which may help you decide which artists you would like to visit. There will also be a special exhibit at Galerie Alles en de Werkplaat (Van Loostraat 83) featuring original artwork from the special cards depicting 100 years of the Statenkwartier which are available at most of the locations on the route.

Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 12
Noon – 6 p.m.

www.kunstenarsinhetstatenkwartier.nl

DFAS Art Lecture

The Sacred Art of Angkor

The Hindu temple complex of Angkor in Cambodia is the greatest archaeological site in Asia. Within an area of 155 square miles (400 square kilometers) there are dozens of temples, many covered in jungle, but the most important of them all is Angkor Wat. Built in the 12th century, Angkor Wat is the biggest religious monument in the world. This mystical temple is a recreation on Earth of the Hindu cosmos, brilliantly constructed to align with the sun and the moon and covered with exquisite carvings. Lecturer Denise Heywood is an author, photographer and journalist who has lived in France and America as well as in Cambodia.

Tuesday, April 14

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

Cultural Centrum Warenar

Kerkstraat 75, Wassenaar

Non-DFAS member fee is € 12

www.dfas.nl



Shakespeare for Kids & Teens

STET (Stichting The English Theatre) presents two Shakespeare productions aimed at children during the weekend of April 17 – 19. www.theenglishtheatre.nl

Twelfth Night: This is a great chance to introduce Shakespeare to your children over five. Infinite Jest, a London-based youth theater company, includes puppetry and song in this classic comedy.

Wherefore Art Thou?: To be or not to be? Do you choose to live your life or conform to what society thinks you should be? Why do adults seem to make the wrong choices without even thinking about it? Shakespeare asked all of these questions hundreds of years ago. This bustling contemporary performance for young adults is performed by Theatre of Entanglement, an international youth company based in Holland. Using rap, spoken word poetry and live music, it asks about the choices young adults have in modern society.

National Museum Week

For more than 30 years, over 400 museums across the country have offered a special weekend with free or discounted entrance including free films, slide shows, tours, demonstrations and workshops. This year, the fun has been expanded to an entire week from April 18 – 26 with the theme of *Our Real Gold*. For more information and to see which museums are participating, visit www.nationalemuseumweek.nl.

Flower Parade

On Saturday, April 25 at 9:30 a.m., the 68th 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 p.m. The procession will be comprised of 20 large floats with the theme of 200



Years a Kingdom 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 26 until 4 p.m. There will also be an illuminated parade in Noordwijkerhout on Friday, April 25 at 9 p.m. To see the schedule of the route, go to www.bloemencorso-bollenstreek.nl.

Mesdags in the Family

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the death of Hendrik Willem Mesdag, one of the most influential cultural-historical figures in The Hague's history, various programs will take place throughout 2015. The highlight of the year will be a special exhibition through October 4 at the Panorama Mesdag featuring works owned by Mesdag's descendants. This exhibit will feature works owned by Mesdag's descendants recalling a special family history which is displayed with pride. Unique historical material from the extensive Panorama Mesdag archive will also be on display. www.panorama-mesdag.nl

EU Road Safety App

Curious about what the speed limit is on motorways outside of the Netherlands? You no longer need to spend time researching road traffic rules before setting off to explore Europe. The European Commission has compiled all important road safety rules in a handy app called "Going Abroad," available on iTunes and Google Play. While reviews of the app state that it can be frustrating to navigate, the information is deemed helpful. You can also easily look up laws for any EU country on their website: www.europa.eu/tu98pU



The Dutch Daily

by Eileen Harloff

What Will They Think of Next?

A gray version of this unique church has been around the Netherlands for several years, but only recently became hot in neighboring Germany after a mention in a local newspaper caught the attention of national TV programmers, resulting in an appearance on a popular quiz show. Surprisingly realistic-looking, the inflatable church is 60 feet (18 meters) long, 25 feet (8 meters) wide, 40 feet (12 meters) high, weighs 1,750 pounds (800 kilos) and can accommodate groups of up to 150 people. It is transported by its owners Pim and Wessel Bottenberg on a wagon pulled by a trailer, and can be inflated within a couple of hours. It is used 80% of the time for festivals, discos, parties and weddings, with capacity for about 100 guests, as well as by Christian organizations who hire it to literally bring the church to the people. Should you have an interest in using it for some special occasion, you can hire it from its owners at a cost of €1,000 – €1,500, depending on how far it has to be transported (www.opblaasbarekerk.nl). With renewed interest in the church, a second church has been ordered from its Chinese makers, this one being entirely rose-colored. The owners say that it is so ugly, it is actually beautiful. Currently it is planned to be used only in this country as it is feared that it could be considered too controversial in less liberal societies.



Solar-Celled Roads and Bike Paths

An idea coming out of a brainstorming session of researchers at TNO – the Netherlands Organization for Applied Science Research – in Delft is being tried out in the Amsterdam suburbs of Kromminee and Wommervveen. Its aim is to produce electricity via solar cells placed in a 230-foot (70-meter) long bike path, which is to be extended to 325 feet (100 meters) by 2016. Thus far, the installation has cost €3 million and has resulted in electricity for only three families – a lot of money for a small reward claim opponents of the plan. In response, Solar Energy Professor Wim Sinke points out that the plan is in a teething stage and that far greater results are in the realm of possibility such as producing electricity for street lighting, adding to the national electricity grid, or charging electric cars. The installation consists of rows of crystalline silicon solar cells that are embedded in concrete and covered with a translucent layer of tempered glass (a type of safety glass that is given thermal or chemical treatment to increase its strength). A similar installation is being tried on a nearby road whose surface has been treated with a special non-adhesive coating. Moreover, the surface of the road “was built at a slight tilt to keep dust and dirt from accumulating and obscuring the solar cells.”



As with many new experiments, the electricity generating bike path and roadway have met with a great deal of opposition and snide comments with regard to lack of hours of sunshine in this country, questions regarding keeping the cells comparatively free of dirt and damp and, in particular, the actual results from such high investments. Who knows – maybe 50 years from now electricity-producing roads and bike paths will be considered old hat.

Awarded Again

Near the Panorama Mesdag, on the corner of the Sophialaan and the Zeestraat, is the Carlton Ambassador Hotel, the home of the AWC Holiday Bazaar for the last five years. In 2013, it was voted Europe’s “Best Luxury Hotel.” At the end of last year, it was awarded the “Best World Luxury Hotel” in recognition of its new concept, Ambassador Residences and Suites aimed at business travelers giving guests a private entrance, their own working place and a private meeting room.

Finished at Last

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the death of The Hague painter Hendrik Willem Mesdag, one of the founders of The Hague School of painting. Among his most well-known works is the Panorama Mesdag, a 2,650 square foot (248 square meter) panoramic painting of Scheveningen Beach that he painted with his wife, Seintje, and three fellow Hague painters, Boch, Breitner and Blommers.



In those days many European cities had similar cycloramas, only a few of which have survived. Mesdag was commissioned by a Belgian investment company for the 360° painting in 1880; when the company went bankrupt in 1886, Mesdag bought it and it has remained a public attraction up to the present day. A few years ago the painting suffered serious damage due to the construction of an adjacent parking garage. The 4-year restoration climaxed with the recent replacement of the 25-foot (8-meter) high and 100-foot (31-meter) round protective velum or covering. The replacement of this “ceiling” called for a careful study to ensure that a number of vital requirements were met: the velum was fireproof; it would not become discolored; it would not let in too much green and red colors from the sunlight; and it must be protected against possible bacteria and fungi being brought in by the 125,000 yearly visitors. Weaving mill De Ploeg in Helmond was found able to provide the needed material, and a sewing atelier that specializes in making items for the theater followed the old pattern and produced the covering that brings the visitor into the 18th century atmosphere of the beach of the fishing village of Scheveningen.

If you’ve never been to see the Panorama Mesdag, located on the Zeestraat, you are missing out on a bit of Hague artistic history, as well as a look into the past. The building in which the Panorama is housed has also been renovated and now features a small gallery for modern paintings, sculptures and ceramics, as well as a cozy cafeteria, where you can recover from your trip through time with a coffee and a *toetje* (sweet). Once revived, you can walk around the corner and visit the Mesdag Museum on the Laan van Meerdervoort. This is the former patrician home of the painter and has many paintings, sculptures and ceramics that he and his wife collected. You also can visit the main family room which looks out over a charming garden with a view of the Peace Palace.

The Environment for (Grand-) Kids

by Anne van Oorschot and Kara Fairchild

As the Co-Chair of FAWCO's Environment Task Force, I (Anne) try to get the message out about environmental issues as well as things each of us can do to become more aware and make positive changes. In time for Earth Day on April 22, we focused on helping the youngest among us develop a sense of environmental stewardship. This was beautifully handled by my co-chair Kara (who is a member of AWC Gothenburg in Sweden). I thought I would pass this great information on to all of you. My granddaughter Sophie is only five months old, so I will be tucking these ideas away for use later. After a bit of information on what you can expect from children at different ages, Kara has some great examples of simple experiments that will be as fun for parents/grandparents as they are for tiny tots! (Kara confessed to having far too much fun testing the experiments sans children!)

When the play is done, why not settle in to watch an interesting TED Talk with a link to an American fable: Jon Mooallem's talk about how the stories we tell about wild animals actually have an impact on the survival of the natural world: www.bit.ly/19rOZAB.

Eco Milestones (Ages 0 – 6)

Not long ago, I (Kara) was tasked with outlining a **child's eco-milestones** for a local website read by busy mothers. As someone who is passionate about bridging the gap between humans and the environment, relating a child's natural development to how they view environmental stewardship was exciting. After I finished the article, I kept researching. I found models and complicated diagrams showing eco-milestones in children. I read thick sus-

tainability books for educators. I embraced a left-brained approach to it all. Then, I threw it all into the recycling bin. It had to be simpler. I wanted to break eco-milestones down to the most basic model possible. What I came up with was: **SEE – QUESTION – RELATE**. It is so simple that most parents/grandparents say, "I can use that!"

In order to show you what I mean, let's look at a child's eco-milestones in terms of recycling:

SEE: By age two, children should already be showing signs of concern for the natural environment and be aware that they should sort waste. Think about it. Two-year-olds love to sort and categorize. Plus, they observe everything. Then, they observe it all again.

QUESTION: By age four, a child should have advanced to an understanding of *why* they need to protect the environment. He/she will openly question and will show open interest in answers. Visual representations of processes (like recycling) start to become enthralling. For example, a child will know *why* he/she needs to sort waste and will want to see *how* it is done. Believe it or not, he/she will also basically understand biodegradability. It should come as no surprise that it is all about **WHY** at that age.

RELATE: By the time a child is six years old, he/she should start to put it all into perspective and understand that people can make a choice to help the environment. Reinforcing ideas through learning, doing and sharing will be deeply rooted by age six. They understand that recycling is a choice that they can make

in order to help the planet. By this age, they will also start trying to convince their peers and close family to recycle.

Let's Experiment!*

In keeping with this model, I am always on the lookout for great at-home experiments that help (grand-) parents. Here are three simple experiments that you can do at home with children in every age group. These eco-experiments are meant to introduce some basic themes of environmental stewardship in a way that is simple and fun for children.

Watch It Grow!

Materials: a transparent CD case, a couple of seeds and some soil

Process: Lay the CD case flat, put some soil on the bottom portion of the case, and gently plant a seed. Turn the case upright. You should be able to water the seed by pouring water into the side channel of the CD case. (Note: you may want to tape the CD case closed.)



Water Quality, Plant Life

Materials: 4 transparent A5 plastic folders with a top opening; 30-40 damp cotton balls; chia, bean sprout or watercress seeds; 4 labels;



1 tablespoon salt; 1 tablespoon sugar; 1 tablespoon vinegar; and 0.2 deciliters tap water.

Process: Create four "planting" folders with four different labels: acid, sweet, salt and control. Place some damp cotton balls into each folder and sprinkle with seeds. Divide the water into four separate cups. Add salt to one cup, sugar to one cup and vinegar to one cup. Keep one cup as the control (clean) water. Once the seeds have sprouted, gently water the seeds each day with the water type that matches that folder. Over time, you should see how the water quality impacts seed growth and survival.

How Do Plants Absorb Pollution?

Materials: 6 small Baby's Breath stems with multiple flowers, 6 transparent containers, 0.3 deciliters tap water, and food coloring

Process: Pour 0.5 deciliters water into each container. Mix food coloring into five of the containers. Keep the sixth container of water clear. Add one Baby's Breath stem to each container. After a few days, the white flowers will start to change color.



*All ideas and images: www.lekolar.com





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House of Bols

by Mary Adams

Internet push marketing can be a danger to your wallet. You get pushed some coupons and before you know it, you are laying out the cash. Luckily, delicious things can happen... things that can “bol” you over. Lucas Bols established his distillery in Amsterdam in 1575, specializing in *genever* (Dutch gin) and liqueurs. The heart of a good *genever* is high-quality malt wine, a distillate of three different types of grain: wheat, rye and corn, that give *genever* that malty, corn spun taste. In the 19th century, *genever* was one of only four accepted bases for cocktails worldwide. By 1880, *genever* was so popular that the import of *genever* to the US was six times larger than the import of other gins.

Bols has 300 old liqueur recipes in its (secret) archive. Many famous classic cocktails such as the Collins were originally made with *genever* and many more forgotten classics like the Holland House are now making a comeback in the world's best bars... and that is why I clicked BUY when I saw an online coupon for a Cocktail Bartending Academy night at the House of Bols (www.houseofbols.com). My bar shelf contained so many full bottles of Bols liqueur that I was in the need of recipes, especially with summer approaching.

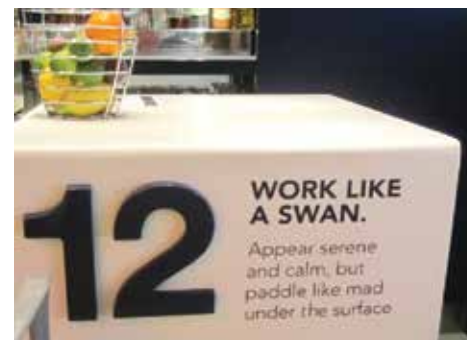
Guests were invited to take a self-guided tour of the facility before the academy started.



There was a bit of enlightening history on bottle-making, distilling, etc. There was also a story of Rembrandt's drinking debt in 1658 when his studio was across the street from Bols and he ran up quite a *genever* bill. To pay, he gave Bols a painting from one of his pupils, Hendrik Heerschap, which to this day still hangs in the House.

For KLM frequent flyers, the next room was breathtaking. It is the only place in the world exhibiting the complete series of Delft Blue miniature homes filled with *genever*. These have been made by Bols to be presented to KLM business class passengers since 1957. There are as many houses as the age of KLM (currently 89) and all numbers are still being produced and distributed.

The next part of the exhibition was the hall of senses. I think my favorite sensation was opening drawers filled with spices such as vanilla beans, dried orange peels, star anise, cloves and cinnamon. I enjoyed running my fingers through the malt, rye and corn combinations used to make malt wine. It is a real treat for the nose to smell the 36 different flavors of liqueurs and try to identify the ingredients. Some were much easier for me to identify than others. For example, butterscotch was a no-brainer, but oddly enough I confused vanilla with chocolate.



The next room had a case with Lucas Bols' own herb book from 1644. I couldn't read his writing, so his secrets remain safe. The tour ended at a neon bar with touchscreens on which you select a cocktail and the printed recipe spits out to be taken to a bartender. My choice was refreshing, but before we knew it, it was time to rock the bar. Jerry and I presented ourselves at the academy.

Our class of 25 was excited and eager to get behind the bar. It was rather like a cooking school with mirrors above so you could see demonstrations and complete bar setups. The instructor (a guy who looked about 15, but knew his stuff!) called us to the main bar and began the lesson. We were there to learn to make four cocktails using different techniques, from easy to difficult. He explained that this was a professional academy that taught people not only how to mix cocktails, but how to use beer taps, how to make coffees, and more importantly, bar etiquette with the customers. The place had a good atmosphere with bookshelves filled with vintage recipe books.



There were a dozen rules posted on the bars, some of which sounded a bit like 1950's sales manuals: “Sell Pleasant Experiences.” Rule 12 was more my style since I like to appear totally in control when actually I am one step away from hysteria!

Our first cocktail was a Strawberry Cheesecake on the rocks in a short glass with just three ingredients: lemon, yoghurt liqueur and strawberry liqueur. We all raced to our bar stations. Here is Jerry with the “Mexican elbow” squeezing the lemon juice over the ice. Next he added the Bols booze and *voila*, a delicious taste of fresh berries ready to enjoy.

Drink two was called a Swizzle, because of the way it is made with a special stirring stick. The Swizzle is in a tall glass with *genever*, kiwi liqueur and passionfruit. The first step was to “muddle” cane sugar with lime, which was de-veined to avoid a bitter taste. Then we got the “do not try this at home” speech unless you have the right barware. Apparently muddling can break ordinary glass. A proper muddle means you put your whole body into the motion for a few seconds – any longer than

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House of Bols (cont.)

Continued from page 39

that and you turn muddle to mush. Next, we gently scooped out the pulp of the passionfruit, added the Bols booze and churned the drink with the swizzle. It needs only a gentle twist because you do not want to break the passionfruit seeds. The taste was fruity and smooth.

The next concoction was a Dutch Cosmopolitan. I think Jerry really enjoyed making this one, as it involved a bit of flame-throwing at the end! We learned the proper way to shake a cocktail by tilting a metal shaker over the top of a tall glass rather than straight over the glass. If you do the latter, you create a vacuum and the metal shaker sticks like glue. No vigorous shaking, just a few strong-armed motions, and then tap the side of the shaker and it easily comes away from the glass. Pour it into the martini glass and then make a zest of orange, ignite it and then squeeze gently over the glass and a fine burst of tangy spray is introduced for flavor.



Our group was feeling quite jolly by this time, looking forward to the final challenge. The Boost was liqueur measured by eyeballing and using the swizzle stir stick to make perfect layers. The goal was clarity of lines: no murkiness, crossing over the lines or smudges. First was chocolate, then yoghurt liqueur and hot espresso on top. The idea is to slowly pour the liquid down the swizzle.

I do not plan on waving goodbye to my beloved Bombay Sapphire Gin, but I do plan on saying hello to a few bottles of Bols Genever and doing a swan dance behind the bar. If you are ever in the neighborhood, I'll shake you up something interesting... Jerry might light it on fire or twizzle it with his special swizzle... Whatever the reason, if it was good enough for Rembrandt, it is good enough for me. *Proost!* Wonder what my next online coupon will be?



Slate of Officers (cont.)

Continued from page 26

Treasurer – Jan de Vries: Jan originally comes from Rhode Island. She and her husband, John, a Dutch-born Australian have lived in Holland for 24 years. Jan's professional background is diverse and includes intensive care nursing, cardiovascular research, sales and marketing, shopping mall management and aged care management. Preparation of budgets and oversight of financial statements were a large part of both her shopping mall and aged care management responsibilities. Jan has been an active Member of the AWC, serving on the Executive Board from 2009 – 2011 and again in 2013 – 2015. She has chaired numerous AWC fundraising activities, both operational and philanthropic, including two Holiday Bazaars and three highly successful Galas. In addition, she has served on both the AWC Finance and Investment Committees.



Secretary – Sunita Menon: Sunita moved with her family to the Netherlands in 2007, after having lived and worked in New York and Washington for 17 years. She has a master's degree in biology and an academic background with varied teaching experiences at the middle school and university levels. After moving to Holland, Sunita started her own company specializing in product brokerage and consulting. She has been the AWC Community Service Coordinator (Philanthropy) since 2013, the Hearts & Minds Gala Co-Chair in 2014 and a member of the Gala Team since 2011. Sunita and her husband, Mohan, have a daughter, Avanti, and a son, Ajay.



Communications Officer – Rebecca Fry: Rebecca is an attorney, law professor, English teacher and certified personal trainer. A retired professional cyclist, Rebecca has a great passion for fitness and athletic events. She enjoys competing, and motivating and coaching others in athletic pursuits. Rebecca's interests include philosophy, history, linguistics, literature, cooking, wilderness survival, and adventure sports and travel. Rebecca is living for the second time here in the Netherlands, and is married to Peter Slort, a Dutch national she met while climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. Their two children, Claire and Gideon, attend the American School of The Hague. Originally from Montana, Rebecca is a patriotic American Westerner in heart and soul, and is happiest in the great outdoors, especially the mountains.



Open Positions: As we went to press, the Nominating Committee was working diligently to identify candidates for the positions of Community Development and Resource Officer, and Member and Club Administration Officer. Look for further information about these important positions in eNews.

AWC and the Arts

by Jane Choy

Art History Lectures: Holland's Golden Age Revealed! Intro to 17th Century Dutch Art

AWC Member **Jane Choy** will continue to share her expertise on art of the Dutch Golden Age by hosting this final art history lecture in the intimate living room setting of her 17th century home in the historic center of Voorburg. Parking is free in the neighborhood, although it is a blue zone with a two-hour limit. Her house is easily accessible by public transportation: Bus 23, 28, 45 or 46 and sprinter train from Den Haag Centraal Station.

The Golden Age was a period in Dutch history, roughly spanning the 17th century, in which the Dutch were a major world power and leaders in trade and science as well as art. The paintings produced by Dutch artists during this era are considered some of the greatest works of art in the world. These lectures will not only introduce you to the art of this dynamic period, but will also talk about the history and culture that brought this art to fruition, providing a deeper understanding of the country in which we now live.

Still Life and Architectural Painting: Objects of Desire!

These two specialties of Dutch 17th century art with their attention to the representation of different textures and illusionism are some of the most admired works of this period. Showing the originality of Dutch painters, we will also explore the symbolism and the ability of art to triumph over nature.



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

Friday, April 10
10 a.m. – Noon
Jane Choy's Home
€ 10 Members (€ 12 nonmembers) per lecture
Minimum 7 / Maximum 22
Cancellation deadline: April 2

Indonesian Textiles

AWC Member **Susan McKinley** lived in Indonesia from 1993 – 1997, where she studied and collected Indonesian *ikat* weavings and *batiks*. She made special trips to see where textiles were created and purchased them

at the source. In this lecture, she will share samples from her collection and discuss the techniques used to produce *ikat* and *batik* textiles. In some cases, she will reveal the meaning or story behind particular motifs in this tactile art form.

The variety is endless. Sumatran silks glowing and rich with scarlet reds and shining golds, and Sumbanese *ikat* with rusty reds and deep blues in bold patterns. Colorful rainbow stripes of Timorese *ikat* contrasts with the deeper browns, oranges and navy blue of the *ikat* of the islands of Alor, Flores and Savu. Every color can be found in the soft cotton *batiks* of Java: the bright colors of the north coast cloths, especially from Cirebon and Pekalongan, and the fine browns, whites and indigos of the court cloths of Solo and Yogyakarta. There are glorious Javanese silk *batiks* soft and floating, in glowing color and design. From Bali there is a veritable explosion of color and texture in both traditional and totally modern design.

Fees from this lecture will benefit the Stahili Foundation (www.stahilifoundation.org); the



AWC was pleased to welcome a co-founder of Stahili as our guest speaker at the March General Meeting. This non-profit organization works to combat child labor and abuse in rural Kenya by striving to provide education and a safe, supportive environment in which the children can flourish.

Friday, May 1
1:30 p.m.
AWC Clubhouse
€ 8 Members (€ 15 nonmembers)
Minimum 12 / Maximum 40
Cancellation deadline: April 23

IMAGES INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

IMAGES is an English speaking photography club based in The Hague.

The club was founded in 1984 and welcomes members of all ages, skill levels, and camera types. Our members come from many different countries, including the Netherlands, and have many different areas of photographic interest. The one thing they all have in common is their passion for photography.

To support and encourage this passion IMAGES organizes various activities:

- Monthly meetings with Guest Speakers
- Constructive critique sessions
- Hands-on activities & workshops
- Excursions, fieldtrips and visits to exhibitions
- Social events
- Competitions

By exchanging ideas, critiquing photographs and asking and answering questions, we aim to motivate and learn from each other.

Club Meetings

IMAGES meetings are typically held on the third Tuesday of every month (excluding July and August) and start at 19:45. Meetings are held at: **Bloom House of Health, Koninginnegracht 28 2514 AB Den Haag**

Please visit www.imagesphotoclub.com for up to date meeting dates and events or email general@imagesphotoclub.com.



A Lovely Gateway to the Ardennes

by Becky Failor

Every donation to AWC Gala auctions makes a difference in our Club's ability to raise money for children in need. At last year's Hearts & Minds Gala, my husband and I were lucky to be the winning bidders on a two-night stay at a B&B in the Belgian Ardennes region.

Bed & Breakfast Le Lognard (www.herberglognard.nl) is a renovated farmhouse in the municipality of Vresse-sur-Semois, close to the French border. It is about a three and a half hour picturesque and relaxing drive from The Hague. We enjoyed the rolling hills and forest scenery. The small towns you pass through are full of "character." The small villages that make up the Vresse-sur-Semois are no exception. Straddling the banks of the Semois River, they are picture postcard lovely.

We planned our visit over a cold January weekend. The Hague had just had the first snow of 2015, so we were not surprised to find snow upon our arrival. We were warmly welcomed by another guest at the B&B, John Proctor, who has long been a supporter of the AWC. John and his wife, Gerda, are friends of the B&B owners, Theo Meijer and Hanneke Engelsman, and agreed to help us



settle in while the owners were running errands. This photo shows Theo with a painting John created of the B&B. Theo and Hanneke soon returned and made us feel right at home. Their recommendations for restaurants were great. Le Table, about a 15-minute drive away, served one of the best meals we've had in a long time. We could easily understand how they have been awarded the ZOOVER Award for the past four years (equivalent to the Oscars of the Dutch travel industry).

We chose *De Droomkamer* (Dream Room) for our stay. Our bed was comfortable and the free WiFi made using our private sitting area very pleasant. We were given a tour of the other rooms. Many are set up to be perfect for families, with several beds in a room. With the weather snowy and cold, we stayed indoors and relaxed. If you visit in warmer weather you will be spoiled for choice of things to do. There is a visitor's center just a few blocks from the B&B to give you more options than you would have time to complete. You do not need to drive to have fun. You could stay around the B&B and make use of the pool, rent bikes, walk along the river, visit the art gallery, etc., all while making the B&B your home-away-from-home.

About an hour's drive away is Bastogne and its excellent new World War II museum (www.bastognenewmuseum.be). The story of the war and the Battle of the Bulge is

told from the viewpoint of four people: a young boy, school teacher, German soldier and American soldier. Based on an American Travel Center's Facebook post, we had planned to spend at least 90 minutes to visit the museum, but we were so taken by the stories and displays that we spent about 3 hours there. Through August 2016, there is a special exhibit called *From Texas to Bastogne, Texas Aggies Go to War*, which might be of special interest to many of our AWC Members. Even though it was icy, we climbed to the top of the Mardasson Monument built to

honor the memory of the 76,890 American soldiers who were wounded or killed during the Battle of the Bulge.

We spent the last day of our long weekend in Luxembourg City for just a little taste of this compact treasure. We would like to thank Theo and Hanneke for their Gala donation that brought us to their B&B in this lovely part of Belgium.





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Memory Trip to Indonesia

by Eileen Harloff

My husband had always wanted to introduce me to Indonesia, his country of birth. He was forced to leave there after WWII and the subsequent Indonesian rebellion against Dutch rule that ended in the colony becoming an independent nation. Unfortunately, by the time we had the opportunity for him to “go back home” he was too ill to do so. After his death I lost interest in the idea – until I heard about the month-long Memory Trip to Indonesia that was being organized

for the second time by Pelita. This is an organization established in 1947 by repatriated former colonials. Its objective was to secure the help these people needed but were not receiving from the Dutch government, to deal with physical, emotional and social problems related to the past and to the present life in a new “homeland.” Today, the original repatriated community is greatly dwindled, but there are still many people whose families lived in the former colony and who themselves were

born and lived there until the end of WWII, and who wanted to revisit their roots. I felt akin to them because of all I had come to know about Indonesia from my husband’s family and friends. Though I was very much the new girl on the block, I was welcomed into the tour group of 26 men and women.

Jakarta is the capital not only of the island of Java, but also of the entire country of Indonesia, an archipelago consisting of thousands of islands. In colonial times the city was

known as Batavia; ironically, I am also from Batavia: the one in New York. I had always felt some kinship to Jakarta until I actually experienced it: in all aspects, the two cities are clearly worlds apart. Jakarta was our starting point for a trip across the island. Our first visit was to Menteng Pula, one of the seven Dutch cemeteries on Java. Here both Dutch and Allied military are buried, as could be seen in the chapel where the American flag was displayed alongside the Dutch and Indonesian flags. After a word of welcome, we walked along the neatly kept graves. Members of our group who had relatives buried here placed flowers on their graves; the rest of us scattered blossoms that had been given to us as we left the chapel. Next we visited a neighborhood of terraced houses in which women and children had been interned during WWII by the Japanese, forced to endure atrocious conditions of overcrowding and lack of facilities as well as cruel treatment. On a happier note, we later stopped for refreshments in a throw-back to colonial times at Restaurant Batavia, whose walls were decorated with movie posters and pictures of pre-war Hollywood movie stars.

I dubbed Jakarta “Motorcycle City” because of the large number of these vehicles that raced through traffic. Other impressions of the city included covered canals; small, dark workplaces; old buses; tall buildings; rows of food stalls; fields of trash; small *desas* (compounds) which were entered through an arch often decorated with flowers; metal roofs and rooftops full of aeries; jerry-built houses; and many, many mosques.

From the capital we headed east, passing through or staying in cities and towns with familiar names. In some of these, one of our group’s friends or family members had lived; in the neighborhood of another, a family had formerly spent vacations; in yet another town, one in the group had been imprisoned in the war years. In between the towns, the scenery displayed bright green terraced rice and tea fields, snow-topped mountains, active and sleeping volcanoes, canyons, waterfalls,

dried-up streams, distant temple ruins. And everywhere were mosques of all ages, sizes and shapes, with their slender minarets from which issued the loud daily calls to prayer, as the population of Java is 97% Muslim. To my sorrow, I saw very few birds and only two black butterflies; apparently, due to the island’s dense population, habitats for birds and butterflies no longer exist.

We visited the 80-acre Bogor Botanical Gardens, which the grandfather of one of our fellow travelers had been instrumental in setting up. The purpose of the gardens had been to study plants that could be commercially profitable, such as tea and tobacco. The gardens and adjacent deer park made an attractive setting for the bordering Bogor Palace, one of the six presidential palaces in Indonesia.

En route to Bandung, we drove up misty mountain roads to reach the 1,200-foot (365-meter) high Puncak Pass, after crawling along crowded highways where sellers of food, newspapers, toys, etc. darted in and out peddling their wares, and a bevy of attractive girls tapped on car windows, striking sexy poses and making come-on gestures – but surprise! They weren’t really girls at all!

We stopped at a tea farm and factory where we followed the whole process of tea making. Nearby was a hot spring fed by an inactive volcano; the sulfur in the water painted the rocks and hillside blindingly white. By Pangandaran we climbed down (and back up again) 439 steps to reach a Naga village in the val- >> 48



Memory Trip to Indonesia (cont.)

Continued from page 47

ley – the Nagas being an off-shoot of the major Muslim groups. The people there live without electricity and running water; they use a nearby stream, which also waters the adjoining rice fields. Fish, another staple, are grown in a special pool. In Pangandaran, we exchanged our bus for *betjeks*. These man-powered bike rickshaws came up the hotel's drive in a column led by a man in police uniform, and formed a semi-circle. Each of us was invited to step into a vehicle. This would be our transportation for that day, as we traveled from market to small family workplaces where a variety of foods were produced: *tempeh* (fermented soy beans), *tofu* (bean curd combined with soy milk) and *gulah java* (coconut sugar).

Our next adventure was a four-hour ride in small motorboats through a boggy area to reach the town of Cilicap. All was peaceful until we were coming into port and we were roughed up by waves from the Indian Ocean. Once on shore, we boarded our bus and headed for the Dieng Plateau at 6,800 feet (2,093 meters) above sea level and surrounded by terraced mountainsides on which are grown potatoes, tobacco and tea. Our destination was Wonosobo and the Kresna Hotel, where the parents of one of our group members had spent their honeymoon.



Semarang is a city with two distinct areas: the old colonial one with government buildings and sizeable houses, and a modern part with the ever-present large shopping arcade. It was Sunday and we came upon a Christian Church; I was impressed with the number of people, and particularly young ones, who poured out of it at the end of the service.

Near Magalang, we finally arrived at the place I had been particularly looking forward to seeing: Borobudur, the famous Buddhist *stupa* (temple) and UNESCO World Heritage Site dating back to the ninth century. It was one of the treasures of Indonesia my husband had studied and especially admired.

While most of our group climbed the stairs to the top to take in the view (there was no access to the inside), I remained on the first platform. There I became the center of attention for groups of young students who politely asked if they could take a photo of me, which led to an avalanche of selfies with individuals and whole classes. The students had lists of questions written in English: What is your name? Where do you come from? How do you like this country? They were all studying English at school. Formerly, Dutch was the language in the schools, but since independence, this has been replaced by English – to the disappointment of many in our group.

Near Borobudur are the Powdan and the Mendut Temples. They firmly stand on square bases with steep steps leading to a small upper room. Outer walls are carved with Buddhas, disciples, animals and vegetation. In the evening we attended a lively open-air theater performance of the Ramayan Ballet featuring masked dancers with wild monkeys, especially entertaining as they descended from the ceiling and frolicked about the stage.

In Yogyakarta the main attraction is the Sultan's Palace (*kraton*), parts of which are open to the public. The first place one comes to is a large outdoor covered platform where guests are received and entertainment takes place, such as a *gamelan* orchestra: gongs, metal and stringed instruments, and bamboo flute accompanied by traditional dancing and/or singing. Following this outdoor platform is a succession of rooms devoted to specific subjects: uniforms, weapons, gifts, etc.

This is in sharp contrast to the nearby Mangkunegaran Palace, where Raden Mas Said signed a treaty in 1757 with the Dutch East India Company and thereby formed a

small hereditary duchy. This palace looks forlorn and somewhat dilapidated on the outside, but is most attractive on the inside. The family still lives in a private part of the house, while the public areas remain decorated with family portraits and photos.

We also visited several Hindu temples dating back to pre-Islam days. All were highly decorated with various symbols depending on their themes, including life before birth and sex education as well as various deities and legends.

In a morning dedicated to nature, we took a steep road up the western side of Mount Lawu to view the 300-foot (90-meter) high Tawangmangu Waterfall. It was here that a brother and sister among our group often visited with their grandmother to play in the stream below or on the huge rocks which form a perfect place to sit in the sun. Here, too, we met up with a school class and were asked to pose with them for a series of photos.

At last we reached Surabaya, my husband's hometown. I don't know where he >>> 50



Memory Trip to Indonesia (cont.)

Continued from page 49

lived or went to school, but I experienced an atmosphere that I'm sure has not changed over the many years since his youth. The moist heat slows your pace and takes away your energy, and I imagined how he must have felt when disembarking from the ship that brought him to Holland in the beginning of a cold winter. In this city, too, we visited the cemetery where relatives of some of our group were buried. Then we enjoyed a *rijsttafel* with a group of people who, when forced to make the choice after Indonesian independence in 1949 of retaining their Dutch nationality and thus having to repatriate to the Netherlands, or remaining in Indonesia and thus having Indonesian nationality, had opted for the latter. They had formed a club that meets regularly for social events. In addition to the delicious food, there was music, singing and dancing, and a grand time was had by all. We met several of them

again that evening at our final dinner, which was organized by local Wieteke van Dort, the best friend of one of our group's members. Wieteke has created a well-known character, *Tante Lien*, who sings and talks about various everyday topics and events in a combination of Dutch and *Petjok*, a vernacular spoken by "Indos" (Dutch people who were born and/or lived in Indonesia in the colonial period). This is always greeted with loving laughter. Wieteke also performed once a week throughout the trip in the dining rooms of the hotels in which we were staying, sometimes attracting Dutch tourists from other groups, who had enjoyed her performances back in Holland. It was a fitting ending to our nostalgic journey through space and time.

Last Thoughts: The biggest difficulty I had on the trip was getting to grips with the Indonesian currency, with its exchange rate of 10,000 rupiahs to \$ 0.08. A massage cost 420,000 rupiahs; a batik blouse 50,000 (and try to get a large size in this land of small people); a gin and tonic 60,000; and black coffee 25,000. We all walked around with wads of bills and our guide was kind enough to print out a miniature set of bills so that we could identify them by color. When he needed to collect money for entrance fees, he would merely say, "Give me two reds," or "one blue and a green."

On the other hand, I loved the old, yet modernized, hotels. They exuded the colonial atmosphere; they were like museums with their statues, carved wood decorations, paintings and the like. They were also of historical significance. Hotel Majapahit in Surabaya was opened in 1911 as the Oranje Hotel; guests at its opening included Charlie Chaplin, Paulette Goddard and the writer Joseph Conrad. The Japanese army took it over in 1942, Dutch forces occupied it in 1945, and it was the scene of a riot when local Indonesians rushed in and tore the Dutch flag from the roof. It contains a two-story presidential suite and is the recipient of numerous tourism awards. The inner courtyard is ideal for reading or taking a nap.



Message from the President (cont.)

Continued from page 8

heartfelt thank you notes are so moving, as we women all over the world are linked in some way by this terrible disease.

The Gingerbread House Workshop is yet another way of reaching out to our host country by baking and decorating gingerbread houses and delivering them in time for Christmas to children's and retirement homes and to Bronovo Hospital. With this initiative, the AWC ladies bring a smile and some joy to those needing some holiday cheer.

As Easter is approaching, we will once again be having our Easter Basket workshop on March 31. We are still looking for donations and volunteers to help create these lovely baskets. Our beneficiaries this year will be the Vliet en Burgh (Salvation Army) foster home in Voorburg and the Women's and Children's Crisis Center in The Hague. By giving a bit of your time, we will be able to continue with this tradition.

A special thank you to **Sunita Menon**; with her deep conviction and dedication as the Philanthropy Chair, she has done a tremendous job. All the fundraising and charitable events are made possible thanks to the resourceful and creative ladies of the AWC. Our Club is a small but great organization with a big heart!

Thank you to all the Membership for initiating new projects and activities. We now have more activities on offer for our working Members. There is an Evening Book Club and from time-to-time a Businesswomen's Meeting Evening. Thanks to **Greetje Engelsman**, there is a Dutch Conversation group and coffee morning at the Clubhouse

several times per month. Members who live in Wassenaar have started a monthly coffee morning as well, and their very own Walkie Talkies group. Both activities are open to all AWC Members.

As we move towards the future of our AWC, I would like to thank our Nominating Committee Chair, **Jan de Vries**, together with the Nominating Committee, who have put together a great list of candidates for the various Executive Board positions. The April General Meeting will include the election of the new Executive Officers for 2015-2016. The Slate of Officers can be found on page 26. Please familiarize yourself with the candidates and make an effort to attend this meeting, which will be held on Thursday, April 9.

I will look back on these two years with pride and satisfaction. I want to thank my Executive Board: Vice President **Patricia Raynolds**; **Teresa Insalaco**, this year's Treasurer, and **Vivian Jung**, last year's Treasurer; **Marsha Hagney**, Secretary; **Jan de Vries**, Community Development and Resource Officer; **Rachel Kupperts**, Member and Club Administration Officer; **Trena Cormier**, Communications Officer; as well as **Jessie Rodell**, Special Advisor to the Board, and **Georgia Regnault**, our Parliamentarian – and, of course, the AWC Membership, each and every one of you for your outstanding work!

Happy 85th Birthday everyone!

Linda

*Did you know that any English-speaking woman
may join the AWC?
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have an affinity for Americans to join us today!*



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

Member Privacy

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

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



AWC Members **Carol Slootweg** and **Greetje Engelsman** have produced a pocket-sized booklet containing photos of Dutch vegetables, basic ingredients and cleaning products that is indispensable for newcomers to the Netherlands. To buy a copy, email greetje.engelsman@gmail.com



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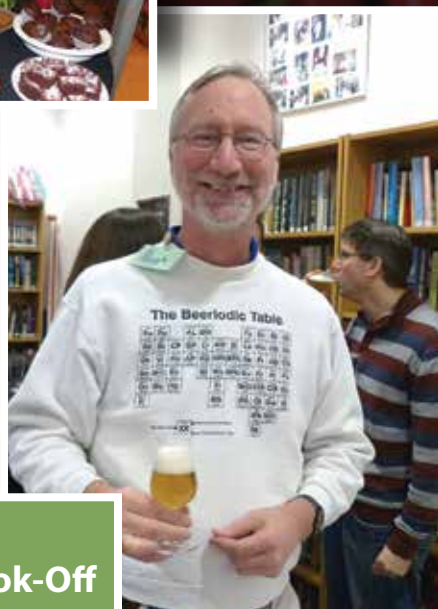
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