

# Going Dutch

2015  
March

American  
Women's Club  
of The Hague

In  
this  
issue

When in Rio  
Spring Kick Off  
Getting Chili in Texas  
Cologne Christmas Market



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# Going Dutch

March 2015

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



**6**

See how we "Kicked Off" the New Year



**22-25**

We had a great time on our day trip to the Cologne Christmas Markets



**46**

Former AWC Member Dena de Clute-Melancon shares her adventures from her new home in Rio

- 5 **Officers and Chairwomen**
- 6 **Spring Kick Off**
- 8 **Message from the President**
- 9 **March General Meeting**
- 10 **Letter from the Editor**
- 12 **Newcomer Activities**
- 14 **Ongoing Activities**
- 18 **One-of-a-Kind Activities**
- 19 **Partner Appreciation Event**
- 20 **Women with Dutch Partners**
- 21 **Easter Drive & Workshop**
- 21 **Save the Date: Benefit Concert**
- 22 **Cologne Christmas Markets**
- 26 **Kids' Club**
- 28 **Calendar**
- 31 **GroupSpaces**
- 32 **Announcements**
- 34 **The Dutch Daily**
- 36 **AWC and the Arts**
- 38 **Getting Chili in Texas**
- 40 **Becoming a Model**
- 44 **Heart Pillow Project**
- 45 **Expat Archive Exhibition**
- 46 **When in Rio**
- 51 **Lodging Assistance Request**
- 52 **Classifieds**
- 53 **Index of Advertisers**
- 53 **Rates**
- 54 **Holiday Spirit**



### AWC Clubhouse

Johan van Oldenbarneveltlaan 43  
2582 NJ Den Haag  
Tel: 070 350 6007  
info@awcthehague.org  
www.awcthehague.org

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goingdutchmag@gmail.com

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Melissa White

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Teresa Mahoney

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Celeste Brown, Debbie van Hees, Marge  
MacPherson, Diane Schaap, Susan Yates-  
Brown

**Contributors**  
Jane Choy, Trena Cormier, Jan de Vries,  
Johanna Dishongh, Linda Divon, Greetje  
Engelsman, Roberta Enschede, Becky  
Failor, Eileen Harloff, Sunita Menon,  
Rebecca Niles-Pourier, Ramona Oswald,  
Emily van Eerten

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### 2014-2015 AWC Officers

**President** Linda Divon  
awcthehague.president@gmail.com

**Vice President** Becky Failor  
awcthehague.firstvp@gmail.com

**Treasurer** Teresa Insalaco  
awcthehague.finance@gmail.com

**Secretary** Marsha Hagney  
awcthehague.secretary@gmail.com

**Community Development and Resource  
Officer** Jan de Vries  
awcthehague.waysandmeans@gmail.com

**Member and Club Administration  
Officer** Rachel Kupperts  
awcthehague.2ndvp@gmail.com

**Communications Officer** Trena Cormier  
awcthehague.communications@gmail.com

### Front Office

Siska Datema  
Becky Failor  
Rachel Kupperts  
Sue Merrick  
Melanie Stringfellow

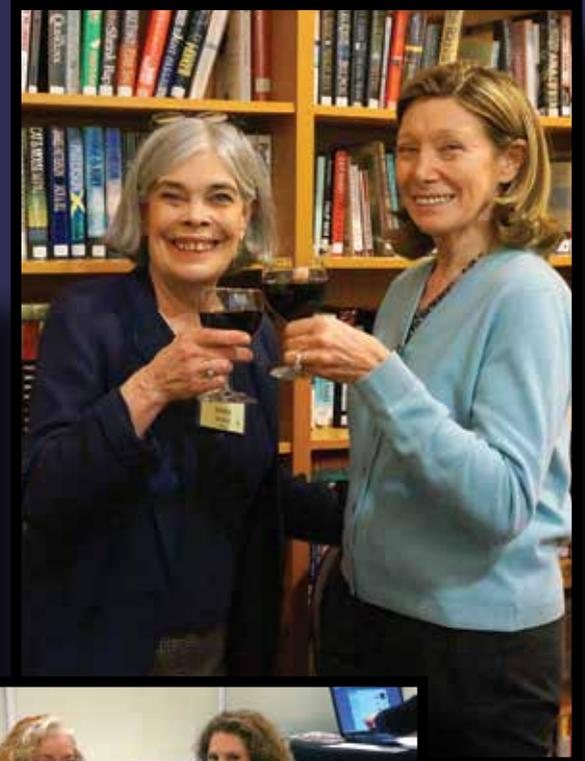
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**Assistant Treasurer** Open  
**At Home in Holland** Becky Failor  
**Caring Committee** Naomi Keip  
**Community Service Coordinator** Sunita Menon  
**FAWCO** Emily van Eerten  
**Heart Pillow** Eileen Baker  
**Holiday Bazaar** Jan Essad, Julie Schipper  
**Library** Laurie Martecchini  
**Kid's Club** Open  
**Membership Coordinator** Lynn Roberts  
**Newcomers** Greetje Engelsman, Sue Merrick  
**Parliamentarian** Georgia Regnault  
**Philanthropic Fundraiser** Jan de Vries, Sunita Menon  
**Programs** Trena Cormier  
**Public Relations** Johanna Dishongh  
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**The Arts** Jane Choy  
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**Volunteer Coordinator** Open  
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**Website Assistant** Open  
**Women with Dutch Partners** Rebecca Niles-Pourier

### AWC Purpose Statement

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

# Spring Kick Off



# Message from the President

by Linda Divon

Finally the end of the gloomy winter is fast approaching. Goodbye to those long dark days. We welcome March, the month of Spring; the month of renewal, rebirth and hope as the days begin to get longer.

Being in the heart of Europe, we have all been witness to the horrific tragedies that have taken place in France, Belgium and elsewhere these last few months. There are and will be challenges for us all in the future. However, let us hope that in the end, reason, goodness and tolerance will prevail.

Living in The Hague, the International City of Peace & Justice, there are multitudes of international and diverse peoples living and working side-by-side. There is daily interaction of people of all religions and nationalities – people who respect one another and appreciate the beauty of a multicultural society.

Our very own AWC of The Hague is predominantly an American women's organization, but one that also opens its doors and heart to women of other nationalities and embraces them.

Following a very successful Spring Kick Off in early January, our Membership has reached 172. Thank you to our new Vice President, **Becky Failor**, and to **Rachel Koppers**, Membership and Club Administration Officer, who along with other Board Members and very able Committee Chairs and Volunteers, orchestrated the event!

As Spring approaches what better way to begin than a visit to the indoor Butterfly Garden (Vlinders aan de Vliet). The trip is scheduled for March 4 and will be followed by lunch at Café 't Eiland van Ome Nick (see page 12). For all the high-energy Members who love bowling and dancing, you are invited to join us on Friday, March 6 for Disco Bowling (see page 20). Indeed a unique and fun evening is guaranteed for everyone!

Our Club activities are now expanding to accommodate our Wassenaar Members. On the first Thursday of each month there will be a coffee morning hosted by **Ramona Oswald**. All Members are cordially invited. Thanks to **Bronia Ichel** and Ramona Oswald, the Wassenaar Walkie Talkies group started in February (see page 17). For those Members who find it difficult to get into The Hague for the Monday Walkie Talkies, this is a fabulous opportunity to meet each Friday morning with other Club Members as well as to explore the Wassenaar area and its surroundings and to get fit.



Once again our very own **Jane Choy** (who just happens to be a Docent at the Mauritshuis), has opened her home for a series of art lectures on "Holland's Golden Age Revealed" (see page 36). This is indeed a great opportunity to learn about Dutch art of the 17th Century as well as something about the Dutch history and culture that opened the way for this period of art in the Netherlands.

All of the above are only a few of the many interesting and fun activities that have been planned for this month. Specific >> 51



# March General Meeting

by Trena Cormier

Join us as we welcome Ms. Michelle Oliel as our March General Meeting speaker. You may be familiar with Ms. Oliel from her role with a past beneficiary of AWC philanthropy efforts: the Stahili Foundation ([www.stahilifoundation.org](http://www.stahilifoundation.org)), a non-profit organization dedicated to combating child abuse and exploitation in rural Kenya. However, Ms. Oliel also serves as an Associate Legal Officer in the Appeals Chamber of the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and as a Human Rights Consultant for the Lori E. Talsky Center for Human Rights of Women and Children, at Michigan State University. She holds B.A., J.D., and LL.M. degrees from various universities in Canada and the Netherlands, and has authored the book *Undervalued and Manipulated? Evaluating China's foreign exchange arrangements under the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization*.



Ms. Oliel's talk will discuss the importance of ending impunity for international crimes as part of the effort to restore the rule of law in war-torn countries. She will provide an introduction to international criminal law—one of the most rapidly developing areas of law—as well as an overview of the various courts and tribunals in place and their role in supporting national prosecutions, with particular focus on the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

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 write to [awcthehague@gmail.com](mailto:awcthehague@gmail.com) before March 10 to reserve your place.

**Thursday, March 12**  
**Coffee and Newcomers Meet & Greet:**  
**10 a.m.**  
**Meeting: 10:30 a.m.**  
**AWC Clubhouse**

## Welcome New Members!

Mary Adams  
Donna Baxter  
Mallory Clarke  
Siska Datema-Kool  
Melody Gelb  
Tanja Groenendijk-de Vos  
Julie Krousouloudis  
Pamela Pruijs-Bott  
Saskia Wenge  
Melanie Winn  
Rebecca Wood  
Karen Wright

## March Birthdays

Georgia Regnault	4
Mary Adams	13
Allison Ledet	14
Jan Mills	15
Melanie Stringfellow	18
Kathryn Cok	20
Mary Jo Willemsen	20
Sarah Dunn	24
Jaimie Keppel-Molenaar	26
Pamela Pruijs-Bott	26

# Ramblings from the Editor

by Melissa White

It's amazing how a friend's off-the-cuff remark can set your life down a new path. Little did **Jan Essad** or I know what an impact she would have on my entire family when she suggested to my daughter Ashlynn, who was a tall stick-thin 13-year-old at the time, "You should be a model."

One and a half years later, Ashlynn is only just starting to model and has yet to have a paid assignment, but the changes in me are already widespread as I try to learn all I can about the industry. Instead of reading *Wired* magazine, I now flip through the pages of *Vogue*, *Glamour* and *Elle*. I follow Dutch fashion blogs (thank goodness for Google Translate). I feel like a stalker now that I have an Instagram account so I can follow my own

have started to rethink my wardrobe. As she gets more interested in nutrition, she helps me to cook healthy meals. I consider how our holiday plans can incorporate visits to fashion capitals. I rearrange my schedule so I can take her to photo shoots (which is why I turned up for only a short time when the AWC hosted the FAWCO Regional Conference in November). It's all a bit strange and a little crazy.

It's also all a bit surreal! Ashlynn was scouted by IMG Models in Paris in May 2014 and signed a contract in September 2014 (read more on page 40). I must confess that it's easy to get caught up in it all and start imagining her as a future supermodel. Ironically, at this point Ashlynn is actually more realistic than me. She considers modeling a fun hobby; one

*This modeling thing, it's pretty easy, but actually it's also really tough. ~ Cara Delevingne*

daughter. This then leads me to remind her to post regularly in order to keep her followers interested and wonder why I can't convince her to post that adorable Halloween photo when she was the Little Mermaid. I also periodically search through who is following her on Instagram and block some suspicious characters (like the 43-year-old guy from Colorado who says he's into fishing, but follows over 6,000 models).

I encourage her to walk around our house in stiletto heels in the hopes that one day she won't wobble. We watch TV shows together about modeling, such as the *Victoria's Secret Fashion Show* and *Holland's Next Top Model* (at least Ashlynn understands some Dutch). I am learning a whole new vocabulary: castings, call sheets, mood boards, mother agent, etc. Twenty years after having given up wearing make-up except for special occasions, I now discuss cosmetics with my daughter and have registered for the Make-Up Workshop organized by Newcomer **Maria Etkind** (see page 18). I take Ashlynn to fashion shows and

that will hopefully help to pay for university. She understands that there are no guarantees in this industry and that her particular look might be in demand today, but not tomorrow. She knows she'll need to grow a thick skin so as not to take criticism and rejection too personally. She also acknowledges that it's a career typically with a short lifespan often ending by a model's 25th birthday. Thankfully at least one of us is truly grounded! Of course, despite dreaming big, I need to make sure that she always remembers that it's more important to be beautiful on the inside than on the outside.

At least I do take my new role as "Momager" (defined by Wiktionary as "a manager that is also one's mother") seriously. I'll protect Ashlynn as best as I can from a business standpoint as well as on an emotional basis. Hopefully we'll both be able to look back on this experience as a wonderful adventure that we embarked on together, which I plan to document with behind-the-scenes insight along the way.



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# Newcomer Activities

by Greetje Engelsman and Sue Merrick

RSVP for all Newcomer Activities directly on [AWC GroupSpaces.com](http://AWC GroupSpaces.com). Direct any questions to [awcthehague.newcomers@gmail.com](mailto:awcthehague.newcomers@gmail.com).

## Butterfly Garden Visit

Join us as we visit Vlinders aan de Vliet (Butterflies on the Vliet: [www.vlindersaandevliet.nl](http://www.vlindersaandevliet.nl)), an indoor tropical butterfly jungle situated in a large greenhouse near the Vliet in Leidschendam. Children are welcome! After we visit the butterfly garden, we will walk 1/3 mile (1/2 kilometer) to Café 't Eiland van Ome Nick for lunch (at own expense). We will meet at Den Haag Centraal Station (DHCS) at 9:45 a.m. at the upper bus platform. Remember your *OV-chipkaart*. If you plan to travel by car, meet us at 10:30 a.m. at Vlinders aan de Vliet.



**Wednesday, March 4**

**Meet at 9:45 at DHCS Bus Platform**

**Visit Garden at 10:30 a.m.**

**€ 8 Adults, € 5 Children 3-12 years (pay at door)**

**Vlinders aan de Vliet**

**Veursestraatweg 195b, Leidschendam**

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

**Thursday, March 12**

**Coffee: 10 a.m.**

**Meeting: 10:30 a.m.**

**AWC Clubhouse**

**12 GOING DUTCH**

## Royalty in the Netherlands

In the run-up to King's Day on Monday, April 27, both Newcomers and longer-term AWC Members are welcome to join us to learn more about King Willem-Alexander and the history of his Oranje (House of Orange) ancestors and other Orange facts and figures.



Prinsjesdag 2014  
Photo by Robin van Lonkhuijsen

**Thursday, March 26**

**10 a.m. – Noon**

**AWC Clubhouse**

**FREE**

## Visit to De Haagse Markt

De Haagse Markt (The Hague Market: [www.dehaagsemarkt.nl](http://www.dehaagsemarkt.nl)) in The Hague is the biggest market in Europe with 540 stalls filled with fresh vegetables, fruit, fish, meat and clothing. 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 Starbucks at DHCS and take the tram together. Bring your *OV-chipkaart*, shopping bags and camera. If you want to meet us at the market, please say so in the comments when you register on GroupSpaces. There will be an option to have lunch at your own expense.

**Friday, April 17**

**Meet at Starbucks at DHCS at 10 a.m.**

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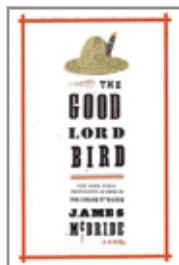
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# Ongoing Activities

## 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](mailto:awcthehague.bookclub@gmail.com). Happy reading!

The March Daytime Book Group selection is *The Good Lord Bird* by James McBride:



Winner of the National Book Award for Fiction in 2013, this historical fiction novel follows Henry Shackleford, a 12-year-old slave who accidentally encounters white abolitionist John Brown in a tavern. The two join together, and Henry narrates his encounters with

Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, as well as the events at John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry in Virginia, which served as a catalyst to the Civil War.

**Thursday, March 26**

**10 a.m.**

**AWC Clubhouse**

**FREE**

## Daytime Book Club Planning Ahead:

Thursday, April 23 *The Boys in the Boat*  
by Daniel James Brown

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

Thursday, June 25 *Saturday* by Ian  
McEwan



## Recap of the December Discussion

**Josephine:** Our hostess, **Agatha Zwaan**, had us try something new: we drew statements about the book from a bowl and took turns leading a discussion on the topic raised by the statement. We always enjoy lively discourse but this format added a bit of serendipity, which some of us thought the book might have used. Though we all admired the author's research and clear writing, some felt the story of a recklessly profligate wife who spends her life waiting for Napoleon to come home was repetitive. Others appreciated Josephine the canny diplomat, who skillfully manipulated French politics with her experienced sexuality, quiet voice and gentle demeanor. Well known megalomaniacal jerk Napoleon turns out to have been a uniquely bad husband. What can you say about a man who discusses his many assignations with his wife, marries off his lovely, accomplished stepdaughter to his brother who despises her, and who shoots his wife's pets for fun? A holiday luncheon and a wrapped book exchange followed to wild acclaim and at least one surreptitious book trade. Come join us next time.

## Evening Book Club Planning Ahead:

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

## Book Club: Evening

The March Evening Book Group selection is *The Bone Clocks* by David Mitchell:



This metaphysical thriller is structured similarly to his bestselling *Cloud Atlas*. Spanning from England in the 80s to the apocalyptic future, each of the six novellas could stand alone as they slowly build on one interconnected character's unwitting role in a war between two groups with

psychic powers, culminating in a showdown reminiscent of Stephen King.

**Wednesday, March 11**

**7:30 p.m.**

**AWC Clubhouse**

**FREE**

## Recap of the December Discussion

**Little Bird of Heaven:** When the Evening Book Group met for a little Christmas cheer this past December, time was also found to discuss this Joyce Carol Oates novel. In general, everyone enjoyed the book, but it was not a Book Group favorite, nor did we think it was Oates at her best. Still, despite the repetitive nature of the double narration of the same events and the too convenient plot twists, the story of what happens to the families of both (suspected) murderer and murder victim is thought-provoking and entertaining. Those who call the Adirondack Mountains home might particularly relate to Oates' vivid and painstakingly detailed creation of the fictional Sparta, New York where the novel is set.

## 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](mailto: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, 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](mailto:awcthehague.wwdp@gmail.com) to join in the fun.

**Saturday, April 25**

**Locations and Meals Vary**

**Sign-up deadline: April 18**

>> 16



# Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 15

## 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, March 4 and 18  
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](mailto:awcthehague.heartpillow@gmail.com).

**Tuesday, March 17**

**Noon – 2 p.m.**

**AWC Clubhouse**

**FREE**

**Visitors Welcome**

## Ladies' Night Out: Movie Night

Join us for another night at the movies. Look for details on movie location and time in eNews that morning.

**Monday, March 2**

**7 – 10 p.m.**

**Pathé (at own expense)**

## Pilates

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

Member, will teach Pilates classes at the AWC Clubhouse. You will be monitored and corrected to enjoy responsible, safe and effective Pilates training. Email Ineke to sign up for these classes and pay her directly. Bring your own 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://GroupSpaces.com) to get email updates or email **Greetje Engelsman** at [awcthehague.newcomers@gmail.com](mailto:awcthehague.newcomers@gmail.com) or **Emily van Eerten** at [awcthehague.fawco@gmail.com](mailto:awcthehague.fawco@gmail.com).

**Mondays**

**9:30 a.m.**

**FREE**

## New Activity: 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**

## 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](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/785299).

**Thursday, March 5**

**9 – 11 a.m.**

**Ramona's House**

**FREE**



## Cancellation Policy

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

# One-of-a-Kind Activities

by Becky Failor

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

## Style Starts Now Workshop



Photo by Crispix

- Relax with a nurturing, self-care treatment
- Acknowledgement and celebration of your style rituals

You can learn more about Allison and what she has to offer at [www.dailyoutfit.com](http://www.dailyoutfit.com). You can pay for the cost of this workshop by knowing what clothes to buy and how to use your current wardrobe to best express yourself! Go to [www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/728689](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/728689) to register for this event.

**Saturday, March 14**  
**9 a.m. – Noon**  
**AWC Clubhouse**  
**Maximum 10**  
**€ 135 Members (€ 155 nonmembers)**  
**Non-refundable**

## Make-Up Workshop

Do you want to have a special look for evenings out? Don't spend money on a new dress and shoes! Learn how to transition your daytime make-up to an evening look at this Mac Global Glamour Make-Up Techniques Workshop. We will have classes and one-on-one time with a Mac Store professional make-up artist. We will learn how to create an evening look that makes you feel special. The cost of the workshop can be fully applied to make-up purchase,



making this essentially a free event. Go to [www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/905103](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/905103) to register for this fun event.

**Saturday, March 21**  
**1 – 3 p.m.**  
**Mac Store**  
**Hoogstraat 39, Den Haag**  
**€ 60 Members**  
**Minimum 8 / Maximum 12**  
**Cancellation deadline: March 5**

## Greeting Card Workshop

Life is so busy. Take a break, have fun and fill up your greeting card stash at this workshop. We'll make ten cards in four different styles

and learn new papercrafting techniques. ALL materials are provided PLUS the registration fee includes a € 20 product credit when items are purchased on the day of the workshop! Contact Jaimie at [JaimiesJoyfulStampin@yahoo.com](mailto:JaimiesJoyfulStampin@yahoo.com). Register at [www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/885902](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/885902).

**Sunday, March 22**  
**3:30 – 5:30 p.m.**  
**AWC Clubhouse**  
**€ 25 Members (€ 28 nonmembers)**  
**Cancellation deadline: March 15**

## Future Greeting Card Workshop

Mark your calendar for Jaimie's next workshop. More details to follow.

**Basic Level Papercrafting Techniques**  
**Sunday, April 19**  
**3:30 – 5:30 p.m.**  
**AWC Clubhouse**



# AWC Partner Appreciation Event

by Becky Failor

When we are getting to know each other at the AWC, it is common to ask, "What brings you to the Netherlands?" The answer is often focused on our partner – either our partner is Dutch or our partner has a job here. For many of us, these men (and sometimes women) were the magnets that drew us here. With them, we have the opportunities to experience life in The Hague and the surrounding communities, share the Netherlands as our adopted home, and make new friends.

When our partners are with us at AWC activities, we often hear the "So, this is the American Women's Club!" joke. Well, yes! Our partners support, help and nurture the AWC. Whenever we have a big fundraiser, such as

our Galas or Holiday Bazaars, you will see our partners there. Who do you think plays Santa at the Holiday Bazaar? The Women with Dutch Partners group consists of many of our long-standing Members who have funny and heartwarming stories they share about Christmas presents, mothers-in-law, family birthday parties and such.

Please mark your calendar for **Saturday, April 18 for the AWC Partner Appreciation Event** to be held at the Clubhouse. We will have dinner, entertainment, and a few fun skits to show our guys how much we appreciate them. If you are interested in helping plan this event, please contact me at [awcthehague.tours@gmail.com](mailto:awcthehague.tours@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.

# Women with Dutch Partners

by Rebecca Niles-Pourier

## Disco Bowling



It's Friday night. The regular lights go out slowly. The entire bowling alley darkens. All 24 lanes are lit with the bowling pins shining under black lights. The mirror balls start turning and disco lights start moving to the rhythm of the music, from contemporary dancing music to unforgettable hits from the 70s and 80s with video clips playing on the mega screens. It's **Party Time!** Open to **ALL AWC Members**. Register at [www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/662906](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/662906). For additional information about the bowling alley, visit [www.bowlingscheveningen.com/discobowlen.html](http://www.bowlingscheveningen.com/discobowlen.html).

**Friday, March 6  
9 p.m.**

**Bowling Scheveningen  
Gevers Deynootweg 990-2, Den Haag  
€ 10.50 per couple per hour PLUS shoe rental  
Minimum 6**

## Spring Cocktail Contest

Do you have a yummy cocktail you want to make for your AWC friends? Do you love trying new cocktails? Join this fun event at the AWC. The last cocktail contest was an event to be remembered! Sponsored by WWDP,



RSVP for all WWDP Activities directly

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

Direct any questions to

[awcthehague.wwdp@gmail.com](mailto:awcthehague.wwdp@gmail.com)

but open to **ALL AWC Members** and their partners. Include a note to let us know if you plan to enter the contest when you register at [www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/662906](http://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  
Cancellation deadline: April 6**



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youthminister@stjames.nl  
06-46697651



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

# Easter Basket Drive and Workshop

by Sunita Menon

## Easter Basket Drive

It's that time of year again! We are requesting Easter baskets, candy and toy donations for our Easter Drive. Our beneficiaries this year are the children from the Vliet en Burgh (Salvation Army) foster home in Voorburg and the Women and Children's Crisis Center in The Hague. Our baskets are eagerly awaited by our beneficiaries every year, and we hope to bring many smiles of delight to their beautiful faces. We need candy for 25 baskets: chocolate rabbits and eggs, plastic eggs, jelly beans, other colorful candy, games and toiletries. We also need Easter treats suitable for 10 babies and toddlers: gummy fruit snacks, small chocolate rabbits, stickers, small plush toys, bubbles and Play Doh. Easter baskets can be found at Sligro with the Easter grass and cellophane already inserted. Many garden centers also sell baskets. Albert Heijn and Hema have a good selection of Easter goodies. There will be a box at the Clubhouse for your donations. If you are unable to get to the

stores, cash donations are also very welcome (please mention "Easter Drive" on your bank transfer). Please help us make this a special Easter for many children who have so little to look forward to. Questions? Contact me at [awcthehague.philanthropy@gmail.com](mailto:awcthehague.philanthropy@gmail.com). The deadline to drop off candy, baskets and treats at the Clubhouse is March 26.

## Easter Basket Workshop

Please volunteer to help us assemble the Easter baskets. This is a great way to meet new Members and form friendships while creating beautiful Easter baskets. Register at [www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/662918](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/662918).

**Tuesday, March 31  
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
AWC Clubhouse  
FREE**



**Save the Date: Saturday, May 9**  
**FAWCO/AWC Benefit Concert**



American author and Steinway Artist Robin Meloy Goldsby presents a charming evening of solo piano music and stories from her two books: *Piano Girl: A Memoir* and *Waltz of the Asparagus People: The Further Adventures of Piano Girl*. Look for further details about this unique event in next month's issue of *Going Dutch*.

"Wicked sense of humor and keen eye for the absurd" ~ *Publishers Weekly* starred review

"Robin's stories about life as an American musician living and working in Germany prove especially entertaining to her European audiences. Goldsby has seen it all from her piano and she dishes it up with a true storyteller's gusto." ~ *BookSense Picks and Notables*

"Goldsby, who marries the pathos of her plot line with the whimsy and near-magical realism of her characters, deserves comparison with John Irving, a modern master." ~ Marion Winik, *National Public Radio*

"Goldsby quicksteps from bumptious to bawdy to trenchant in this hilarious, truth-telling reading of her beautifully-written words." ~ Betsy Burton, *Salt Lake City International Jazz Festival*

# Cologne Christmas Markets

by Susan Yates-Brown

The morning of the Cologne Christmas Market trip dawned like a punishment to this Texan: a typical mix of Dutch cold, dark and damp. I'd spent the past week compulsively checking my iPad for the weather reports and each day saw a degree or two subtracted from the forecast. I'd dressed in all of my clothing layers (both synthetic and cotton) as the Internet instructed, and I'd stuffed my gloves (two pairs) into my coat pockets along with my cash and ID. I was anticipating a wonderful day in Germany with my AWC friends and, even with my extra clothing, I knew that my enthusiasm was the best insulation.



Due to heavy traffic, the bus ride to Cologne from The Hague was not a quick one, but it was comfortable and friendly. Becky Failor's incredible organizational skills gave the trip the perfect start and our driver made good time through a foggy morning as the orange glow from the many distant tulip greenhouses faded into a gray daylight. Some women napped along the way, while others crept from seat-to-seat in animated conversation. Others sipped mimosas and enjoyed morning snacks; a few watched out the window at the floating scenery.

The tradition of European Christmas Markets is an old one, dating to as early as the late 1200s. The timing of the Markets still follow the Advent calendar (the four weeks leading to Christmas Day), but the size and scope has changed drastically over the years. The markets in Cologne, a collection of seven scattered in different areas in the center of town, are relatively new with the first held in 1820. They were banned for a while in 1885 and then resurrected again only in the mid-1970s. As young as they are, these markets are still among the most popular with four million in attendance each year.

As our bus neared the town center, we easily caught sight of the city's most famous attraction: the Cologne Cathedral (Kolner Dom). Like the market itself, the Cathedral was abandoned for a long stretch of time (four centuries!) and then was reestablished with the final construction ending in 1880. It is the largest Gothic church in Northern Europe. Merely standing in front of it inspires awe and wonder.

Our group scattered quickly into smaller collections of women, some with maps and a strategy for covering all of the markets in our allotted six hours, and others just drifting wherever their feet took them. The late morning crowd was still sparse as my small band of friends headed for our first *latke* (po-



tato pancake) booth of the day. The portions were generous and steaming hot and the applesauce on the side was sweet and perfect for dipping. Polly cheerfully allowed me a taste of her *gluhwein* (hot mulled wine) and Melanie encouraged everyone to try the *eierpunsch* (egg punch, similar to egg nog).



From there, thus fortified, we set off to the many other booths admiring the nutcrackers, veering off toward the ornament sales and on the hunt for the cutest smokers to take home. We paused at one booth for some bratwurst and another to try on hats and eventually made our way over to the next market and then the next.

The temperature dropped as morning turned to mid-afternoon and the day, not a bright one to begin with, began to give way to the early darkness of a European winter. On a normal shopping expedition, this would be the time to consider a run for home, but at a Christmas Market, the real fun has just begun. The lights, dimly present during the day, took on life and luster and added a beautiful dimension of color and wonder to all of the market pathways. They hung from the trees, glowing softly between the branches and bright strings crisscrossed from the tops of booths. The ice from a nearby skating rink beamed blue from underneath, and the twinkling lights of the elevated Christmas tree in the center of the largest market shone brightly against the massive silhouette of the Kolner Dom. The seasons of Hanukkah and Advent both celebrate the "lights that pierce the darkness," and I felt such deep gratitude to have the chance to wander and play in the midst of them. Some things really are worth braving the cold for!



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Cologne  
Christmas  
Market



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

# You're invited to an egg hunt

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

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

Saturday, March 28, 2015  
13:00-15:00pm

Cost: Members €5/child or €12/family  
Non-members €8/child or €20/family

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

RSVP via GroupSpaces by March 18<sup>th</sup>  
Would you like to help? If so contact  
Maria Etkind at [maria@mariaetkind.com](mailto:maria@mariaetkind.com)

For more information visit our website:  
[www.awcthehague.org/site/calendar/events/](http://www.awcthehague.org/site/calendar/events/)

## We will have:

- easter crafts
- snacks
- easter egg hunt
- a special visit from the Easter Bunny!



## Kids' Club

by Maria Etkind

### Spring Party & Easter Egg Hunt

Calling all kids: the Easter Bunny is coming to the AWC! Starting at the AWC Clubhouse, we will have a party with yummy snacks, fun crafts and games. The Easter Bunny will make an appearance and your photos will help to prove "there really is an Easter Bunny." Weather permitting, we will go to a local park to search for hidden Easter eggs. When you register, please give the number and ages of the children. Feel free to invite your friends! Register at [www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/878416](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/878416). Volunteers are needed to help with this fun event; contact me at [maria@mariaetkind.com](mailto:maria@mariaetkind.com).

**Saturday, March 28**

**Spring Party: 1 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Easter Egg Hunt: Following party**  
€ 5 per child or € 12 per Member family  
(€ 8 per child or €20 per nonmember family)

**Cancellation deadline: March 18**



RSVP for all Kids' Club Activities  
directly on [AWC GroupSpaces.com](http://AWCGroupSpaces.com).

Direct any questions to  
[awcthehague.firstvp@gmail.com](mailto:awcthehague.firstvp@gmail.com)



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Register now!

Tineke Span  
[tineke@10forkids.nl](mailto:tineke@10forkids.nl)  
06-10 93 6680

Nicole Colijn  
[nicole@10forkids.nl](mailto:nicole@10forkids.nl)  
06-30 39 9278

# MARCH 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Walkie Talkies <b>9:30 a.m.</b>	3 Chat, Crafts'n Cake <b>10 a.m.</b>  AWC Tennis <b>1 p.m.</b>  Chinese Dance Performance - Shen Yun <b>8 p.m.</b>	4 Butterfly Garden Visit <b>9:45 a.m.</b>  Dutch Conversation & Coffee <b>10 a.m.</b> Pilates <b>10:15 a.m.</b>	5 Wassenaar Coffee and Conversation <b>9 a.m.</b>  AWC Board Meeting <b>10:30 a.m.</b>	6 Wassenaar Walkie Talkies <b>10 a.m.</b>  Disco Bowling <b>9 p.m.</b>	7
8	9 Walkie Talkies <b>9:30 a.m.</b>	10 Chat, Crafts'n Cake <b>10 a.m.</b>  AWC Tennis <b>1 p.m.</b>  DFAS Art Lecture: The Glasgow Boys <b>7:45 p.m.</b>	11 Pilates <b>10:15 a.m.</b>  Evening Book Club <b>7:30 p.m.</b>	12 Newcomers Meet & Greet <b>10 a.m.</b> General Meeting <b>10:30 a.m.</b>	13 Wassenaar Walkie Talkies <b>10 a.m.</b> Art History Lecture: Genre Painting <b>10 a.m.</b>	14 "Style Starts Now" Workshop <b>9 a.m.</b>
15	16 Walkie Talkies <b>9:30 a.m.</b>	17 Chat, Crafts'n Cake <b>10 a.m.</b> Heart Pillow Workshop <b>Noon</b> AWC Tennis <b>1 p.m.</b>	18 Dutch Conversation & Coffee <b>10 a.m.</b>  Pilates <b>10:15 a.m.</b>	19	20 Wassenaar Walkie Talkies <b>10 a.m.</b>	21 Make-Up Workshop <b>1 p.m.</b>
22 Greeting Card Workshop <b>2 p.m.</b>	23 Walkie Talkies <b>9:30 a.m.</b>	24 Chat, Crafts'n Cake <b>10 a.m.</b>  AWC Tennis <b>1 p.m.</b>	25 Pilates <b>10:15 a.m.</b>	26 Daytime Bookclub <b>10 a.m.</b> Royalty in The Netherlands <b>10 a.m.</b>	27 Wassenaar Walkie Talkies <b>10 a.m.</b> Art History Lecture: Landscape Painting <b>10 a.m.</b>	28 Kids' Spring Party and Egg Hunt <b>1-3 p.m.</b>
29	30 Walkie Talkies <b>9:30 a.m.</b>  The Frick Collection at Mauritshuis: Art Treasures from New York <b>1:30 p.m.</b>	31 Chat, Crafts'n Cake <b>10 a.m.</b>  Philanthropy Easter Basket Workshop <b>11 a.m.</b>  AWC Tennis <b>1 p.m.</b>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Spring is Here!</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">April 11 Spring Cocktail Contest</p> <p style="text-align: center;">April 18 Partner Appreciation Event</p> <p style="text-align: center;">April 19 Greeting Card Workshop</p> <p style="text-align: center;">May 9 FAWCO/AWC Benefit Concert</p> 			



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



FIND THE BOUTIQUE ON [WWW.FAWCOFOUNDATION.ORG/BACKINGWOMENBOUTIQUE](http://WWW.FAWCOFOUNDATION.ORG/BACKINGWOMENBOUTIQUE)

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

## GroupSpaces: Registering for AWC Activities

by Becky Failor

GroupSpaces.com is a cloud-based program that helps groups like the American Women's Club of The Hague manage their membership databases, activities, calendar, etc.

If you are an AWC Member, you should already have a GroupSpaces account. If you do not have an account or need help to access your account, contact **Lynn Roberts** at [awcthehague.membership@gmail.com](mailto:awcthehague.membership@gmail.com) or **Trena Cormier** [awcthehague.communications@gmail.com](mailto:awcthehague.communications@gmail.com) for assistance.

The AWC started phasing in the use of GroupSpaces in Fall 2014. Now, the **only way to register** for activities is through GroupSpaces.

### How to Register for AWC Activities

1. Sign into our GroupSpaces.com Account: [www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/)
  - a. Enter your email address
  - b. Enter your password
2. Select your activity
  - a. **If you already know the date**, go to Calendar (at the top or on the right side), find the date and click on the event.
  - b. **If you don't know the date**, go to Activities/Events at the top to find the event date. Then go to the calendar and click on the event.
3. If there is NOT a limit on attendance, go to "Your RSVP" and click **Attending**. If you have a spouse or nonmember who is joining you, include their name and email in the comments box.
4. If there is a limited attendance, you will see TICKETS
  - a. Choose the number of tickets based on the number of people you are registering. Then click **Register**.
  - b. Check the email address and click **Continue**.
    - i. If you have another person you are registering and you want their email address to be listed so they can receive emails from the organizer, register them separately and put in their email at this point.
  - c. Then review the information and click **Confirm**. Warning: If you DO NOT click through the confirm part, you will not be on the list.
  - d. It may be confusing that GroupSpaces will show the ticket prices as FREE when there is a cost. This is something we cannot change.
5. If there is a fee for the event, **YOUR REGISTRATION IS NOT FINAL UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED**.
  - a. The event description will give instructions how to make the payment. You can pay by PIN at the AWC or by bank transfer. The AWC does not accept cash payments.
6. When you sign up, you may be asked questions so the event organizer can gather additional information for the event. Sometimes you will be required to answer the question in order to register.
7. If the organizer sends out information about the event, they will send it to the email address you use for GroupSpaces, or the one you listed if there were tickets.
8. If you must cancel, please send information via a comment to the organizer.

# Announcements

## Chinese Dance Performance



On a blustery day in December, Macy Luan spoke at the AWC General Meeting to a few hearty souls who had braved the weather. She told us of the ancient and vibrant history of Chinese culture and how religion and art were woven together. The Shen Yun Cultural Foundation is an international organization dedicated to preserving and presenting the ancient Chinese cultural arts. Shen Yun will bring 5,000 years of heavenly realms and timeless legends to life at the Lucent Dans-theater in The Hague. An orchestra that blends both modern and ancient Chinese instruments will accompany a vast array of dancers and acrobats. An AWC group will be attending the performance at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3. If you are interested in joining us, please purchase your tickets directly at [www.shenyun.com/the-hague](http://www.shenyun.com/the-hague).

## IamExpat Fair

Traditionally the Netherlands' largest fair for expats, this year's IamExpat Fair will be held at Amsterdam's Westergasfabriek, a former gasworks that serves now as a major cultural venue. The fair will be located in Zuivering-shal West with stalls from a wide range of businesses and organizations covering topics such as education, banking, housing, careers, taxes, family, health and leisure. Workshops and presentations will be running throughout the day in Het Ketelhuis. For free tickets, register on [www.iamexpatfair.nl](http://www.iamexpatfair.nl).

**Saturday, March 7**  
**10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**  
**Westergasfabriek**  
**Pazzanistraat 37, Amsterdam**

## DFAS Art Lecture The Glasgow Boys: Painting in Scotland 1875 – 1914

The Glasgow Boys were young Scottish artists who looked to France for their inspiration and, in so doing, revolutionized painting in Scotland by bringing it into the mainstream of European art. They established a vigorous style of oil



A Mediterranean Port by Arthur Melville

painting using large square brushes and thick paint with bold colors which is still surprisingly fresh and modern. Lecturer Julian Halsby was a student of History of Art at Cambridge and is a former Senior Lecturer and Department Head at the Croydon College of Art. In addition to being a painter himself, he wrote *Dictionary of the Scottish Painters* and *Scottish Watercolours 1740 - 1940*.

**Tuesday, March 10**  
**Doors open at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Lecture begins at 8 p.m.**  
**Cultural Centrum Warenar**  
**Kerkstraat 75, Wassenaar**  
**Non-DFAS member fee is € 12**  
**[www.dfas.nl](http://www.dfas.nl)**

## Amsterdam Boat Show

From Wednesday, March 11 – Sunday, March 15, the HISWA Amsterdam Boat Show will be held at the Amsterdam RAI. As the largest watersport exhibition in the Netherlands, it features a huge range of boats, nautical accessories, sportswear, vacations and watersports services. There is free entrance for children under 16 who will enjoy the Water Fun Zone to explore windsurfing, kite-surfing, stand-up

Photo courtesy of RAI / HISWA 2014



paddling and wakeboarding. For more information and discounted advance tickets, see [www.hiswarai.nl](http://www.hiswarai.nl)

## TEFAF – The European Fine Art Fair

The world's leading art and antiques fair will be held in Maastricht from Friday, March 13 – Sunday, March 22.

This massive fair features 50,000 art objects from 274 dealers from 20 countries in a space as large as 7 football fields. What sets this



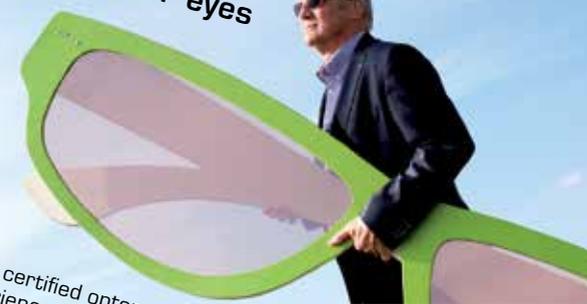
Photo by Harry Heuts

fair apart is that, despite the dealers being the world's finest, each item is still investigated for its quality, condition and authenticity. Even contemporary works are vetted and checked against The Art Loss Register. Enjoy the stimulating atmosphere full of dealers, collectors, academics, art critics and curators from major museums around the world. If you're unable to attend, consider purchasing the catalog which is a work of art in itself. For more information, go to [www.tefaf.com](http://www.tefaf.com)

>> 43



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# The Dutch Daily

by Eileen Harloff

## They're the Cat's Pajamas

**Grumpy Cat:** Recently several of our feline friends have been in the news. As a cat lover (if they behave properly), I am interested in what these headstrong, obstinate, beautiful, furry creatures have been up to that merits their mention in the national and international press. One of my favorites of the last few months is Tardar Sauce, alias "Grumpy Cat." This is a cat living in Arizona who came to fame thanks to YouTube, where her cranky look has attracted 17.5 million viewers! This cat has become so famous that her owner has given up a waitressing job to coordinate the cat's schedule, responding to calls for modeling jobs (she has graced the cover of *New York* magazine) and product sponsorships (Official Spokescat for Friskies). Born the smallest of the litter, she owes her famous frown to the projection of her lower jaw, which makes her closed mouth form an inverted V; due to feline dwarfism she also has short legs. Who can resist such a face? In addition to promoting cat food, she has her own coffee, called Grumpuccino, and she appears on calendars, cups and t-shirts.



Photo by Gage Skidmore

**Terror Cat:** Another cat of fame, if only local fame, lives in Nootdorp in the Netherlands. Nicknamed "Terror Cat," red tiger Tommy has been the central figure in a court case brought against him. The owner of a Labrador named Yara has accused Tommy of mercilessly attacking Yara with such ferocity that the dog had to undergo three operations—to the tune of € 5,000. Yara's owner wants to be compensated by the attacker's owner for this cost. Tommy's owner says that his 11-year-old cat didn't do it, even though others in Tommy's neighborhood have complained of the tiger's behavior towards children, and despite a street ban issued by the animal police. In the end, the judge on the case ruled that there was not enough evidence against Tommy, the accuser lost her case and Tommy's owner is not required to compensate his cat's accuser. I wonder how Tommy would have acted on the stand.



Photo by Daniëlla van Bergen

**Reading to Animals:** Just as with people, there are also good apples and bad ones among cats. Among the good ones are some cats and other animals living in a shelter in Zoetermeer who are giving their time and devotion to help a number of school children improve their language and learning skills. This unique program, based on a similar one now being carried out in Pennsylvania and

in Amersfoort, is a joint venture between the Oranje Nassau College and a local animal shelter. Ten children have been selected to participate in the experiment meant not only to improve the children's skills, but also to teach the children about the general care of cats, dogs and other domestic animals. The animal shelter has three cat boxes. In each one, a pupil will sit and read aloud to a cat from a book that is provided by the school; the other half of the pupils will help with the work in the shelter, such as feeding the animals and walking the dogs. For both groups this will be equal to around 30 hours of volunteer work. Others' experience indicates that this is a win-win situation: the students practice reading without having to be judged, and the cats like having the company that the busy staff of the shelter is not able to provide. Not surprisingly, there was a great deal of laughing and joking about the experiment at the beginning, but as the children were taken around the shelter and were able to ask many questions, their interest grew. As yet, it is too soon to hear if the experiment has indeed helped improve the reading and language skills of the children, but it has taught them some important lessons about animals and their care and, as one onlooker has remarked, "It is a project which makes everyone happy."

## Netherlands Experts Abroad

On two subjects in particular, the Dutch have extensive knowledge, expertise and experience: cycling and water management. Now an engineering and consultancy bureau in



Amersfoort has landed a € 151 million contract to design and construct safe and quiet bicycle routes in London. Although many city streets have demarcated cycling lanes, it is a challenge for cyclists to reach their destination without a great deal of hassle and dangerous intersecting with motorized and pedestrian traffic. London Mayor Boris Johnson, himself a fervent cyclist, has promised safer and better conditions, and has turned to the Dutch to provide them by way of bicycle routes through parks, along canals, and through less busy residential streets. The first fruits of the three-year contract will be ready by this coming May, when two new routes will open. Depending on the success of these routes, the contract may well be extended.

With regard to water management, Dutch experts have been working in several American cities since the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Sandy to devise new protection measures against floods and high water. Now New York City has awarded Dutch construction company Arcadia a € 26 million contract to design a system that will protect a number of low-lying subway stations from flooding in times of high water, storms and heavy rains.

## Hoe is het Mogelijk (How Is It Possible)?

Now that it's over, the incident is good for a laugh, but at the time it occurred it caused some consternation. During an important meeting here in The Hague of the Second Chamber of Parliament, about sanctions against Russia and the horrors being perpetrated by various murderous groups throughout the world, a telephone began to ring. Mysteriously, the phone was not in a pocket or attaché case of one of those present; it was clearly coming from the ceiling. The meeting was temporarily adjourned and a member of the technical staff brought in a ladder and climbed up to see what was the cause of this disruption. It was soon discovered that a cell phone had been left behind by a technician who had earlier replaced a ceiling light bulb. Security had not been breached; the meeting could continue. A word of advice: never leave your cell phone in a ceiling panel, particularly if this is in the Second Chamber of Parliament.

# AWC and the Arts

by Jane Choy

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

AWC Member **Jane Choy** will continue to share her expertise on art of the Dutch Golden Age by hosting art history lectures 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.

Each lecture will concentrate on one of the categories of art which were produced during that period: history, portraits, genre, landscape, and still life/architectural. In addition to talking about the artists' lives, their subjects and style, we will explore what caused this explosion of art and why genre and landscape became such specialties of the Dutch. Not only the great masters Rembrandt, Vermeer and Frans Hals will be discussed, but many of the minor masters (as they have come to be called) will be included as well. We will see that they were in fact very talented in their own right.



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

### Genre Painting: Reality Show or Illusion?

Genre paintings refer to scenes of everyday life, a sort of *tableau vivant*, and are probably one of the most popular categories of Dutch 17th century art. In this lecture, we will learn that there is much more to the eye than just a scene of everyday life. Symbolic meanings, double *entendres* and moral messages were included in these seemingly innocent compositions.

**Friday, March 13**

### Landscape Painting: Mirrors of Reality!

The development of landscape painting in Holland must be counted among one of the most prominent contributions to the history of European art. In fact, the Dutch are considered to have started the naturalistic landscape style.

**Friday, March 27**

### 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.

**NEW DATE: Friday, April 10**

**10 a.m. – Noon**

**Jane Choy's Home**

**€ 10 Members (€ 12 nonmembers) per lecture**

**Minimum 7 / Maximum 22**

**Cancellation deadline: Thursday of previous week**

### The Frick Collection: Art Treasures from New York

The Frick Collection is beautifully situated in the heart of New York with a view of Central Park. It is a cherished museum, famous for the high quality of its collection. This spring, for the first time, the Frick Collection is lending a large part of its world-class collection to the Mauritshuis: no fewer than 36 masterpieces can be admired. The exhibition includes work by artists otherwise not or barely represented in Dutch museum collections,



such as Cimabue, Van Eyck, Gainsborough, Constable, and Ingres. To register, go to: [www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/913733](http://www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/913733)

**Monday, March 30**

**1:30 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Mauritshuis**

**Plein 29, Den Haag**

**€ 10 Members (€ 13 nonmembers) PLUS Museum Entrance fee (€ 14 or free with Museumkaart)**

**Minimum 12 / Maximum 15**

**Cancellation deadline: March 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](http://www.imagesphotoclub.com) for up to date meeting dates and events or email [general@imagesphotoclub.com](mailto:general@imagesphotoclub.com).



# Getting Chili in Texas

by Mary Adams

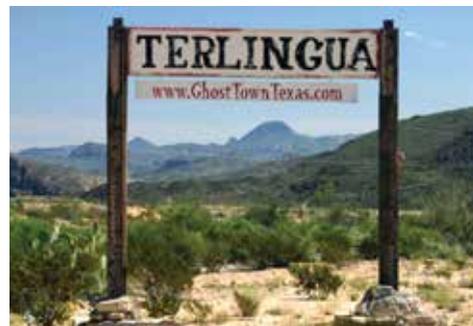
I am a new Member of the AWC. My family is originally from the Texas Hill Country. I had the pleasure of a city girl education with country girl summers at the family farms. Every time I go back to Texas, I show my Dutch partner more of the Lone Star State.

Back in 2004, we decided to do a road trip through the Big Bend National Park area. For more than 1,000 miles, the Rio Grande River forms the international boundary between Texas and Mexico. The park administrators about 118 miles along that boundary. "Big Bend" was named after a large northward bend in the river. Just to give you an idea of Texas-size land: the park is larger than the state of Rhode Island.

We had been driving on a road through seemingly desolate territory, with only the rolling hills, cactus, desert flowers, and an occasional mountain goat for company. Here, there is no wrong turn, because all you can see is the road ahead of you and the winding river beside you. There are not many towns in the area, so when we spotted Terlingua we decided to stop and take a look around. Our initial assessment was that we had stumbled into a ghost town. In the mid-1880s, the city had a population of almost 2,000 miners after the discovery of cinnabar (crushed cinnabar

makes liquid mercury or quicksilver). After the boom, came the bust. By 2004, the population had shrunk to about 58 people. We wandered around and looked at the general store, and the tumbled-down buildings. We were tired of driving and decided to spend the night. Luckily, the Starlight Theater was open for dinner and country music.

The next morning, as we were scouting the map for the day's drive, we noticed a big change had come to the town overnight. Empty, isolated parking lots were now full of RVs. What was going on? We noticed everyone was congregating in one building. We moseyed over and peered inside. Here we saw swarms of activity: people rushing around with boxes, paper plates, Styrofoam



cups and cases of beer. I noticed a sign: CASI. The Chili Appreciation Society International was hosting a Chili Cook-Off in Terlingua! I bumped into a man and as I apologized to him, he handed us sheets of paper and directed us to a table, as he thanked us for "volunteering" to be tasting judges.

What a fun afternoon we had spooning up the liquid fire, tasting, rating, cleansing our palates with saltine crackers, and swishing it all down with a cold Bud Light! Oh my, so many different versions of chili: some with game, beef or lamb, some with mystery meat with beans, and some without beans. From burn-your-tongue hot to tweak-your-taste-buds warm. I cannot remember who was finally crowned with the trophy, but I do recall that after the tasting was over and the RVs disappeared, Terlingua became a ghost town once again. That is the best thing about road trips: an accidental overnight results in a wonderful discovery.

I am an avid cook. Over the last 11 years, I have experimented with a lot of different chili recipes. Since I have been an official CASI judge, I am ready to get behind the stove and be a contestant. I am very excited to come to my first AWC event: a Chili Cook-Off!




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\*Mentioned rates are for max. 4 passengers. Vans can also be arranged on request

# Becoming a Model

by Melissa White

After being encouraged by both my mother and AWC Member **Jan Essad**, my daughter Ashlynn decided she wanted to explore the possibility of becoming a model. Just weeks before her 14th birthday, she received a message on Instagram from Jeni Rose of IMG Models in Paris asking to be contacted by a parent. Apparently she had liked some of the photos of Ashlynn taken by her older sister, Veronica.

Initially, I was a bit freaked out that an adult was looking at my daughter on Instagram. While I'd made sure to lock down all the security settings when I helped Ashlynn to set up her Facebook (FB) account, she'd set up her own Instagram account. Turns out much of my suspicion was tied to the fact that I didn't really understand how Instagram worked.

The mobile photo-sharing site Instagram was founded in 2010 and bought by FB in 2012

for an astonishing \$1 billion in cash and stock. As of the end of 2014, Instagram reported they had 300 million users worldwide, making it larger than Twitter. While many folks my age use FB to keep in touch with friends and family (and share silly cat videos), the younger generation seems to primarily use FB for messaging. My daughters and their friends use Instagram to chronicle their lives through photos. "Selfies" (a self-portrait typically taken with a cell phone or digital camera) and "hashtags" (a word or phrase prefixed with "#") are prolific throughout Instagram postings.

Little did I know that Ashlynn actually had two Instagram accounts: one public and another private. The private account she shared with close friends and the public account was followed by a large number of the students at her school plus a handful of strangers. There's little personal information shared, so



not as many security and privacy concerns as with FB. Out of her interest in modeling, Ashlynn started following a variety of models and people in the fashion industry, including Mrs. Rose, who has since told me that she maintains that account specifically to be able to look through her followers in search for potential models.

Imagine my surprise when I learned that

IMG Models represents some of the world's top supermodels, including Kate Moss, Miranda Kerr and Gisele Bundchen (who, according to *Forbes*, is the world's highest paid model to a tune of \$47 million in 2014). Mrs. Rose, originally from New York but living in Paris for over 20 years, is Vice President for IMG Models and is responsible for overseeing recruitment and development of new models throughout IMG's offices in five >> 42

Photo by Veronica White



Photo by Iseut Vertie

# Becoming a Model (cont.)

Continued from page 41

of the world's fashion capitals. After several phone calls and submitting some additional photos, we had a meeting in Rotterdam where Mrs. Rose asked Ashlynn to become an IMG Girl. Since then, we have visited IMG's offices in Paris and London and met with Mrs. Rose in The Hague, where she recommended that we meet with Dune Agency, a boutique agency in The Hague founded by Marjolein van der Lans-Lentz, for local representation so that Ashlynn could start working in the Dutch market.

I was surprised that model agencies recruit girls at such a young age. And I was equally surprised at some of the side benefits: for example, it is quite refreshing to hear other adults instructing Ashlynn to stay away from tattoo and piercing parlors. They also discourage wearing heavy make-up as a young model is supposed to look natural, thus being a blank canvas (or, as I joke with Ashlynn, a human clothes hanger).

The last few months have been a major learning process for me as Ashlynn has taken the first steps to become a high fashion model. She is currently in the development stage, which is when an agency grooms a young model to eventually model full-time when graduating from high school. Thankfully, Ashlynn still has her sights set on going to university, but now hopes to take a gap year to model. At this early stage, she has already made great strides in building her portfolio because we were able to coordinate with IMG for several "test shoots" (photo sessions specifically designed to build the model's portfolio and possibly the photographer's as well) when we were in Paris and then later when we went to London on holiday.

Since signing with Dune in November, Ashlynn has had a wide range of experiences: shooting a "look book" (an online catalog) for a young designer from The Hague; walking in her first fashion show

during Amsterdam Fashion Week for iNDiViDUALS, a cooperative of the Amsterdam Fashion Institute; and an extensive fashion shoot for a young stylist. In each case, the hours were long; in the case of the fashion shoot, the weather was brutal and Ashlynn was nearly frozen. Amazingly, Ashlynn never complained and was so professional that I was shocked. While none of these jobs were paid, Ashlynn gained a lot of valuable experience in front of the camera which resulted in amazing photos for her portfolio. And, I have really enjoyed having a behind-the-scenes look into the fashion industry. Whoever would have guessed that my daughter posing for some photos taken by her big sister could have led us down this path?



Photo by Peter Stigter

# Announcements (cont.)

Continued from page 33

## St. Patrick's Festival



The Grote Markt will be transformed into the "Groene Markt" to celebrate all things Irish. There will be an Irish market as well as Irish dancers and bands. ([www.stpatricksdaydenhaag.nl](http://www.stpatricksdaydenhaag.nl))  
**Sunday, March 15**  
**Grote Markt, Den Haag**  
**1 – 5 p.m.**

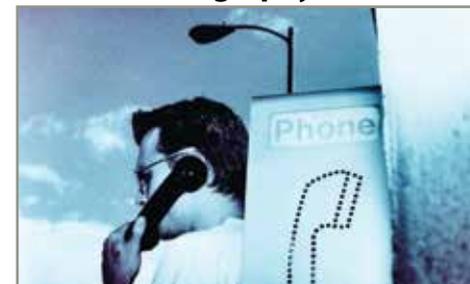
## Keukenhof Opens

Each year more than seven million flower bulbs are planted in the historic park in Lisse, which opens its doors for the spring season from March 20 through May 17. The central theme for the international flower exhibition will be "Vincent Van Gogh" featuring a flower mosaic based on a self-portrait by the artist. Keukenhof will be working closely together with the Van Gogh Museum and the Kroller-Muller Museum in an effort to honor the famous Dutch painter. [www.keukenhof.nl](http://www.keukenhof.nl)

## Movies That Matter Festival

The Movies that Matter Festival, an initiative of Amnesty International, takes place Friday, March 20 – Saturday, March 28 at Filmhuis Den Haag and Theater aan het Spui in The Hague. This festival presents around 70 human rights feature films and documentaries from around the world. Many of these films will be screened for the first and only time in the Netherlands. Most film screenings are followed by an in-depth program which might be an introduction, debate or talk show. Most films are in English or subtitled. For the program and tickets, go to [www.moviesthatmatterfestival.nl](http://www.moviesthatmatterfestival.nl)

## Double Photography Exhibit



To mark the 60th birthday of Dutch photographer and movie director Anton Corbijn, the Gemeentemuseum ([www.gemeentemuseum.nl](http://www.gemeentemuseum.nl)) and Fotomuseum Den Haag ([www.fotomuseumdenhaag.nl](http://www.fotomuseumdenhaag.nl)) are organizing the most complete retrospective of his work to date from March 21 through June 21. The Gemeentemuseum will show how Corbijn

©Anton Corbijn, Johnny Depp, Los Angeles, 1998

>> 45



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](mailto:greetje.engelsman@gmail.com)



# Heart Pillow Project

by Eileen Baker

## Students Make Heart Pillows

Among the many pillows delivered this year, 25 sets were made by a group of students from the British School in the Netherlands. In addition to their academic studies, they must complete CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) activities to fulfill a requirement for their International Baccalaureate Diploma. The Heart Pillow Project provided an opportunity for them to develop their creativity, set clear goals and give back to their community. The British School is in their 3rd year of making heart pillows. They have contributed 85 sets for the AWC to donate on their behalf. Well done students!



## Heart Pillow Thank You Emails

January 14

Dear American Women's Club,

Herewith I want to thank you so very much for two lovely heart-shaped pillows that I received four weeks ago at the hospital! What a wonderful gift. I could not have done without them and still use them day and night! My deep gratitude goes to the ladies who made these wonderfully practical and lovely looking pillows for me. It is a warm surprise at a difficult time in one's life and it really made me feel "understood" and less alone.

When I received them (before the operation), I was touched by the lovely way they were packed and to be quite honest, I didn't quite know yet how very happy I was going to be using them! After the operation I could not imagine how I would have dealt with the "inconveniences" without the cushions. And they are in lovely material as well, so they cheer me up! Thank you very, very much for your care. They have helped me a lot and still do!

Warm hugs for those who have made my life so much easier in a difficult time!

December 28

Dear Ladies,

On 9 December I had breast cancer surgery. While in the hospital at MCH Antoniusshove, I received a package with a pretty pink bow and a darling card. In the package were two very soft heart-shaped pillows that give me support every day. One is on my bed and the other on the couch. On the card I read that you make them yourself. I think this is such a sweet gesture and I would like to send my gratitude and many thanks. I will always use my pillows and think of the lovely ladies who made them.

With warm regards.

# Be Part of a New Exhibition

by Kristine Racina

The Expatriate Archive Centre (EAC) is looking for items that could be used for an exhibition provisionally entitled *Expat History of The Hague*. Under the auspices of the EAC, ACCESS and Municipal Archives, this bilingual exhibition (in English and Dutch) will take place from October 26 until November 14 in the City Hall of The Hague. Our aim is to show The Hague as seen through the eyes of expats who call, or once called, this city "home."



[xpatarchive.com](http://xpatarchive.com) with the subject line mentioning "Expat History of The Hague."

**What Are We Looking For?** We need excerpts from letters, diaries, postcards, blogs, emails, etc. describing your impressions of The Hague as an expat. Photos supporting your impressions are most welcome. We are particularly interested in pieces that are 25 years or older. You can submit materials in English or Dutch. For more information, please visit [www.xpatarchive.com](http://www.xpatarchive.com).

**Submission Deadline: March 31** All submissions should be sent to [events@xpatarchive.com](mailto:events@xpatarchive.com)

**Disclaimer:** All submissions will be collected and appraised by the EAC. By making a submission, you grant the EAC the right to select and use your images or text for the exhibition or for any other related purpose, including promotion of the exhibition. If your submission is selected for the exhibition, you agree to the future retention of the material by the EAC and grant them the right to use it for any future purposes including academic research.

## Announcements (cont.)

*Continued from page 43*

has evolved over the last 40 years from an ordinary music fan into a successful photographer and multifaceted creative artist. The concurrent show at the Fotomuseum Den Haag will feature over 300 photographs of bands and musicians in which the relationship between the photographer and the music world is at center stage; many of these iconic photos are on display to the public for the first time. Bruce Springsteen, David Bowie, Kate Moss, Robert de Niro...over the years Anton Corbijn has photographed many public figures, most of them active in the arts.

## Revamped Hague Website

The Hague has launched a revamped version of its tourism website [www.denhaag.com](http://www.denhaag.com) containing the city's complete tourism and

cultural offerings including theater, festivals and concerts as well as museums, restaurants and nightlife. This user-friendly website is available in four languages and works across platforms on computers, tablets and smartphones. Residents as well as visitors will appreciate finding listings of everything there is to do in The Hague in one place.





## When in Rio

by Dena de Clute-Melancon

As much as I loved The Hague, moving to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil has been the most exciting, enlightening, vibrant time of our lives. Having lived on the North Sea for seven years, Dan and I and our two kids have had to acclimate to a tropical climate, learn Portuguese, and emulate the famously laid-back, sun-loving lifestyle of *Cariocas* (Rio locals). Some of our expectations weren't met; many were exceeded.

Right off the plane, I learned that in recent years, Brazilian coffee has become diluted with barley so it's cheaper to produce. Instant coffee prepared at five-times the suggested concentration with no cream or sugar (I couldn't read the directions) tasted like a burnt car tire and resulted in Dan wiping down all the kitchen cupboards in our temporary apartment and unpacking the entire family's luggage. Our second day, I learned the importance of ensuring you have the number for emergencies in a foreign country (it's

1-9-2, though we were advised that taking a taxi is generally faster), when Andrew fell off the bed and split his head open. Then the electricity went out, driving us into the rain on foot to look for a pharmacy and supermarket. Instead I found coat hangers, mosquito repellent for babies, and \$25 diapers. Once I located a supermarket, I found bones in my boneless fish fillet, a live slug in my broccoli (Dan had to rescue me), and two rotten eggs out of a dozen. Having fish, slugs, and rotten eggs on your kitchen counter makes you want to disinfect like crazy, which is how I discovered that "anti-bacterial kitchen cleaner" here is just pure bleach. Eventually, I developed a symbiotic relationship with the tiny bugs in my kitchen where I provided them with fresh food daily and they provided me with a husband that took the trash out every night.

Other than driving along the picturesque coastline from Flamengo on the east coast all the way to Barra on the western border, our



first sightseeing trip was taking a cable car to the summit of the iconic Pão de Acucar (Sugarloaf Mountain). Beside the stunning panoramic view of Copacabana Beach,

Botafogo Harbor and the emerald islands dotting Guanabara Bay, the kids enjoyed an impromptu biology lesson on lizards, bamboo and some freaky wild monkeys >> 48



# Rio (cont.)

Continued from page 47

scampering around like squirrels. Dan kept chanting, “I can’t believe we live here!” especially once we realized we could see our future apartment on the coast near Flamengo Beach, right across the street from the Carmen Miranda Museum. Ipanema Beach is a few short metro stops away, where buff, tan, fashionable *Cariocas* intermix with average-looking families, police on bicycles, and dreadlocked street vendors selling homemade hemp jewelry and smelling exactly as you’d expect. Foot-volley is very popular here, which is volleyball without using your hands (only your chest, head and feet), requiring the technical skill of a circus performer.

We spent Mother’s Day at Jardim Botânico, a massive rainforest pedestrian park and botanical gardens in the heart of Rio’s Zona Sul. The vegetation was so large, bright and stunning, it felt like we were in the movie set for *Honey, I Shrank the Kids*.

Father’s Day here is celebrated the second Sunday in August in honor of St. Joachim, patron saint of family. We took the funicular (a tram that climbs a mountain) up Corcovado Mountain to tour Cristo Redentor, the Statue-of-Liberty-like monument of Christ the Redeemer. We had a few hours to kill before departure, so we went to the nearby museum of local *naif* (native) art, consisting of primitive paintings with bright colors and simple, child-like subject matter. Rousseau was the accidental pioneer of this style. The eventual 20-minute ride to the mountain top was obscured by trees and anti-climactic (other than to serve as an unpleasant reminder that many tourists tend to forgo deodorant), but the views from the top were spectacular and the breezy sunshine welcome. Next on my list of tourist attractions to see is one of the works of Rio-born architect Oscar Niemeyer, who (among other famous projects) collaborated with Le Corbusier on the UN Headquarters in



NYC. Niemeyer worked a lot with reinforced concrete because of its suitability, creating curves that mimic the female form and nature, and he is hailed as one of the developers of modern architecture.

June brought us the World Cup, or *Copa do Mundo* (a name Brazilians protested, since “cup” is actually *copo*; *copa* means breakfast room). Rio was a ghost-town during the opening game against Croatia, as everyone was glued to a TV. Even if we didn’t have a TV, we could have easily tracked Brazil’s points (and misses) by listening to the roars, horns, firecrackers and groans from our neighbors. The kids were too excited to sleep after the game, so we went night swimming in the pool, which was useful for making them scream (with glee and hypothermia) and for watching wild bats.

Driving in Rio has been an adjustment, since blinkers aren’t used to ask permission, they’re meant as a warning. Most intersections have one less lane on the other side (sometimes two less) requiring everyone to merge like a herd trying to pass through a gate. Buses are notorious for ignoring right-of-way; it’s like *Star Wars* when they were stuck in the garbage compactor, but with mountains. We didn’t immediately have a map of Brazil for our sat-nav, and navigating a terrifyingly steep, densely tree-covered mountain (i.e., no visibility) in a spider web of narrow, corkscrew streets trying to get to the American School for a tour, was not a good experience. We ended up in Rocinha, the adjacent *favella*, or shanty-town (as such, it’s the school’s main philanthropy beneficiary), while the kids complained that their ears were popping.

Speaking of philanthropy, Brazil has the largest network of breast milk donor banks in the world: the *Bancos de Leite Humano*. The campaign teaches donors how to sterilize glass jars, pump and freeze their milk. Motorcycle couriers (or police officers or firefighters, depending on the city) come to their houses to collect it. The milk is tested, sorted, pasteurized and given to premature babies in NICU wards and has reduced their infant mortality rate from 63 per 1,000, to 19 per 1,000. Every year they get a new “God-mother” celebrity spokesperson to refresh the campaign; a few years ago it was the women’s Olympic volleyball team.

Speaking Portuguese has been an interesting challenge. Dan and I have lessons twice a week, but we often rely on Google Translate and our tablets, like when we bought our car. Without it, when we first started learning, we were often reduced to a combination of inarticulate mutterings, gestures, pantomime, pointing and cartoons. I should be grateful the pharmacist had the presence of mind to read my prescription for saline eye drops; evidently I asked to be sprinkled with salt water. My Portuguese phrase book would be a terrific resource if I needed to say I had typhoid, or I refused all western medicine, or to inform my doctor (who is Dutch, by the way!) that I brought my own syringe in case he doesn’t have a new one, but it is lacking useful instruction on how to ask for over-the-counter medications. Useless fact: The word “piranha” in Portuguese has three meanings: the fish; a hair-clip with teeth; and a woman having an affair with another woman’s husband, as in man-eater.

>> 50



# Rio (cont.)

Continued from page 49

Catholicism is the main religion of Brazil, but *macumba* is also widely practiced – a pejorative term meaning “witchcraft.” *Macumba* is actually the type of wood that Brazilian slaves used to make musical instruments. In the usual pattern of language simplification, the instruments became known as *macumba*, then the slaves were *macumba*, and then their religious rituals were *macumba*. Salsa was their music, and today most salsa musicians practice the *macumba* religion. According to flyers posted all over Rio, if my husband ever leaves me, I can call a *Macumbera* (spiritual leader) who for a fee will have him returned to me in three days. I might have to sacrifice a chicken, leave a bag of candy on the side of the road for the spirits to eat, or take a bath in herbs prescribed for the occasion, but at least there’s a money-back guarantee.

Brazil lies in the Southern Hemisphere, meaning the seasons are reversed. Christmas here is in the middle of summer, creating a strange fusion of summer break plus the Christmas holidays. It shifted our focus away

from shopping, baking and eating, and moved it toward fun outdoor activities. We spent one Sunday in a peddle-cart, cycling around Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas, a huge lake in the heart of the city. It took about an hour, and the kids loved it. Playing in the surrounding playground and eating ice cream was also a big hit. They don’t realize just how amazing their childhood is, or how incredibly lucky they are to live in such a fascinating, culturally rich, geographically gorgeous city, but I certainly do! And I’m determined to enjoy every minute of it.



# Women’s Power to Stop War

by Becky Failor

In April 2015, in commemoration of the 100 years since their first meeting in The Hague, the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom are holding a conference at the World Forum entitled *Women’s Power to Stop War*. AWC Members are invited to attend this conference and help establish a new peace agenda for the 21st century. For more information, visit [www.womenstopwar.org](http://www.womenstopwar.org).

## Lodging Assistance Request

The AWC has been asked to help provide lodging for some of the conference organizers, leaders and speakers. 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 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.

## 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](mailto: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). We want to have all the accommodations secured at least one month in advance of the meetings.

# Message from the President (cont.)

Continued from page 8

details appear in *Going Dutch* and/or check out [GroupSpaces.com](http://GroupSpaces.com) to learn about what the AWC has planned for this month – and for signing up for the activities.

Our guest speaker this month at the General Meeting will be Michelle Oliel. She is the co-founder of the Stahili Foundation whose aim is to rescue and to help children who have been neglected, abused and exploited in orphanages in Kenya and in the community at large. The AWC has supported Stahili in the past. She is a Canadian educated Human Rights lawyer who is now an Associate Legal Officer at the United Nations International

Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague. She will be discussing the importance of ending impunity for international crimes as part of the effort to restore the rule of law in war-torn countries.

I look forward to welcoming you at our March General Meeting and I hope to see you at some of the AWC March activities.

Happy Spring to all and *tot ziens!*

*Linda*

# Classifieds

## Natural Healing Massages & Courses

Studio-Dragonfly offers Traditional Chinese Massage, LomiLomi Hawaiian Massage and Hot Stone Massage for your relaxation and wellbeing. You can also learn to heal yourself through courses in Reiki, TuiNa and Dru Yoga. Please visit [www.studio-dragonfly.com](http://www.studio-dragonfly.com)

## Counselling International

For professional, confidential individual counselling or coaching, relationship/couple therapy or conflict mediation. Experienced, multilingual professional Els Barkema-Sala, MPhil, MBACP. Contact 071 528 2661 for FREE initial telephone consultation or for an appointment. [www.counsellinginternational.com](http://www.counsellinginternational.com)

## North Sea Chiropractic for All Your Spinal Health Needs

Chiropractic care for your whole family, specializing in general pain, pregnancy, pediatrics, sports injuries and more. The chiropractor is an AWC Member and American graduate. Most insurances cover chiropractic. Call for a free 15-minute consultation: 065 369 7739 [chiropractienoordzee@gmail.com](mailto:chiropractienoordzee@gmail.com)  
[www.chiropractienoordzee.nl](http://www.chiropractienoordzee.nl)

## Badminton

The International Women's Contact The Hague extends an invitation to AWC Members to join them for badminton in a friendly group. All abilities are welcome; you only need a racquet and pair of indoor sport shoes. € 30 for 13 consecutive weeks or € 5 per session. Contact: Shirish at 064.224.3241 or [shirishdunham@gmail.com](mailto:shirishdunham@gmail.com)

**Thursdays**  
**10 – 11 a.m**  
**Houtrust Sports Hall**  
**Laan van Poot 22, Den Haag**

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.

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



*Invite your English-speaking friends from other countries that have an affinity for Americans to join us today!*

## 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

American Travel Center  
page 23

Aveda Lifestyle Salon  
Inside Cover

The British School in the Netherlands  
Back Cover

Bulthaup Zoetermeer  
page 13

Dutch Products Booklet  
page 43

FRITSTAXI Airport Service  
page 39

Graafstal Optiek  
page 33

Images International Photography Club  
page 37

Marcel Vermeulen Jewelry  
page 11

Nice Home  
Inside Cover

Petros Eyewear  
page 11

St. James Church  
page 20

Wassalon Weissenbruch  
page 30

Your Cleaning Service  
page 30

10forKids  
page 27

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Go to [www.awcthehague.org](http://www.awcthehague.org) to share the current month's issue with friends and family. You will also find links to our annual advertisers, whose support makes this magazine possible. If you visit or contact one of our advertisers, let them know *Going Dutch* sent you!

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

# Rates

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