

Going Dutch

American Women's Club
of The Hague

2014
December

In
this
issue

Halloween Photos

Magical Giethoorn

A Royal Day in Apeldoorn

Gala Beneficiary Celebration



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Going Dutch

December 2014



Check out the many cool activities open to all Members and spouses with our Women with Dutch Partners group



Our Clubhouse was once again invaded by adorable little creatures for Halloween



Susan Yates Brown shares her impressions of Magical Giethoorn

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

- 5 Officers and Chairwomen
- 6 A Royal Day in Apeldoorn
- 8 Message from the President
- 9 December General Meeting
- 10 Letter from the Editor
- 12 Newcomer Activities
- 12 FAWCO Corner
- 14 Ongoing Activities
- 18 One-of-a-Kind Activities
- 19 Women with Dutch Partners
- 20 Tours
- 22 Helping Kids this Holiday Season
- 24 Halloween Party Photos
- 26 A Beekeeper in Clingindael Calendar
- 28
- 31 Women's Power to Stop War
- 32 Announcements
- 34 The Dutch Daily
- 36 Van Kleef Distillery
- 38 Magical Giethoorn
- 41 Ethelyn Goble
- 42 AWC and the Arts
- 44 Incredible Nepal
- 52 Classifieds
- 53 Index of Advertisers
- 53 Rates
- 54 Gala Beneficiaries Celebration



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Going Dutch Magazine
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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.

Committee Chairs

Activities Open

Assistant Treasurer Open

At Home in Holland Becky Failor

Caring Committee Naomi Keip

Community Service Coordinator Sunita Menon

FAWCO Emily van Eerten

Heart Pillow Eileen Baker

Holiday Bazaar Jan Essad, Julie Schipper

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Kid's Club Open

Membership Coordinator Lynn Roberts

Newcomers Greetje Engelsman, Ramona Oswald

Parliamentarian Georgia Regnault

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Public Relations Johanna Dishongh

Tennis Molly Boed

The Arts Jane Choy

Tours Becky Failor

Volunteer Coordinator Open

Webmaster Julie Otten

Website Assistant Open

Women with Dutch Partners Rebecca Niles-Pourier



Visiting Palace Het Loo



Message from the President

by Linda Divon

As the year 2014 will soon be coming to an end, I cannot help but to reflect and be grateful for a most interesting and memorable year at the American Women's Club of The Hague. Whether it be our Ongoing Activities such as Walkie Talkies each and every Monday morning, come rain or shine; Chat, Craft & Cake morning which is literally that – lots of chat while working on an embroidery or a handmade quilt – yet welcoming every one, even for only the "chat" part; Book Club; Heart Pillow Project; monthly General Meetings with wonderful speakers; or One-of-a-Kind Activities such as the outing to Brielle; a behind-the-scenes tour of the Panorama Mesdag; the Chili Cook-Off; the FAWCO Handbag Auction; or, our AWC Hearts & Minds Fundraising Gala – to name just a few of the many events and activities which were organized by the Board and the Committee Chairs to bring our Members together for those bonding moments and very special times.



No doubt that living in such a comfortable and safe city, The Hague, with its rich and diverse culture, being the International City of Peace and Justice, motivates and inspires us as well. We are an American organization which has opened its Membership and embraced women from other nationalities – from the Netherlands, Canada, England, New Zealand, Mexico, Jamaica, Trinidad-Tobago, Malaysia and India...just to name a few. The uniqueness of this Club is in its American foundation with the addition of the diverse Members who share an affinity for Americans and for the American way.

We recently celebrated Thanksgiving, an American holiday that gave us an opportunity to remember and to give thanks for our good fortune. At the same time we were able to reflect on the millions of peoples in our world who are still struggling for freedom and for a better life.

Each year **Roberta Enschede** organizes a very moving Thanksgiving Service at the Pieterskerk in Leiden. This non-denominational service brings people together from various religions and cultures. We are reminded of our English ancestors who initially settled in Leiden where they were welcomed and were free to live and worship as they chose. These same Pilgrims would eventually brave the harsh seas and make their way to the New World. Thanksgiving for them meant giving thanks to the Lord for their safe arrival, good health and plentiful harvest. Thank you, Roberta, for once again organizing this very memorable event.



In December Jews all over the world will be celebrating Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights. It takes us back to ancient times to 168 BCE, when the Jewish Temple was seized by Syrian-Greek soldiers and the Jews were no longer permitted to observe their faith. They finally succeeded in retaking their land as well as their freedoms back. Once they returned to the Temple in Jerusalem they were determined to purify the Temple by burning ritual oil in the Temple's menorah for eight days. While there was only oil for one day, miraculously the small amount of oil lasted the full eight days. The Festival of Lights became a universal symbol of hope and inspiration.

>> 51

December General Meeting

by Trena Cormier

Join us as we welcome a speaker from the Shen Yun Performing Arts Group of the Netherlands. The mission of this world-renowned, New York-based dance and music company is to revive authentic, traditional Chinese culture. Just as the Renaissance in Europe closed off a dark age and heralded a golden age, a renaissance of the Chinese culture is taking place via performing arts, and Shen Yun sees itself as leading this movement.



Shen Yun organizes cultural presentations whereby they describe how Chinese culture has been maintained and passed down for 5,000 continuous years. It emphasizes the essence of Chinese culture, how the loss of traditional culture has affected the modern Chinese society, and how the great Chinese traditions are revived by Shen Yun Performing Arts.

Please visit the website of Shen Yun Performing Arts to learn more about their mission and performances, and don't miss their 2015 trailer: www.ShenYun.com.

Welcome New Members!

Sara Darnell-McGee
Maria Etkind
Karla Kahn
Kristin King
Lindsay Murphy Daly
Lavinia Redman
Vesna Southwick
Camille Walters

December Birthdays

Anita Deal	1	Carol Slootweg	15
Lindsay Murphy Daly	2	Sunita Menon	18
Jane Choy	3	Mae Berkel-Av��	19
Sara Crabtree	5	Kay van der Made	19
Jan Essad	6	Suzanne Dundas	20
Maureen Halbach	9	Gail van der Feltz	20
Jane Schiff	11	Pamela Schellekens	25
Jo van Kalveen	13	Kathy DeBest	28
Leslie Martin	13	Agatha Zwaan	28
Rita Sunden	14	Nicole Baran O'Connell	29
Vesna Southwick			
Camille Walters			

Ramblings from the Editor

by Melissa White

If you use Facebook, it's likely that over the last few months you have either seen or participated in one of the many "Attitude of Gratitude" Challenges. The methods varied, such as the number of days to post something and number of friends you were supposed to in turn nominate, but the message was the same: stop, contemplate and share what you are grateful for. I was nominated, but failed to get around

to answering the challenge. With the holidays around the corner, I figured it was finally time to take up that challenge. As I'm not very good at following rules, not only am I not going to use Facebook as my method of communication, but I'm going to skip nominating specific people (more on that later). So, here goes in no particular order...

I am thankful to live in the Netherlands. We have just celebrated our 9th anniversary in our wonderful adopted country and have never regretted our move here. I'm completely hopeless at learning languages (after four years of Spanish all I could do was ask where the toilet is and order a beer), so I am thankful that the Dutch, in general, are amazing linguists and that I can fumble along in English. You might catch me whining about the weather, but that's usually when I've forgotten my raingear—remember: there's no bad weather, just bad clothing.

It's been great fun to work with **Teresa Mahoney** on this magazine for the past five and a half years; I am grateful to her for putting up with me as I can be a complete scatterbrain. I also appreciate the wonderful opportunity *Going Dutch* provides me to stretch myself as a writer (thanks to all of you for allowing me to ramble!) and photographer while helping to create a product I am truly proud of.

Happiness doesn't come as a result of getting something we don't have, but rather of recognizing and appreciating what we do have."

~ Frederick Koenig

not 100% reformed). While I still battle being a pessimist, I have come a long way thanks to the optimism of my friends. And I've noticed that the more positive I become, the more I am drawn to positive people, which helps to further break the cycle of negativity.

Rather than burning calories at the gym, I appreciate my active lifestyle and the opportunity to burn calories walking my dog or cycling almost daily. While I might not be quite as firm as I was 10 years ago, I still manage to fit in the same jeans (yes, it's time for some new jeans!).

I love that my daughters are being raised as global citizens. They don't care about nationalities, race or religion; they care about whether someone treats them nicely and makes them laugh. Their eyes have been opened through extensive travel and exposure to people from a wide variety of countries. You can read about my 17-year-old's experiences over the summer in Nepal on page 42.

How about you? What are you grateful for? I now nominate all of you for an Attitude of Gratitude Challenge. Share it with your friends, your family or just yourself, but now is a great time to stop, contemplate and share what you are grateful for.

Happy Holidays!

I am grateful for the many positive influences of my husband James and my closest friends. I grew up in a household full of negativity and sarcasm. While I always recognized that I was sarcastic myself, I didn't acknowledge that sarcasm is such a negative force until I met James. Although it is said that you should never try to change someone, James managed to convince me to shed much of my sarcasm (although I'm

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Newcomer Activities

by Greetje Engelsman and Ramona Oswald

Meet & Greet for Newcomers

Are you a Newcomer or a potential Member of the Club with questions on how to navigate through your new homeland? Do you have owner's manuals in Dutch or Dutch forms that you are struggling to complete? Send us a message at awcthehague.newcomers@gmail.com and/or join us for coffee before the monthly meeting at the Clubhouse. You

will be introduced to the Club and find assistance with some of the challenges in life as an expat in Holland.

Thursday, December 11

Coffee: 10 a.m.

Meeting: 10:30 a.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FAWCO Corner

by Emily van Eerten



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

FAWCO Disaster Relief Fund

FAWCO Member Clubs are joining together in the fight against Ebola and you can help!

At the request of AIWC Cologne, the FAWCO Board has activated the FAWCO Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) until January 15, 2015, to assist Medica Mondiale Liberia (MML) in their Ebola efforts. Our fund will specifically help MML in providing:

Sanitation Materials and Protective Gear: Essential materials are needed such as chlorine, buckets, barrels, soap and detergents as well as protective gear to treatment units, communities and health facilities.

Solidarity Packs: People returning from treatment centers face stigmatization and a situation where often all their household items are burned; they cannot return to work directly, so "starter packages" are essential for them to cope. These packs target quarantined homes and survivors of Ebola. They contain mattresses, assorted clothing, food and other basic items. They also include some cash to

enable the survivors to restart. The MML team liaises with treatment centers to obtain lists of survivors and works with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and community leaders to identify quarantined homes.

To learn more, visit www.fawco.org and click on the orange button on the left for Ebola Disaster Relief. To make a donation, go to www.fawco.org and click the PayPal Payments button on the bottom right to donate by credit card or PayPal; please be sure to indicate "Ebola DRF" in the comments line.



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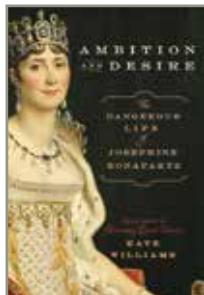
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Ongoing Activities

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 December Daytime Book Group selection is *Josephine* by Kate Williams:



Gripping in its immediacy, this biography delves into sexual obsession, heartbreak, revolutionary turmoil and surviving as a woman in a man's world. Written by one of England's most praised young historians, we will be captivated by the extraordinary rags-to-riches story of the alluring and complex woman who conquered Napoleon's heart.

Thursday, December 18

11 a.m. (Note- different time and venue to celebrate our Christmas party)

Potluck lunch at Agatha Zwaan's House
FREE

Recap of the October Discussion

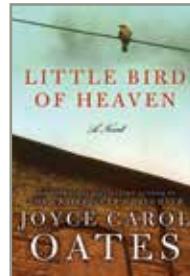
Unbroken: Meticulously researched, this biography reads like a thriller. For many of us, this was an eye-opening look at prisoners of war camps in Japan. We had a lively discussion, spanning World War II through today's battle against ISIS. It was easy for us all to agree that it would be wonderful if all nonfiction authors could write as well as Laura Hillenbrand. There's still time to read this unforgettable book before the AWC's outing to see the movie in early January.

Daytime Book Club Planning Ahead:

Thursday, January 22 *The Marriage Plot* by Jeffrey Eugenides
Thursday, February 19 *The Middlesteins: A Novel* by Jamie Attenberg

Book Club: Evening

The December Evening Book Group selection is *Little Bird of Heaven* by Joyce Carol Oates:



In a small town, a young mother is found murdered. The primary suspects are her estranged husband and a married man with whom she was having an affair. This novel, however, is not a mystery or a thriller; it is a study of how such a tragedy can affect the families involved. The central characters are the children of the suspects, who become obsessed with each other, each believing the other's father is guilty. Join us as we explore the dangerous intersections of romance and eroticism, guilt and obsession, desire and murder.

Wednesday, December 10

7:30 p.m.
AWC Clubhouse
FREE

Recap of the October Discussion

On Such a Full Sea: The evening book group enjoyed a fun and thoughtful discussion of Chang-Rae Lee's latest offering. All of us found this futuristic novel weird, but ultimately readable. We weren't always convinced by the turns in the story, and were sometimes befuddled by the omniscient narrator's voice. Still, 75% of us would recommend the book, though 100% of us agreed it will most appeal to Margaret Atwood fans.

Evening Book Club Planning Ahead:

Wednesday, January 14: *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* by Karen Joy Fowler
Wednesday, February 11: *Valley of Amazement* by Amy Tan
Wednesday, March 11: *The Bone Clocks* by David Mitchell
Wednesday, April 15: *Tree of Smoke* by Denis Johnson
Wednesday, May 20: *In the Garden of the Beasts* by Erik Larson
Wednesday, June 10: *Orfeo* by Richard Powers

individuals) randomly, and assign the hostess/host couple. Then each hostess will set a theme and guests will be asked to prepare a dish. For example, if the theme is Italian, then one person might bring antipasto, one brings bread, one brings Italian wine, etc. The hostess may choose to cook the main course or do it all, but then you might be asked to contribute some money towards the cost. It will be up to each hostess how they want to structure the meal. You may be asked to host one dinner for eight, six or four guests (depending on your space at home) and then you will be a guest at someone else's home the next time. This is a fun way to share an evening with new AWC friends while enjoying a great dinner! Future dates include Saturday, April 25. Contact Rebecca at awcthehague.wwdp@gmail.com to join in the fun.

Saturday, February 14

Locations and Meals Vary

Sign-up deadline: February 7

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. This is not a class, but an informal opportunity to speak *Nederlands*.

Wednesdays

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 >> 16



Dinner Club

Have you run out of ideas of what to do to celebrate Valentine's Day? How about sharing dinner with AWC friends and spouses/partners? Every other month, dinners will be planned and you will dine with a different group of people each time. **Rebecca Niles-Pourier** will set the dates, place couples (or

Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 15

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.

Wednesday, December 17

Noon – 2 p.m.
AWC Clubhouse
FREE
Visitors Welcome

Ladies' Night with Gusto!

Come for some "Happy Hour" snacks and drinks at Gusto's. We will "do like the Italians do" and have great food, lots of talk and good

times. RSVP on *GroupSpaces.com*. Questions? Contact **Pat Raynolds** at awcthehague.firstvp@gmail.com.

Thursday, December 4

7:30 – 9 p.m.

Gusto Italian Restaurant

Plein 22, Den Haag

€ 5 for snacks, then pay for your own drinks

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.



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.

Email Ineke to sign up for these classes and pay her directly. Bring your own mat and towel. All levels are welcome. Participants should arrive at the Club at 10 a.m. so class can start promptly at 10:15 a.m.

Wednesdays

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

€ 15 per class Members

Min 6 / Max 10

Contact: Ineke at
Latour@globalswing.com

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

1 – 3 p.m.

Dekker Tennis Courts

Veerpolder 14, Warmond

€ 275 Members (€ 325 nonmembers)

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



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06-10 93 6680

Nicole Colijn
nicole@10forkids.nl
06-30 39 9278

One-of-a-Kind Activities

by Pat Reynolds

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

Holiday Ornament Exchange



Let's get into the holiday spirit! Come join us for this fun and festive way to celebrate the holiday season. All you have to do is purchase an ornament between €5–€7, wrap it up and come to the Club for an ornament exchange the "White Elephant" way. Please bring your favorite holiday treat to share. What a cozy way to spend a frosty morning!

Wednesday, December 17

10 a.m. – Noon

AWC Clubhouse

One gift wrapped ornament PLUS a holiday treat to share

Cancellation deadline: December 16

Vision Board for the New Year



Women with Dutch Partners

by Rebecca Niles-Pourier

WWDP Dames' Holiday Potluck

Celeste Brown has graciously offered her home again to host this annual dinner and the singing of the *12 Days of Christmas*! We would appreciate if you could bring a dish and a bottle of wine to share. Look for our Evite for directions to her house and details on our meal. Please RSVP by December 7.

Thursday, December 11

7 – 10:30 p.m.

Celeste Brown's home



RSVP for all WWDP Activities directly on AWC GroupSpaces.com. Direct any questions to awcthehague.wwdp@gmail.com

cated. Non-alcoholic cocktails also welcome. If you feel like getting dressed up, feel free to wear your favorite cocktail dress. Include a note when you register on *GroupSpaces* to let us know if you plan to enter the contest. 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, December 13

8 – 11 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

€10 Members or Spouses (€15 nonmembers) – Contestants gratis

Cancellation deadline: December 8

Looking Forward to 2015!

Couples' Game Night January 16

Wine Tasting February 21

Disco Bowling March 6

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Tours

by Becky Failor

RSVP directly on *AWC GroupSpaces.com*. Direct any questions to awcthehague.tours@gmail.com.

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

Amsterdam's Jewish Quarter and Jewish Historical Museum

Amsterdam has long been a city of trade and many cultures. The rich diversity of the city brought a tolerant and welcoming atmosphere. Into this rich city came Jews from all over the world. We are all familiar with the story of Anne Frank. Let's now learn more about the Jewish community of Amsterdam. In the heart of Amsterdam we will find a number of impressive Jewish monuments. In the old Jewish Quarter, you will find the Jewish Historical Museum with its fascinating Children's Museum, the imposing Portuguese Synagogue and the Hollandsche Schouwburg (National Holocaust Memorial). Each of these places will be etched in your memory.

The AWC will host a private tour of the Jewish Quarter and Jewish Historical Museum with an English-speaking guide. We will depart from DHCS around 9:15 a.m. to Amsterdam

Centraal and then take the metro to meet our guide at 10:30 a.m. at the Portuguese Synagogue. After visiting this beautiful temple built in 1675, we will walk through the old Jewish neighborhood seeing monuments and buildings, including the Hollandsche Schouwburg which the Nazis used as a deportation center. We will end our walking tour at the



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.

Jewish Historical Museum where we will have a guided tour and a Jewish-themed lunch (included in fee). Bring your OV-chipkaart for the train and metro.

Thursday, February 19

Meet at DHCS at 9 a.m.

€ 42 Members (€ 47 nonmembers)

PLUS Museum Entrance Fee (€ 12 or free with *Museumkaart*)

Min 8 / Max 20

Cancellation deadline: February 11

Royal Palace in Amsterdam

Have you ever stood on the Dam Square in Amsterdam and wondered why the Royal Palace looks so plain? The lavish interior may surprise you if you have only viewed the palace from the outside. Join the AWC for a private tour with an English-speaking guide and marvel at the beauty of this palace that is used by the Dutch Royal Family to entertain world leaders. The Royal Palace was originally built in 1655 as the town hall of Amsterdam. Designed by Jacob van Campen (who also designed the Mauritshuis), the town hall displayed the wealth and grandeur of the Dutch Golden Age. During Napoleon's occupation in 1808, the town hall was converted into a palace. It was here that Willem I accepted the proclamation naming him as the first King of the Netherlands. The building is used to this day for royal events, such as state visits and state dinners and also plays a role in royal weddings. Recently, the Royal Palace was used for the abdication of Queen Beatrix

and investiture of King Willem-Alexander.

We will take the train from Den Haag Centraal (DHCS) at approximately 9:15 a.m. to Amsterdam Centraal and a tram to Dam Square. We will stop for coffee or tea (at own expense) before entering the Royal Palace. Our one-hour tour will be followed by free time to visit the temporary exhibitions and revisit our favorite places in the palace. If there is interest, we will go for lunch together (at own expense) before returning to The Hague. Bring an OV-chipkaart and money for transportation, museum entrance, coffee and lunch.

Thursday, February 26

Meet at DHCS at 9 a.m.

€ 9 Members (€ 14 nonmembers)

PLUS Museum Entrance Fee (€ 10 or free with *Museumkaart*)

Min 10 / Max 20

Cancellation deadline: February 18

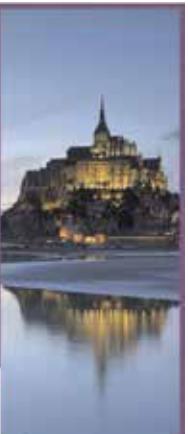


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Helping Kids this Holiday Season

by Sunita Menon

Sinterklaas Gift Bags Workshop

For all children in the Netherlands, December 5 is a very special day. It is when Sinterklaas (St. Nicholas) surprises them with presents! Children leave carrots for Sint's horse and shoes or clogs near the fireplace or outside the front door in anticipation that Sinterklaas will come during the night with gifts. For many children from extremely poor families, Sinterklaas is not so generous. As the holiday season approaches and you reflect on the joys and blessings in your own life, please take a moment to think of the less fortunate children in our midst. The AWC is proud to help bring smiles and laughter to these children. As always, the impact of our work is not just felt by the beneficiaries, but also by the entire community.

Help spread happiness. Join our happy group of "Piets" to help package all the goodies our Members have generously donated so they can be dropped off just in time for Sinterklaas at local food bank De Morgenster. We hope to work some magic that will put a sparkle in some children's eyes. Register for the workshop on AWC *GroupSpaces.com*. Please email me with any questions at awcthehague.philanthropy@gmail.com.

Wednesday, December 3

2 – 5 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE



Making Gingerbread Houses

Back by popular demand, we happily invite you to make gingerbread houses with us for the holidays. Based on an authentic German recipe, Members will learn how to make the dough and assemble the houses, and will get hands-on experience mixing icing and decorating the houses with colorful candy and chocolate. The class has two sessions and participants will receive the recipe and instructions for making gingerbread houses on their own. However, before we can decorate, we need volunteers to bake the roofs and walls of the gingerbread houses in their homes prior to December 12. Even if you can't make it to either workshop, please let me know if you would still like to help. The houses will be donated to these local organizations: Bronovo Hospital, Vliet en Burgh, the Leger des Heils children's foster home in Voorburg and to Class R and Class A at the Lighthouse Special Education School. Register for this fun activity on AWC *GroupSpaces.com*. To volunteer to bake gingerbread, please email me at awcthehague.philanthropy@gmail.com.

Friday, December 12

and

Tuesday December 16

7 – 9 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

Min 6 / Max 16

FREE

Cancellation deadline: December 5

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Halloween Party



A Beekeeper in Clingendaal Park

by Georgia Regnault

Who would have thought that in Benoordenhout there would be an aviary and a beekeeper? I certainly was surprised to learn this, and therefore I decided to ask Johan Feijen if I could interview him. I learned a lot about not only the work of a beekeeper, but also Clingendaal Park in general.

Mr. Feijen and I met on a warm and sunny Wednesday afternoon and sat with his Japanese wife in the middle of their bee community in Clingendaal Park, located on the left-hand side as you come in the main entrance. Of course my first question was: how did you become a beekeeper? And then: why here in Clingendaal Park? The story is quite interesting and veered away at the beginning from the story of beekeeping.

First Mr. Feijen told of his long-time job with The Hague Stadsbeheer (City Management Service). One of the responsibilities of this department is the maintenance of all the city's parks and greenery. His area was Benoordenhout, which included Clingendaal Park and also the Japanese garden within the park.

To ensure that the 100-year-old Japanese garden was maintained correctly and to the high standards required, there was continual contact with the Japanese Embassy in The Hague (where he met his wife) and, through them, a Kyoto garden architect. Mr. Feijen made several trips to Japan to view the gardens there, and at one time was asked to go to



Estonia, where a Japanese garden was being created in the capital city of Tallinn. Ironically, his wife would eventually become the Japanese Ambassador to Estonia.

Mr. Feijen spoke very devotedly of the Japanese garden and its fragility. Maintaining it is crucial, yet costly. That is why about 12 years ago The Hague began having official openings each year so that funds could be gathered for its preservation.

Soon we got back to the subject of how he became a beekeeper. It all began over 40 years ago when Mr. Feijen started working for Stadsbeheer; his area of responsibility at that time was near the Vogelwijk. There he met a man who kept hives in a deserted nursery on the Laan van Poot. When Mr. Feijen became interested in learning about this trade, that man taught him all he needed to know. Within a few years, he had several hives himself. When his mentor decided to retire, the man gave all his hives to Mr. Feijen with the stipulation that he would always help the man's beekeeper friend with hives in Westbroekpark. From these two gentlemen he learned the beekeeper's trade.

About 12 years ago he came to Clingendaal Park to help the farmer there. There was an orchard next to the farm, but the area had become very overgrown. After restoring the trees and garden, he brought 30 of his hives to Clingendaal.



After hearing the background story, I had an extensive lesson in the art of being a beekeeper. Firstly about bees, wasps, bumblebees and ants. All four are of the same biological group and live in a colony, but bees and ants live all year long while wasps and bumblebees only survive the summer.

There are three kinds of bees:

1. Queen bee, a fully-developed female bee; only one may remain in a colony
2. Female bee or worker bee, with undeveloped reproductive organs
3. Male bee or drone bee that quickly leaves the hive and dies

Each Spring, as the temperature inside the hive reaches about 77 °F (25 °C) and the outside temperature is at least 50 °F (10 °C), the bees start to come out to collect pollen and nectar. The queen bee had already begun to lay eggs in January. When it becomes very warm within the hive, she will lay about 2,000 per day. When it gets too crowded in the hive and there is more than one queen bee, the beekeeper will take a queen bee and about one-third of the colony to one of the 50 hives he has in the dunes. These hives have to be at least three miles (five kilometers) away or the bees will return to their original hive.

I of course asked how they know which hive they come from. The answer was simple: each queen bee has a distinctive smell, recognized by those in her hive. What followed was a more detailed explanation of how the bees actually produce the honey and make the honeycomb, which I won't attempt to relate in this article.

While visiting Clingendaal Park, be sure to stop by and visit with Johan Feijen and learn firsthand about the job of the bees in nature and the task of the beekeeper in assisting this process. While there, sample the various honeys produced by the Clingendaal bees and buy your favorite one to take home. This small shop also has many other bee products, such as honeycomb candles (made by his wife), honey spoons and medicinal creams made from honey. The beekeeper is usually there Wednesday afternoons and during weekends. Right in the backyard of The Hague and well worth a visit!



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DECEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m. Front Office Closed	2 Cologne Christmas Market 7:45 a.m. Chat, Crafts'n Cake 10 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	3 Dutch Conversation & Coffee 10 a.m. Philanthropy Sinterklaas Workshop 10 a.m. Pilates 10:15 a.m.	4 Sculpting "Tryout Workshop" 10 a.m. AWC Board Meeting 10:30 a.m.	5	6 Dinner Club TBA
7	8 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m. ACCESS "Welcome to The Hague" Orientation Meeting 9:40 a.m.	9 Chat, Crafts'n Cake 10 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	10 Dutch Conversation & Coffee 10 a.m. Pilates 10:15 a.m. Evening Book Club 7:30 p.m.	11 Newcomers Meet & Greet 10 a.m. General Meeting 10:30 a.m. WWDP Dames' Holiday Potluck 7 p.m.	12 Philanthropy: Gingerbread Workshop 7 p.m.	13 Winter Cocktail Party Contest 8 p.m.
14	15 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	16 Philanthropy: Gingerbread Workshop #2 7 p.m. Happy Hanukkah	17 Holiday Ornament Exchange 10 a.m. Heart Pillow Workshop Noon	18 Daytime Bookclub Xmas Party: Off-Site 11 a.m. Clubhouse Closed Dec 18 to Jan 7	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				Clubhouse Closed Dec 18 to Jan 7	Merry Christmas	
28	29	30	31	Looking Forward to a Busy Winter: Jan 14 & 15: Kick Off Jan 17: Tour of James Bond Exhibit Feb 21: Wine Tasting Feb 26: Royal Palace Tour		
				Clubhouse Closed Dec 18 to Jan 7		



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Women's Power to Stop War

by Becky Failor

While war was raging in Europe in the spring of 1915, a unique group of women met at the International Congress in The Hague in April of that year to protest against World War I and to suggest ways to end that war and prevent war in the future. The organizers of the Congress were prominent women in the International Suffrage Alliance, who saw the connection between their struggle for equal rights and the struggle for peace. These women rejected the theory that war was inevitable and defied all obstacles to their plan to meet together in wartime. More than 1,300 women from warring and neutral nations came together to work out a plan to end World War I and lay the basis for a permanent peace. Out of this historic gathering the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom was born.

Lodging Assistance Request

The AWC has been asked to help provide lodging for women who will attend these sessions. Most of the women seeking lodging are from France while a few are from Africa. The women are not asking for luxury accommodations, special services or meals. They are open to sharing rooms. They will need sleeping and bathroom facilities accessible to them. They are open to using public transportation from the lodging to the Peace Palace or World Forum.

- Nine women need accommodation from April 22 – 29.
- Nine additional women will need accommodations for just April 27 – 29.



One hundred years later, in April 2015, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (www.wilpfus.org) will hold two meetings here in The Hague. On April 22 – 25, there will be a by invitation-only strategy session at the Peace Palace. A larger international conference open to all women, entitled *Women's Power to Stop War*, will take place at the World Forum from April 27 – 29. AWC Members are invited to join women from all over the world to attend this conference and help establish a new peace agenda for the 21st century. For more information, visit www.womenstopwar.org.

How Can You Help?

If you can provide lodging for one or more ladies during this period, please email me at failor@fg-tours.com including which dates you can provide accommodation and how many women you are interested in housing. Some of the participants can offer their hostesses exchange of nice accommodations in their homes or rental properties in France (more information will be provided to those who offer to open their homes).

To help the women plan their budgets, we would like to determine how many people we can accommodate as soon as possible. If you need additional time to confirm, that is fine, but I would appreciate if you could let me know if you are interested.

Announcements

Winter Fair



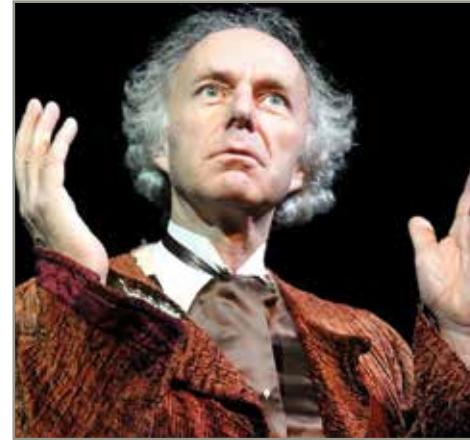
From December 3 to December 7, the Ahoy in Rotterdam will be transformed into a winter wonderland. In a cozy atmosphere, you can be inspired by specialists or get in the mood for the holidays with booths featuring home decorations, wellness and travel. There will also be fashion shows, workshops and an extensive entertainment program. www.winter-fair.nl

Lighting of Christmas Trees

Delft: From 4 p.m. on Tuesday, December 9, there will be Christmas stalls and musicians in the main square. At 7 p.m., the Christmas tree will be lit to give light to the Dark Days of Delft. You can get warmed up with hot chocolate, *gluhwein* (spiced mulled wine) and *erwtensoep* (split pea soup). www.delft.nl

Gouda: During the impressive illumination festival *Gouda by Candlelight* on Friday, December 12 at 7 p.m., over 1,500 candles will be lit in Gouda's historic city hall, while thousands more are aglow behind the windows of the picturesque buildings surrounding Market Square. Street and shop lighting are switched off, lending a fairytale quality to this spectacle. Various choirs will be performing Christmas carols and the audience is encouraged to sing along. www.goudabijkaarslicht.nl

A Christmas Carol



Ashley Ramsden, the world famous storyteller from Great Britain, returns to perform this Christmas favorite on multiple dates between December 12 – 20 at the Paradijs Theatre in the Koninklijke Schouwburg in The Hague. He performs the story single-handed, which shows his formidable talents as a storyteller and actor. The program embraces the original masterpiece, transporting audiences back to Victorian England and conjuring up the sinister back alleys, cobblestone streets and ghostly apparitions that are the story's hallmarks. For dates and tickets, go to: www.theenglishtheatre.nl

Christmas Concerts

Cecilia International Choir: Several Christmas Carol Concerts will be performed on multiple dates between December 13 – 18 in various locations in The Hague. In addition to the popular carols and audience support in the most familiar ones, this year will feature some works of the English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. To further enhance the Christmas atmosphere, seasonal refreshments are included in the admission price. Tickets: www.cecilia-choir.com

American Church of The Hague: The American Protestant Church Choir will perform their Christmas Concert, "Rejoice,"

conducted by John Bakker. The Choir will sing a varied program with music from the hymn *Gloria* by Vivaldi, *Messiah* by Handel and some Negro spirituals. There will also be an opportunity for community singing. The entry is free and there will be a free-will offering.

Sunday, December 14

5 p.m. and 7 p.m. (doors open 30 minutes prior)

American Protestant Church of The Hague

Esther de Boer van Rijklaan 20

www.apch.nl

Royal Christmas Fair

The Hague will have its own Christmas Market this year! Twinkling lights and charming stalls along the Hofvijver are bound to get you in the Christmas mood. The theme is *Royal & International* and several neighboring countries will display their unique products. There will be various activities and entertainment as well as *gluhwein*.

Wednesday, December 17 – Monday,

December 22

Noon – 9 p.m.

Lange Vijverberg, Den Haag

www.royalchristmasfair.nl

Dickens Festival

A 19th century English city of Charles Dickens' days will live again in full glory during the Dickens Festival in Deventer the weekend of December 20 – 21. Some 900 characters will come to life from Dickens' celebrated books, including Scrooge, Oliver Twist and David Copperfield. Even Queen Victoria attends, along with Christmas carolers, orphans, drunkards and distinguished citizens. The stores, cafés and galleries in the city center are open, providing delicacies from fragrant English punch to roasted chestnuts and freshly



baked waffles. Over 150,000 visitors are anticipated for this free festival, so expect to wait approximately 1.5 hours at the entrance. www.dickensfestijn.nl

Amsterdam Light Festival

A unique experience in the darkest months of the year! Amsterdam will host this festival for the 3rd year with a theme of *A Bright City*, challenging artists to create a tribute to the



city. Works include projections on historical buildings, installations on the street or in public parks, or works that require visitor participation. The walking route winds through the city center past several inspiring light artworks from December 11 through January 4. Running through January 18, the boat route will take visitors past artworks along Amsterdam's canals and the Amstel. For more info, go to: www.amsterdamlightfestival.com

Christmas Markets

Countrywide: During December you will find various Christmas markets throughout the Netherlands. For listings, go to www.hollandsemarkten.nl and click on *Kerstmarkten*.

Dordrecht: From December 12 – 14, Dordrecht will host the largest Christmas market in the Netherlands with 200 stalls. In addition, there will be hot treats, live entertainment and an ice skating rink. www.kerstmarktdordrecht.nl

Valkenburg: Running until December 23, the Christmas Market in the Velvet Cave is the Netherlands' most popular indoor Christmas event. This unique experience is a shopper's delight with fairy-tale décor, seasonal music and a large variety of handmade local and international gifts. For more information, go to www.kasteelvalkenburg.nl

The Dutch Daily

by Eileen Harloff

Hail to the Athletes

I have never been considered to be an athlete, let alone being even somewhat athletic. In my early school days, I dreaded gym classes. When we played field hockey and had to run up and down the field with our hockey sticks at the ready, I always wondered if one of the opposing team – or even a fellow team member – would, in a moment of enthusiasm, mistakenly hit me in the shin or arm or even on the head. Then there was baseball – the great American sport – which I especially dreaded when it was played in the hot sun. I was not a pitcher, catcher, fielder or batter; – I was always the last to be called when we chose up sides. The worst of all was in winter when we had tumbling on mats in the school hallway. I had a hard time doing a double backward somersault, whereby you grabbed your partner by the ankles, ducked your head, and started to roll, hopefully with both of you ending up on your feet without stumbling. Moreover, in order to graduate, we had to have a passing mark in gym. Think of the pressure that put on a non-athlete!

Things got better in college when Physical Education was required for only two years and you had a choice of activity. I chose archery which led to painful arms and fingers. There was also the real danger of being injured by the arrows of the archer standing next to me who happened to be left-handed and tended to shoot cross-target, seemingly taking aim at about the time I was retrieving



the arrows from my target (to be honest, the arrows usually were under or around, rather than on the target itself). My last gym year was the best – one hour per week of lively folk dancing. I was good at doing do-si-dos and circling about with my partners. Moreover, I got lots of exercise and I ended the sessions in a happy mood.

All of this helps to explain why I tend not to report on the successes of Dutch athletes. While I admire their achievements, I tend to find other topics more appealing. This year, though, Dutch athletes have done their country and themselves proud. You may remember that in the Winter Olympics, Dutch ice skaters swept the board. Afterwards, there was talk in Olympic circles that the number of ice skating events should be curtailed, as the sport was dominated by one country. Then in August, at the European Athletic Championship in Zurich, 22-year-old Dafne Schippers from Utrecht won gold medals in both the 100-meter and 200-meter sprints, at the same time also beating her own Dutch record in the 100-meter. And the icing on the cake was that in August, Dafne Schippers was crowned European Athlete of 2014, the first Dutch athlete to be so honored.

In fact, 2014 has been the most successful year ever for Dutch athletes, as the following gold medal list reveals:

- Darts (yes, it appears this is a sport): Michael van Gerwen
- All-round ice skating: Jan Blokhuijsen and Ireen Wust (European Champion of the Winter Olympics)
- World Champion Cross-Country Cycling: Marianne Vos
- Winter Olympics Ice Skating Event: Michael Mulder (500-meter); Stefan Groothuis (1,000-meter); Jorien ter Mors (1,500-meter); Ireen Wust (3,000-meter); Sven Kramer (5,000-meter); Jorrit Bergsma (10,000-meter)
- World Champion All-Round Ice Skating

Champion: Koen Verweij and Ireen Wust (5th time)

- Paris-Roubaix Cycle Race: Niki Terpstra
- European Championship Judo: Dex Elmont and Kim Polling
- European Championship Horizontal Bars: Epke Zonderland (two-time winner of World Championship)
- World Championship Hockey: Dutch Women's Team
- Tour de France, Stage 5: Lars Boom
- European Championship 10K Open Water Swimming: Sharon van Rouwendaal and Ferry Weertman
- European Championship Athletics, Running: Dafne Schippers (100-meter, 200-meter) and Sifan Hassan (1,500-meter)
- European Championship Team Swimming: Ferry Weertman, Marcel Schouten, Sharon van Rouwendaal

Prix De Rome



The Prix De Rome Award was first established in 1663 by King Louis XIV of France to promote the arts and give young artists the opportunity to study classical works in Rome. The award was later instituted in the Netherlands by King Lodewijk Napoleon in 1807 and still exists today in a modernized form annually awarded to architects and artists younger than 35. This year, the commission was to recreate the Hoogstraat in Rotterdam into a living modern street that reflected the city's historical past. For three months, architect Donna van Milligen Bielke worked on the task, creating a plan which she titled "Cabinet of Curiosities." Her design was chosen as the winner of the contest for which she received €40,000 and a work period in Rome.

To all the above, *FELICITATIE*.



Photo © Patrick Post for Mauritshuis, Den Haag



A Visit to Van Kleef Distillery

by Rebecca Niles-Pourier

On Saturday, October 18, a group of 17 Members and spouses visited the Van Kleef Distillery for a tour and tasting of liqueurs and *jenevers* (Dutch gin). We were welcomed with a Kruide Baggah, Van Kleef's bitter which can be compared to the traditional Dutch Beerenburg bitter (although Van Kleef's is sweetened). Along with a variety of snacks, we enjoyed tasting several liqueurs and bitters, including Bridal Tears, Speculaas, Roses, Gin, Ginger, Liquorice and more. After the tasting and tour, many of us bought our favorites.

The old distillery is now a museum and shop. Active in The Hague since 1842, Van Kleef now distills their *jenevers*, bitters and liqueurs elsewhere. Our wonderful host Fleur told us about the history of the distillery, showing us old labels and The Hague's first telephone book featuring Van Kleef's very distinctive phone number: 1. She shared some anecdotes and explained the background of some typical Dutch sayings. Fleur also explained how the distillery process was done historically compared to today.



Magical Giethoorn

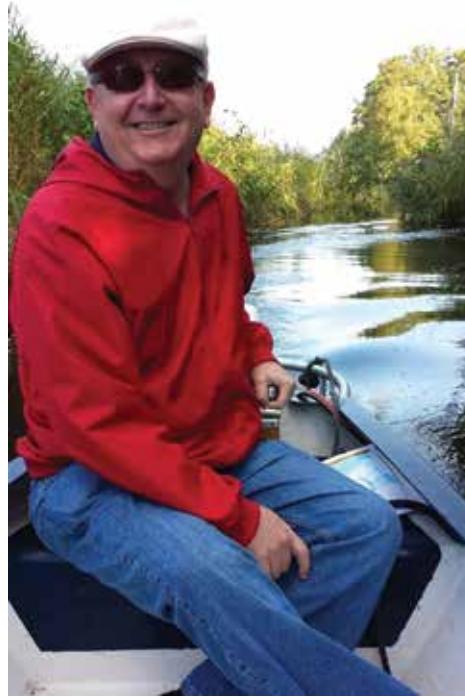
by Susan Yates-Brown



Somewhere on the road, north of the traffic and urban rush of Amsterdam, there is a line crossed that gives way to an area of tranquil, fairy-tale wonder. The Dutch countryside arises lush and green with a widening sky, and soon there is Giethoorn, the quiet little farm hamlet known for its canals, lovely wood bridges and historic brick cottages. It takes away from the magic a bit to know that the canals in the village were originally dug to transport peat, the old agricultural mainstay of the area. The lakes as well, including the shallow Bovenwiede, owe their existence to the flooding storms that filled them after years of peat extraction. As the centuries passed and farming practices changed, the canals continued to be used for the transportation of crops. Currently, the most abundant crop is a kind of cane used specifically for European roof thatching. Thatched roofs? The stuff of Hansel & Gretel

and Snow White's seven dwarfs? The magic lives!

My husband David and I arrived at the De Dames van de Jonge Hotel-Restaurant (www.dedamesvandejonge.nl) near Giethoorn after a two-hour drive from The Hague. We were given a warm greeting from the lovely owner,



Roelie, who waved off our credit card and ID and directed a colleague to usher us onto the terrace for our choice of refreshments. "We love our jobs here!" she replied with a smile when we expressed our appreciation at the unusual but enjoyable check-in experience. After such a lovely welcome we eagerly looked forward to what awaited us next.



After a comfortable rest, we found ourselves the next morning with a teen staff member who helpfully untied one of the hotel-owned electric boats reserved for guests and then handed us a laminated map of the area. We set off on tea-colored canal waters, the sun shining warmly in competition with a September breeze that hinted of autumn on the horizon. The reeds were thick and tall in the fields; some harvested piles were already bound and waiting on the canal edge for transport and cleaning. Several duck families paddled alongside our boat begging for handouts; bright-green lily pads lay in the water, a few fisted buds promising colorful bloom. We passed a young couple who had pulled their boat onto the high bank and were enjoying a breakfast picnic spread over a large red blanket. The rural stillness descended all around us and the only sounds were the soft humming of the electric motor and the gentle musical tinkling of the water against the metal boat hull.

After a while, a channel marker rose up on the left and the narrow canal gave way to the large lake called the Bovenwiede. As it is only 2 feet (60 centimeters) deep and easy to cross in the gentle breeze, we aimed for Giethoorn Centrum on the opposite shore. The chorus from Pharrell's song, *Happy*, drifted out over the water from the large Smits Paviljoen and I smiled as our little boat made its way into the main waterway through town. It was a busy Saturday morning and people strolled along

the paths on either side, making their way to the different shops and cafés. Many graceful, arched walking bridges lined the canal, some connecting the walkways and some used as gateways to private properties. As several of the bridges were very low, ducking in time to pass underneath demanded the attention of every boater. The tips of low-hanging weeping willows dipped into the canal, and the many little boats trailed past brick gingerbread-style houses with thatched roofs that cut smartly around

Magical Giethoorn (cont.)

Continued from page 39



dormer frames and a solar panel or two. Tiny lace curtains framed shiny windows and the yards were all green and evenly mowed, not a pebble escaping from the lined hydrangea and rose flower beds. I expected to see Hansel, with a firm grip on Gretel's hand, disappearing into a doorway, or perhaps Snow White, peeping out of a window on watch for the dwarfs returning home from work.

Hopping in and out of the boats is effortless on the Giethoorn waterway with many spots for tying up along the bank. David and I stopped at several cafés for a snack here and tea there, and visited many of the shops — most notably, Rhoda's Pottery. The proprietor's father is the talent in this operation, molding, firing and glazing all of the works in a studio within the shop. Museum De Oude Aarde (The Old Earth Museum) nearby was a place of interest as well and, down the walkway, the friendly costumed volunteers selling homemade *stroopwafels* at the door attracted us to the Museumboerderij 't Olde Maat Uus. This museum displays the early life of Giethoorn in its peat era, and we regretted that we lack the Dutch language skills for taking a proper tour. Other stops included a small art gallery and a few kitschy souvenir shops. It was a fun novelty stowing each of our purchases in our boat as we

alternately floated and walked along the canal.

Our day at an end, we made our way back to the hotel and I enjoyed another friendly conversation with Roelie. She encouraged us to return to Giethoorn in the upcoming winter season as the canal boats are replaced with ice skates and the brown reed fields become soft and cottony with snow.

I immediately imagined a whole different set of fairy-tale characters — how beautiful each snowflake would appear on Red Riding Hood's cloak and how warm Rumpelstiltskin would be in front of the hotel fireplace. I promised Roelie that we would return.



Ethelyn Goble

with contributions by Georgia Renault and Jessie Rodell

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Honorary Member Ethelyn Goble on October 28. This news reached the Club via an email from her daughter, Marianne.

Ethelyn joined the AWC in 1976 and became an Honorary Member in 2001. Beautifully soft-spoken, she was an active hand-crafter and seamstress. Ethelyn put her hobby to work for the AWC in the mid-1980's, when the Club purchased our first Clubhouse at Nieuwe Duinweg 25. Thanks to Ethelyn, all the windows in the house were quickly adorned with sheers and draperies. She was well known for her hand-painted silk scarves

and pillows, and she also gave lessons in painting on silk.

Last June, Ethelyn attended the Honorary Member Tea and promised to come to the Chat, Crafts & Cake this fall. Unfortunately, due to poor health this was not possible. She will be remembered by her delightful warm smile and the accompanying sparkle in her eyes.



Announcements (cont.)

Continued from page 33

Christmas Circuses

There is no doubt that Christmas Circuses must be quite popular in the Netherlands as our region hosts two. Both feature spectacular acrobatics, hilarious clowns and beautiful animals from around the world.

Rotterdam: From December 19 through December 28 at the Ahoy. For tickets, go to: www.kerstcircus.nl

The Hague: From December 20 through January 4 at the Malieveld. For tickets, visit: www.kerstcircusdenhaag.nl



Dancing in a Winter Wonderland

De Dutch Don't Dance Division presents a revue-style, Christmas production. Christmas traditions and wintry tales from around the world come together in beautiful choreographies. Dancers will be of all ages and styles from across the region, ranging from professional to amateur.

Thursday, December 25 – Sunday, December 28

Lucent Danstheater, Den Haag
www.ddddd.nu

>> 51



AWC and the Arts

by Jane Choy

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

Direct any questions to jehoy@me.com

Tour of Designing 007: 50 years of Bond Style

Join us for a guided tour as the Kunsthal Rotterdam celebrates the 50th anniversary of the world's favorite secret agent by presenting the exhibition *Designing 007: Fifty Years of Bond Style*. From *Dr. No* in 1962, starring Sean Connery, to 2012's *Skyfall* with Daniel Craig, Agent 007 has captured the world's imagination. The screen hero has not only headlined the most successful franchise in film history, he has made an indelible impact on the worlds of art, music, fashion, technology, travel, automotive design and lifestyle. More than 500 gadgets, costumes, iconic vehicles, storyboards, graphic designs and props, together with numerous film clips, present an unequalled multimedia experience of the world of James Bond.

We have arranged our tour of this exciting exhibition on a Saturday so that our spouses



DESIGNING 007[®] 50 YEARS OF BOND STYLE

12 oktober 2014 t/m
8 februari 2015
Kunsthal Rotterdam

can join along. We will meet in the auditorium downstairs at the orange sign saying "Startpunt rondleidingen." We will have an additional hour to explore the exhibition before the museum closes. Please specify on *GroupSpaces.com* if you are interested in joining us afterwards for a group dinner.

Saturday, January 17

3 – 4 p.m.

Kunsthal Rotterdam

Museumpark, Westzeedijk 341, Rotterdam
€ 10 Members or Spouses (€ 12 nonmembers)

PLUS Museum Entrance Fee (€ 11 or free with *Museumkaart*)

Minimum 12/ Maximum 20.

Cancellation deadline: January 7

Lecture on Rembrandt

From February 12 through May 17, the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam will present its first major retrospective of Rembrandt van Rijn's

later works. Against the backdrop of tragic personal losses and ongoing financial difficulties, Rembrandt began experimenting with printing and painting techniques in the later years of his life. In collaboration with The National Gallery in London, the exhibition *Late Rembrandt* presents a comprehensive overview of the Master's work from around 1652 until his death in 1669. This landmark exhibition, the world's largest ever, brings together more than 90 paintings, drawings and prints from the world's leading museums and private collections to showcase Rembrandt at the height of his power.

I will give an introduction to this artist – one of, if not the greatest, artist of the Netherlands – through tracing his life and career and highlighting his late works. Please join me at my house for a PowerPoint presentation accompanied by coffee, tea and refreshments.

Friday, January 30

10 a.m. – Noon

Jane Choy's House in Voorburg

€ 10 Members (€ 12 nonmembers)

Minimum 8 / Maximum 20

Cancellation deadline: January 22



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Incredible Nepal

by Veronica White

On the 21st of July, I met with the other eight members of Project Nepal at Schipol Airport, ready to embark on a trip of a lifetime: three weeks of volunteering, trekking and experiencing life in the second poorest country in Asia. Three weeks in Nepal.

The days leading up to my departure were filled with frantic trips to the outdoor adventure store Bever and multiple attempts to repack my backpack to make sure I had everything I needed. Over the past six months, along with the other team members (six other teenagers and our two team leaders), I had worked to raise money for the trip.

After over 10 hours of flights, we arrived in Kathmandu. We were greeted with big smiles and flower necklaces by our hosts from Himalayan Leaders, who were our guides, trip coordinators and translators. That night, we experienced our first taste of *dal bhat*,

the staple meal of Nepal consisting of lentil soup poured over rice, served with vegetable curries and other components to be mixed together. Little did I know that we would be eating the same meal almost once every day for the entire three weeks.

Kathmandu is beautifully chaotic. Cars honk non-stop, motorcycles weave in between the other vehicles and thousands of electrical



cables hang haphazardly between poles, creating perfect bridges between the colorful buildings for wild monkeys. On our first full day in Nepal, we visited three UNESCO World Heritage Sites: one Hindu and two Buddhist temples. What struck me about Kathmandu was how colorful it was. As the first third world country I've visited, I was expecting it to be dusty, dirty, brown, but in reality, it was full of vibrant colors; the houses were painted in pinks and blues and prayer flags hung everywhere.

Our first day of giving workshops was probably the most challenging as we taught at a school for the deaf. I helped run the English workshop, in which we taught grammar. We

put exercises on the chalkboard and the students filled in the missing words in the correct tense. Luckily our training before the trip had included some basic sign language, and the school teachers helped by acting as our interpreters.

That night we stayed at the Namo Buddha Monastery, one of the most important Buddhist sites in the world. We ate dinner in the monastery (which was the spiciest meal I have ever eaten!) and then witnessed the Monks "debating," which is their way of memorizing ancient religious texts. The next morning we watched their morning prayers, which were incredible. The hall where they were chanting was breathtaking and beautifully filled with color: reds, golds and purples. We ate breakfast with the monks, which was one of my favorite meals of the trip (except for the butter tea, which tasted almost exactly what it sounds like: melted butter). The remainder of the day was spent hiking down from the monastery, which was probably the most stunning hike I've ever been on.

The next part of the trip made up the bulk of our volunteering. We spent ten days in Mainapokhari, a small village perched on >> 46



Incredible Nepal (cont.)

Continued from page 45



the side of a mountain with gorgeous views of the surrounding valley. We volunteered at three different schools teaching workshops on recycling, HIV/AIDS awareness and personal hygiene, and also spent four days working at the local clinic, cleaning and helping to build a wall. At university I'm planning on studying Environmental Science, and so when offered a choice of which workshop to teach, I jumped at the opportunity to organize and teach the recycling workshop along with one of my team members. The first day, we taught classes with around 70 students about the importance of burning waste away from houses.



The environmental problems in Nepal still astound me when I think back to the trip. We saw children dancing in front of fires in which plastic was burning, oblivious to the damage it could do to their health and environment. At the end of each recycling workshop, we would take students into their school yard and have them collect trash and separate it into "organic" and "non-organic" waste to teach them about what can go in a compost heap. One day we walked the distance from the school to the village with a large number of students to do a community clean-up. We wanted to teach the students the proper way to dispose of their trash, so we led them past the houses to a safe spot where we burned everything we collected.

One of my favorite memories from the trip was when ten seven-year-olds suddenly surrounded me while I was walking between classes; they dragged me into their classroom, then slammed (and held) the door shut. The children who were already in the classroom started clapping and told me that I was going to teach them. I couldn't stop laughing; it was so adorable. Luc had to come rescue me; he physically had to drag me away from the little hands that were trying to hold me back (not that I really wanted to be rescued as I would have been perfectly happy teaching them).

Working at the clinic was a lot more tiring than I expected it to be, but it felt really good to actually see that we were making an impact. With the extra money that we fundraised, we bought the materials to make a stone wall to stop mud, stones and dirt from falling into the clinic yard. Our job was to dig the foundation, while the strong Nepalese men actually built the wall; the stones were SUPER heavy and the building process was extremely complicated, which is why we didn't do the job ourselves. We also spent a day digging a drain along the road that led



down to the clinic from Mainapokhari so that the road wouldn't wash away when the nearly daily monsoon rains began.

Our last day in Mainapokhari was the "Cultural Exchange" with the largest school in which we'd volunteered. They performed traditional Nepalese dances for us and we performed the *Klopendans* (a traditional Dutch dance), *Cup Song*, *YMCA* and the *Macarena* for them. It was completely embarrassing, but still incredibly fun. After the exchange, we had the best *dal bhat* of the whole trip which

we ate along with the teachers of the school and some of the villagers.

Our trip was organized as part of the International Award. There are four elements which have to be completed for each level of the award: service, sport, skill and a trek. Each element of the award takes more of a commitment as you move up

from Bronze through to the Gold level, with a two-day trek for your Bronze Expedition and a four-day trek for your Gold. I was once told that the Bronze Expedition would be the hardest of the three, as you don't really know what you're doing and have never hiked long distances before. With regards to the Silver, I agree. I found my Silver Expedition much easier than my Bronze. I already knew how to pack and wear my backpack, my hiking boots were broken in and I was prepared for the long distances. So when we started on the Gold Expedition in Jiri, I was >> 48



Incredible Nepal (cont.)

Continued from page 47



expecting that it would be just as physically and mentally challenging as the Silver; that is to say, difficult, but nothing too hard. I was wrong.

The first day we hiked from around 6,250 feet (1,900 meters) to about 8,900 feet (2,700 meters). I have mixed emotions about that first day of hiking. Is it possible that it could be complete hell and yet at the same time incredible? We started the trek off by going up 1,650 feet (500 meters); that first stretch was one of the most challenging sections for me throughout the four days. I had a very hard time breathing and was constantly battling



Day two was painful, but in comparison to day three, it really wasn't that bad. I was disappointed as we were in a cloud for most of the day, which meant that there were no views to motivate me. Luckily we got to visit Nepal's first cheese factory where we tasted yak cheese, which was pretty awesome. The factory was situated at around 10,150 feet (3,100 meters), which is the highest elevation I've ever



with myself to not stop and take pictures of the gorgeous views. I think it was probably a combination of the altitude, the direct sunlight, and just the energy required in hiking uphill that made me so out of breath. Luc claimed that it would get easier as the days went on. I didn't really believe that it would, however, he was right, and by that afternoon, I was having a much easier time breathing.

That first day was my very first experience with leeches. I pulled off my shoes in the evening to find that my socks were drenched in blood, despite the bites actually being very tiny. Leeches are pretty revolting, but I wasn't nearly as terrified of them as others in my group. I was, however, the one with the most bites by the end of the expedition with a total of eleven.

visited, so that was also quite exciting.

The third day was another very long day as we walked for almost ten hours in total. We left the tea house quite early and started off the day with a 2,950-foot (900-meter) climb to the top of a very misty hill where we ate lunch. And guess what!? We saw yaks! Loads of them. They were all females, so they didn't look like what you would imagine yaks to look like, but it was still pretty cool. I was very disappointed that we were still in a cloud as we started descending the hill, as I had hoped for just a few minutes of a view of the surrounding valley, or even Mount Everest. *C'est la vie.* Everything after lunch was downhill, which was incredibly painful, especially on my hips, which were raw and beginning to bleed in places. We walked through what we nicknamed "leech heaven," basically a jungle in which we were pulling leeches off our trousers, gaiters and bags every few minutes. Looking beyond all the leeches, it was actually really gorgeous.

The last day was one of the shortest, as we finished around noon. At last, we had finished our Gold Expedition! We returned to Jiri where our team leaders presented us each with a bottle of Coca-Cola (my first ever – yes, I'm strange...I don't like carbonated drinks) to replenish our sugar levels. I was very happy to be done with the trek, yet at the same time quite sad, as it meant that our trip to Nepal was almost over.

The following day we left Mainapokhari on another insane bus ride back to Kathmandu where we spent our last day in Nepal walking through the more touristy parts of the capital, shopping for souvenirs in an attempt to use up our Nepalese rupees. And then it was back to the airport, where we exchanged sad goodbyes with our wonderful guides and hosts. (For anyone considering traveling to Nepal, make sure to look up Himalayan Leaders at www.himalayanleaders.com.)



My adventure to Nepal was one of the most incredible three weeks of my life. From teaching at a deaf school to eating breakfast with Buddhist monks, every day offered new and exciting experiences. I didn't really believe my award leaders when they said that everywhere you look is "postcard perfect," but after visiting Nepal, I can agree. It is a completely stunning country and I would highly recommend experiencing it firsthand if you get the chance. And you know what...I never saw the Himalayan Mountain Range, so I'll definitely be back.

>> 50



Message from the President (cont.)

Continued from page 8

Today we are able to live in free, open and liberal societies due to the tremendous hardships endured and for the sacrifices that our forefathers made. They fought for the freedoms that we enjoy today and sometimes take for granted.

The last item on my agenda for this month is the successful AWC Holiday Bazaar that was held on Saturday, November 29 and on Sunday, November 30 at the Carlton Ambassador Hotel. As always, the Bazaar was a high-energy and exciting weekend and a wonderful way to bring in the holiday spirit. Thanks to **Jan Essad** and **Julie Schipper** along with all the AWC volunteers, their enthusiasm and hard work made this Holiday Bazaar a truly fantastic event. There were a diverse group of vendors who brought items from hand-painted Xmas cards, homemade jams, wool and cashmere scarves, to hand-painted handicrafts, and traditional and Polish pottery. There was indeed something there for everyone!

The AWC Bake Sale was once again one of the highlights of the Bazaar. We appreciate all the delicious and creative baked goods prepared by our volunteer bakers that added much to the success of our Bazaar. Thank you **Anja Knoop** and her team for their tremendous work.

Thank you to all our volunteers who manned ticket sales, the raffle table, bake sale and payment stations. Let us be reminded that the success of our dear Club is only possible with the continued commitment of our Members to join in to help and/or to volunteer. Our Club's strength lies in each and every one's personal investment in the AWC.

The Clubhouse will be closed from December 18 – January 7. At this time I would like to wish all of our Members a Happy Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas, a Joyous Holiday and a very Happy New Year.

I hope to see you at our AWC Spring Kick Off that will be held on January 14 and 15. Together with the Board, I look forward to greeting you all. It will be a wonderful time to reunite and to welcome new Members. It will be an opportunity to bring in the New Year as well as to chat, eat, drink and sign up for the many spring activities and tours.

With warmest wishes and *tot ziens!*

Linda

Announcements (cont.)

Continued from page 41

Save the Date: MLK Dinner

Mark your calendars to bring the whole family to the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Tribute and Dinner. Look for further details in the January issue.

Sunday, January 25

5:30 p.m.

**Hotel Den Haag - Wassenaar
Zijdeweg 54, Wassenaar**

Registration is Open for The Hague's Biggest Race

If you like to run, be sure not to miss The Hague's 41st CPC Loop on Sunday, March 8 starting at the Malieveld. There will be 45,000 runners including professionals and amateurs for distances ranging from 1K for kids to a half marathon. Don't hesitate to register, as this event fills up every year: www.cpcloopdenhaag.nl

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



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Support Fellow AWC Members

Find links to a large variety of businesses owned by AWC Members at www.awcthehague.org/site/newcomers/business-links

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.

Index of Advertisers

ACCESS

page 30

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page 21

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Inside Cover

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Back Cover

Bulthaup Zoetermeer

page 13

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page 23

FRITSTAXI Airport Service

page 19

Graafstal Optiek

page 43

Marcel Vermeulen Jewelry

page 11

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Inside Cover

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page 11

St. James Church

page 27

Wassalon Weissenbruch

page 30

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page 30

Notice to Members Regarding eNews Distribution

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

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