

Going Dutch

2016
May / June

In
this
issue

Handbag Auction

Impressions of India

The Climate Mobilization

An Insider's View: Windsor Castle

American Women's Club of The Hague



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Going Dutch

May/June 2016



Another year, another successful FAWCO Helping Handbags Auction. Thanks to your generosity, € 2,000 was raised for The FAWCO Foundation.



Learn about Windsor Castle from an insider, the AWC's new Secretary, Ellen Bolick



Celeste Brown shares her impressions of India after spending three weeks in that fascinating country

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

- 5 Officers and Chairwomen
- 6 Handbag Auction
- 8 Message from the President
- 9 Installation of Officers
- 9 June General Meeting
- 10 Letter from the Editor
- 12 Membership
- 14 Ongoing Activities
- 20 One-of-a-Kind Activities
- 24 AWC and the Arts
- 25 FAWCO Corner
- 26 The Climate Mobilization
- 28 Memorial Day at Margraten
- 30 Calendar
- 33 FAWCO Symposium
- 34 The Dutch Daily
- 36 Heart Pillow Project
- 38 Windsor Castle
- 43 Announcements
- 46 Impressions of India
- 53 Navigating in Belgium
- 56 Classifieds
- 57 Index of Advertisers
- 57 Rates
- 58 More Handbag Auction



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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Ellen Bolick, Celeste Brown, Jane Gulde,
Diane Schaap, Debbie van Hees

Contributors
Mary Adams, Jane Choy, Mallery Clarke,
Greetje Engelsman, Roberta Enschede,
Jan Essad, Becky Failor, Eileen Harloff,
Sue Merrick, Seanette Meserole, Georgia
Regnault, Anne van Oorschot

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2016-2017 AWC Officers

President Becky Failor
awcthehague.president@gmail.com

Vice President Trena Cormier
awcthehague.firstvp@gmail.com

Treasurer Kathy DeBest
awcthehague.treasurer@gmail.com

Secretary Ellen Bolick
awcthehague.secretary@gmail.com

Club and Community Development
Susan Cave, Mary Ann Nation-Greenwall
– Acting Co-Chair
awcthehague.community@gmail.com

Clubhouse Administrator
Dominique Duysens
awcthehague.2ndvp@gmail.com

Communications Teresa Mahoney
awcthehague.communications@gmail.com

Front Office

Siska Datema -Kool
Becky Failor
Rachel Kupperts
Sue Merrick
Pamela Schellekens

Committee Chairs

Activities Mallery Clarke
Assistant Treasurer Rebecca Wood
At Home in Holland Becky Failor
Board Advisor Jessie Rodell
Caring Committee Naomi Keip
Community Service Coordinator
Pamela Pruijs
FAWCO Elizabeth Kennedy
Heart Pillow Jan de Vries
Holiday Bazaar Ginny Mees, Barbara
Bremer
Library Laurie Martecchini
Kid's Club Open
Membership Coordinator Shirley
Newlin
Newcomer Activities Greetje Engelsman
Parliamentarian Georgia Regnault
Programs Roberta Enschede
Public Relations Loren Mealey
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The Arts Jane Choy
Tours Jan Essad, Seanette Meserole
Volunteer Coordinator Laurie
Martecchini
Webmaster Julie Otten
Website Assistant Open
Women with Dutch Partners Open

AWC Purpose Statement

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



Helping Handbag
Auction



Message from the President

by Becky Failor

Our AWC club year runs from June 1 to May 31. So this *Going Dutch* closes out one club year and begins another. I like having one magazine issue that makes that transition. I find that when you are making any transition, from small to great, having some traditions that you carry across from one phase to the next helps with continuity. One AWC tradition is having a lovely ceremony with flowers, a special gavel, and poem for the Installation of Officers for the new club year. We invite all of you to join us on May 12 for this special occasion. We are grateful to Veerle Coigne, wife of the US Chargé d'Affaires Adam Sterling, for hosting us at her home for this event (see further details on following page).

I feel a deep appreciation of the hard work of the wonderful ladies who served with me on the Board from May 2015 to now: Vice President **Sue Merrick**, Secretary **Sunita Menon**, Treasurer **Jan de Vries**, Club and Community Development **Karla Kahn**, Clubhouse Administrator **Dominique Duysens** and Communications **Rebecca Fry**. Each of them took their roles and responsibilities seriously and did their job with joy and cooperation. I could write a novel telling you all the things they did, but you have already seen their accomplishments.

One more transition tradition is renewing your Club Membership. There is no change in the dues. See page 12 for all the information you need to make a bank transfer and keep your Membership active.



Our Handbag Auction is another fun AWC tradition (see pages 6 and 58 for photos). Each year

this “fun”-raiser brings in funds that our Club donates to FAWCO Foundation projects. Thanks to the hard work of **Elizabeth Kennedy**, **Barbara Bremer** and **Holly Savoie**, we raised €1,936. You were so generous with your donations that we had extra handbags that we did not have time to include in the auction. Don't worry as the “Save The Children” charity was happy to receive them.



A sister club in Munich has a great tradition: each of their volunteer tasks is handled by a team. No one is alone in their job. This seems like such a great idea to me. Each team decides how to accomplish their tasks. When one person is away or just overwhelmed with life, the other team members step in. When a new person joins the team, they have others who can “show them the ropes.” They report that great friendships have formed within these teams. I would like to get this approach started in our Club. Would you like to serve on the Membership team with **Shirley Newlin**? Would you like to serve on the monthly meeting team? Would you like to serve on the Holiday Bazaar team? Let me or **Laurie Martecchini**, our Volunteer Coordinator, know.

My biggest thanks goes to the TEAM of ladies who made the Red, White & Blue Gala such a big success. Lead by **Karla Kahn** and **Teresa Insalaco**, they worked thousands of hours to ensure each of our beneficiaries will receive a substantial donation, continuing our tradition of giving. I can tell you that everyone who attended was touched by the messages, and had >>>49

Installation of Officers

Please join us for the Installation of Officers for the 2016-2017 AWC Board. Veerle Coigne, the wife of Adam Sterling (Chargé d'Affaires of the American Embassy in The Hague), has once again graciously offered her beautiful residence for this morning reception and ceremony.

Space is limited, so you **must RSVP** by Monday, May 9. The address will be provided to those registered. Our apologies, but childcare will not be available.

**Thursday, May 12
10:30 a.m.**

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1043552

In the AWC tradition, lunch (at own expense) will follow the Installation of Officers at a local restaurant to be announced through eNews.

**Restaurant to be announced
12:30 p.m.**



June General Meeting

Please join us for a discussion on a subject making headlines around the world: immigration. Since our guest speaker had not been confirmed when we went to print, further details will be provided through eNews. Following the meeting, we will offer a catered lunch (see eNews for menu and price).

Special thanks go to **Sunita Menon** for her hard work on preparing and printing out AWC Membership Directories. Don't forget to pick up a copy when you're next at the Clubhouse.

Childcare will be available if it is requested for more than two children. Requests must be submitted to Becky Failor at president@awcthehague.org no later than June 7.

Thursday, June 9

Coffee: 10 a.m.

Meeting: 10:30 a.m.

**Luncheon: Noon
AWC Clubhouse**

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1051122

Ramblings from the Editor

by Melissa White

Imagine my surprise when I was at the AWC Clubhouse recently and two different mothers of young children pulled me aside and asked me the same question, “How come no one warned me how hard it was to be a mother?” My heart went out to them both. I’m not sure what kind of wisdom they were hoping I’d share, but the only thing I could say was, “Welcome to the Parents’ Club.” Shortly after my conversation with those two ladies, I found out that a close friend from North Carolina was going to be a father. Although I don’t doubt for a moment that he and his wife will make excellent parents, I did feel obligated to tell him the truth, “Sorry, Marc, to have to be the one to break it to you, but this is likely to be the hardest job you’ll ever have.” He didn’t seem to take the news well. It seems that I had broken the unwritten rule that the only way that the human race can continue is if society continues to sugarcoat the trials and tribulations of parenting.

Don’t get me wrong—I love my children unconditionally and don’t regret becoming a mother (most of the time). There are lots of rewards in raising kids, but there’s lots of agony, too. Of course, I heard plenty of birthing horror stories in preparation for the big arrival, but despite reading plenty of books on what to do once my baby arrived, nothing truly prepared me for the realities of parenting. Babies don’t come with instruction manuals. I had one that took eight weeks to figure out how to breastfeed and another that figured it out immediately, but failed to look me in the eye as all the books described. In my fragile sleep-deprived state, I worried that they both hated me. The learning curve was very steep and as soon as I mastered one aspect, another curve was thrown my way. I thought I was becoming a pro, but then my second child came along with an entirely different disposition and I was back to square one again. By the time I could practically change a diaper blindfolded, I was running across a store with my newly potty-trained toddler in hopes of finding a toilet in time.

Of course, I’m a lot wiser now than I was 15 years ago, but that doesn’t mean I don’t still worry that I’m making wrong decisions that could have a long-lasting impact. With teenagers, the focus may no longer be on the toilet, but that doesn’t mean that there aren’t still challenges. Against my better judgment, I’ve given permission for our 16-year-old to go with some girlfriends to a four-day music festival in Belgium

*Parenting is as crazy as
circumnavigating the globe
without a map...but, oh what
a journey!*

~ Emily Hill

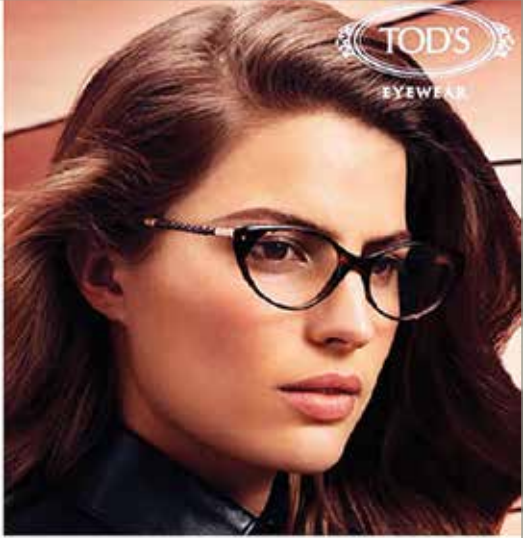
this summer where they’ll be camping with some of their male friends. It’s hard to say no when I’ve already let her go overnight backpacking with her girlfriends. Of course, they weren’t surrounded by the drunken masses, most of which will be a lot older. As I am trusting her to be mature enough to attend a marine conservation program this summer where she’ll be camping in Tanzania for a month, it’s hard then to say that she’s too immature to handle a music festival. A major part of parenting is letting go. That doesn’t mean that I still won’t be crossing my fingers that nothing goes wrong and that I’ve done all I can to give my daughter the tools necessary to make good decisions.

So what will you do the next time you learn a close friend or relative is pregnant? Will you open up and honestly share your experiences? Or will you stay silent and just wish them good luck?

Happy Mother’s Day!

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Membership

by Shirley Newlin

Membership Renewals

AWC Membership Dues for the 2016-2017 Club Year are payable September 1 and will be effective until August 31, 2017. You are welcome to renew by electronic bank transfer over the summer to our bank account with IBAN: NL42ABNA0431421757 (be sure to include your name and Membership Dues in the notes) or pay by PIN at the Clubhouse. Dues remain the same as last year: € 110 for Regular and Associate Members, € 90 for Business Professionals, € 55 for Military (with valid military ID) or € 35 for Student Memberships (with valid student ID). Please note all renewals must be received by September 30, 2016. Also if you are moving over the summer or your contact information changes, please let me know by emailing me at awcthehague.membership@gmail.com. Have a great summer!

Welcome New Members!

Shereen Abdul-Baki
Laurie Brooks
Diana Diago Pena
Shirin Kianmanesh Rad – Hashemi

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



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

Summer Birthdays

Mary Brotherton	May 2	Janet van der Laan	June 28
Glenda Ohr	May 3	Rebecca Wood	July 2
Sheyla Karman	May 6	Kimberly Carlton	July 5
Julie Mowat	May 8	Siska Datema-Kool	July 8
Julie van der Wolf	May 8	Audra White-van Mierlo	July 8
Isabel Zinman	May 8	Sue Merrick	July 14
Sally Myers	May 9	Jan de Vries	July 18
Sarah Haug	May 19	Amy van der Drift	July 21
Susan McKinley	May 20	Christine Jackson	July 27
Mina Senior-Faress	May 25	Kimberly Vered	July 27
Francesca van Duren	May 25	Susan Hodges	July 30
Lauren Mescon	May 26	Virginia Rempt	August 7
Jan Pritchard	May 28	Roberta Enschede	August 8
Sonja Kelle	June 1	Melissa White	August 15
Ellen Bolick	June 5	Dominique Duysens	August 18
Susan Hatchell	June 7	Shirley Newlin	August 24
Gena Shikles	June 9	Maria Etkind	August 26
Barbara Fasting	June 18	Santina Hovanessian	August 29
Julie Schipper	June 20	Karla Kahn	August 30
Holly Savoie	June 21	Rebecca Fry	August 31
Elizabeth Kennedy	June 25	Dory Ritchie	August 31

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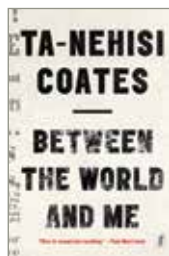
www.zoetermeer.bulthaup.nl

Ongoing Activities

Book Club: Daytime

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

The May Daytime Book Club selection is *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates:



This National Book Award Winner is a memoir written as a series of letters to the author's teenage son about the feelings, symbolism, and realities associated with being black in the US. Confronting the notion of race in America and how it has shaped American history, this insightful and direct book will undoubtedly stimulate a fascinating discussion.

Thursday, May 26

10 a.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

The June Daytime Book Club selection is *The Children Act* by Ian McEwan:



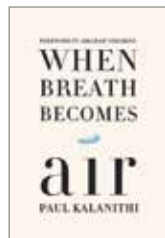
Thursday, June 23

10 a.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

The July Daytime Book Club selection is *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi:



What makes life worth living in the face of death? This profoundly moving memoir by a 36-year-old neurosurgeon (with a Master's Degree in Literature) faced with a stage IV lung cancer diagnosis attempts to answer that question.

One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. This heartbreaking yet inspirational book will give us plenty to think about and discuss.

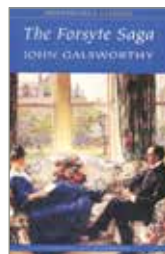
Thursday, July 28

10 a.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

The August Daytime Book Club selection is *The Man of Property* (Volume I of *The Forsyte Saga*) by John Galsworthy:



Published in 1906, this is the first of three novels which make up *The Forsyte Saga* chronicling the social power of a British upper-middle class family between 1886 and 1920. You might be familiar with the PBS series on *Masterpiece Theater*. The author

was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1932. Please note that this classic book is available for free for Kindle on Amazon.

Thursday, August 25

10 a.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

Recap of the March Discussion

The Farm: Although better known for his bestselling *Child 44*, author Tom Rob Smith has underpinned this psychological thriller with events from his own family. Set in a bleak rural area of Sweden, the retirement dream of a self-sustaining farm

begins to unravel as the narrator's mother becomes obsessed by unexplained events in the community: acts of kidnap, sexual exploitation, conspiracy and cover-up. Is she correct in her conclusions, or is she the victim of a psychological breakdown as her husband claims? The group felt that this story was rather formulaic and written to an outline. The book was driven by plot, not characterization, with elements of an expanded short story rather than a novel and an abrupt ending. Our group gave it a collective thumbs-down.

Book Club: Evening

The May Evening Book Club selection is *Early Warning* by Jane Smiley:



This is the second of the trilogy in the Langdon family's saga, picking up their story in 1953 with one chapter per year through 1986. Experience the Cold War of the '50s, the Kennedy years, Vietnam, the social revolutions of the '60s and '70s, and the wealth obsessed '80s through the eyes of this Iowan family as told by this Pulitzer Prize winning author.

Wednesday, May 18

7:30 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

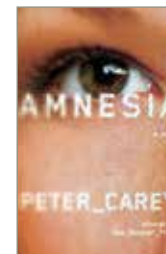
Daytime Book Club Planning Ahead:

Thursday, September 22: *In the Light of What We Know* by Zia Haider Rahman

Evening Book Club Planning Ahead:

September: *A Brief History of Seven Killings* by Marlon James.

The June Evening Book Club selection is *Amnesia* by Peter Carey:



Filled with suspense and dark humor, the two-time Booker Prize winning author takes us into the cyber underworld. After an Australia hacker releases a computer virus into her country's prison system, cell doors are opened and inmates walk free. Since

those prisons use American software, the doors in thousands of jails in the US are opened as well. Is this an accident—or a declaration of cyber war? Does it have anything to do with the largely forgotten Battle of Brisbane between American and Australian forces in 1942? Or with the CIA-influenced coup in Australia in 1975? Find out for yourself!

Wednesday, June 8

7:30 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

>> 16



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Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 15

Chat, Crafts & Cake

Let's get creative! The AWC is open to all crafters. If you've been looking for an open space large enough to lay out that king-size quilt, or need more table space to organize your photo albums or scrapbooks, or just need an excuse to stitch, pack up your supplies and bring them to the Clubhouse so you can chat



with fellow AWC Members while you work. You might even be able to pick up some suggestions from a fresh pair of eyes. Each week, a different Member will bring a cake made from a never-before-tried recipe for tasting and critiquing. We're sorry, but babysitting is not available and thus we can't accommodate children. Questions? Contact: **Suzanne Dundas** at awcthehague.crafts@gmail.com Tuesdays

10 a.m. – Noon
AWC Clubhouse
FREE

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.

Cranium Night

Everyone is good at something and Cranium is an adult team game that gives everyone a chance to be a "game hero." Up to four teams compete using charades, puppeteering, sculpting, drawing, word play and trivia—14 skills in all. It's fast-paced, lively and a lot of fun. And, it's perfect for the AWC because "the more the merrier." We've designated the second Friday of most months as Cranium Night. Come alone or bring a partner, but please be on time—we'll begin promptly. Contact **Suzanne Dundas** if you have any questions.

Friday, May 13

7:30 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

Free

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/999569

Dinner Club

Sign up to share dinner at home with AWC friends and spouses/partners. **Roberta Enschede** will set the dates, place couples (or individuals) randomly, and assign the hostess. Then each hostess will set a theme and guests will be asked to prepare a dish. For example, if the theme is Italian, then one person might bring antipasto, one brings bread, one brings Italian wine, etc. The hostess may choose to cook the main course or do it all, but then you might be asked to contribute some money towards the cost. It will be up to each hostess how they want to structure the meal. You may be asked to host one dinner for eight, six or four guests (depending on your space at home) and then you will be a guest at someone else's home the next time. This is a fun way to share an evening with new AWC friends while enjoying a great dinner. No need to worry as you don't have to be a gourmet chef! Contact Roberta at robertaenschede@yahoo.com to join in the fun.

Saturday, June 24

Locations and meals vary

Sign-up deadline: June 16

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/991386

Heart Pillow Project

The AWC is in its 8th year of making heart-shaped pillows to support the arms of breast cancer patients in local hospitals. Each pillow is made with tender loving care, wrapped in a plastic bag tied with a beautiful bow and a message signed by a volunteer. No sewing skills are needed; just the ability to cut and stuff! What a wonderful way to meet new friends while contributing to a worthy cause. The emails we receive are so touching and show that women are linked everywhere to this terrible disease. We are proud to provide women with something not only practical, but comforting as well. If you can cut fabric, stuff fiberfill, thread a needle or tie a bow, we need you! No sign-up is necessary. For more information, contact our new coordinator **Jan de Vries** at awcthehague.heartpillow@gmail.com.

Tuesday, May 24

Noon – 2 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

Visitors Welcome

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1022908



>> 18

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Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 17

Out to Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will do something slightly different in May as we will venture to Leiden for a sightseeing tour with **Greetje Engelsman**. First, we will meet at Starbucks



at Den Haag Centraal Station (DHCS) to take the train to Leiden. Then we'll walk along the windmills, almshouses, university, botanical garden and hidden canals. We will do the things worth seeing that you don't see on a "normal" sightseeing tour. Afterwards, we will end with lunch at a café near Leiden Centraal. Join us for one or both!

Sign up on GroupSpaces or contact Kathy DeBest at debestjk@comcast.net. The tour is free, while lunch is at your own expense.

Thursday, May 19

Tour: Meet at DHCS at 9:30 a.m.

Lunch: 12:30 p.m.

Stadcafé Van der Werff

Steenstraat 2, Leiden

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1048793

We will end the first season of the Out to Lunch Bunch where we began: at the beach.

Friday, June 10

12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Spice Beach Club

Strandweg 6, Den Haag

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1048794



Pilates

Pilates is a form of exercise developed by Joseph Pilates which emphasizes body development through core strength, flexibility and body awareness. Pilates works the deeper, more stabilizing muscles of the spine and the abdominal wall. Doing Pilates makes you stronger, longer and leaner. **Ineke Latour**, certified STOTT Pilates® Instructor and AWC Member, will teach Pilates classes at the AWC Clubhouse. You will be monitored and corrected to enjoy responsible, safe and effective Pilates training. Email Ineke to sign up for these classes and pay her directly. Bring your own towel; Ineke will supply mats and props. All levels are welcome. Participants should arrive at the Club at 10:15 a.m. so class can start promptly at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays thru July

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

€ 15 per class Members

(€ 20 per class nonmembers)

Min 6 / Max 10

Contact: Ineke at

Latour@globalswing.com

Walkie Talkies



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

Mondays

9:30 a.m.

FREE

Walky Barky

Walky Barky is the dog version of Walkie Talkies, but without the set schedule. Join us with your pooch for walks in the woods. We have started a closed Facebook Group which all AWC Members with dogs are invited to join: www.facebook.com/groups/walkybarky. Members occasionally post their walking plans so others can join along.



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 the month for Members and prospective Members. Ramona will provide directions to her house when you sign up.

Thursday, May 5

9 – 11 a.m.

Ramona's House

FREE

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/785299



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One-of-a-Kind Activities

by Mallory Clarke

Special Walkie Talkies: Haagse Bos & Lunch

Join us as we walk along a route we enjoyed last year through the Haagse Bos, a green oasis in our hectic city. This special Walkie Talkies will meander past the ponds of the woods and the Palace Huis Ten Bosch. If we're lucky, we might even spot some storks. After the walk, please join us for lunch at La Maison de la Forêt (at own expense). We will meet at Starbucks at Den Haag Centraal Station (DHCS).

Monday, May 9

Meet at DHCS: 9:30 a.m.

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1052750



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

Direct any questions to

awcthehague.activities@gmail.com.

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

Farmer's Cheese Making Workshop

We will visit a cheese farm where we will be shown how cheese is made according to traditional methods. This informative hands-



on workshop will show you the total process of cheese making. During the 1.5-hour workshop, you will see, learn and taste everything about farmer's cheese, including "grass cheese" which is made of milk, fresh from the cow. You will have a chance to taste different kinds of cheeses and get information on how to store your cheese the best way. We will be picked up from the train station by the farmer in his hay wagon and also dropped off there. The fee also includes coffee and cake. After the workshop, we will have lunch at Kasteel Woerden (at your own expense).

Wednesday, May 11

10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Boerderij de Boerinn, Kamerik

€ 30 Members (€ 35 nonmembers)

Minimum 10 / Maximum 25

Cancellation deadline: May 5

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1031745

2nd Annual Trivia Quiz Night

Join us for a lively evening guaranteed to be fun-filled with laughter, some friendly competition, and prizes for the winners. You don't have to be a master of trivia to play because you'll combine your particular area



of expertise with others. We're keeping it simple: eat dinner beforehand, but bring some beer and snacks if you'd like. There'll be soda and wine at the Clubhouse. Come with your own team of six or meet new friends once you arrive. We'll need a minimum of two teams (12 participants) to sign up. The fee covers wine and prizes.

Saturday, May 21

7:30 p.m. sharp

€ 8 Members or Partners

(€ 12 nonmembers)

Minimum 12 / Maximum 36

Cancellation deadline: May 19

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1028989

>> 22

Cancellation Policy

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



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FOR SHELL PEOPLE WE DRIVE WITH SHELL RULES

One of a Kind Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 21



Volunteer Appreciation Lunch and Honorary Member Tea

Have you volunteered your time and talents to the AWC over the past year? Of course you have! Whether you had a little or a lot of time to give, please come to lunch to celebrate the spirit of volunteerism which makes our Club so great. If your husband and/or children volunteered for our Club, and we know many did, please ask them to join you at the lunch. All are welcome!

Monday, May 23

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1036558

Boskoop Canal and Garden Center Tour

Join us on a tour of Boskoop, a town in the “Green Heart” of the Netherlands. It is known for its many nurseries and gardens. We will begin with a tour of Esveld Garden Center which specializes in rare and unusual plants. After our tour we will enjoy lunch (at own expense), followed by a 45-minute boat tour through the canals of Boskoop where a guide will tell us about Boskoop’s history and its nurseries. We will meet at the AWC and carpool to the Garden Center; please indicate if you are willing to



drive and how many passengers you can take.

Wednesday, June 1

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

€ 21 Members (€ 26 nonmembers)

Minimum 10

Cancellation deadline: May 27

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1044107

Painting Wine Glasses

Wouldn’t you love to find your inner Van Gogh, Karel Appel or Picasso...or maybe just have fun with a paintbrush to make something uniquely yours? Well, here’s your opportunity! Join us to learn the art of glass painting. Lisa from Borrel Art (www.borrelart.com) will show us all the techniques we need to know to create beautiful



works of art on two wine glasses. Also, since *borrel* is the Dutch word meaning “social event with drinks and snacks,” there will be a few light snacks and maybe a glass of wine or two to help the flow of creativity. What a great way to start the summer: making your own wine glasses to drink those wonderful summer whites, reds and rosés. Be sure to sign up on GroupSpaces for this fun and creative way to spend an afternoon.

Tuesday, June 7

12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

€ 55 Members (€ 60 nonmembers)

Minimum 5 / Maximum 10

Cancellation deadline: May 30

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1051986

2016 Prinsjesdag Luncheon

Early-bird registration for this annual luncheon will begin in July. The second floor of the Garoeda Restaurant is the perfect viewing opportunity for this traditional Dutch event. King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima ride from Noordeinde Palace to the Binnenhof and back in the famous golden coach with military escort, bands and horse-drawn carriages. The pomp and circumstance makes this a “must



see.” If you have been before, consider making it an annual event. Lunch includes Indonesian *rijsttafel* buffet, a glass of wine, and tea or coffee. There is commentary in both Dutch and English to explain the events we witness outside the windows. Plan to arrive by 11 a.m. as some streets are closed off for the parade. AWC Member-only early-bird registration will be available beginning in July and ending on August 15. Members will be allowed to register guests starting on August 16. This is a popular event with limited space, so register early to avoid disappointment.

Tuesday, September 20

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Garoeda Restaurant

Kneuterdijk 18a, Den Haag

Pricing still to be determined

Maximum 50

Cancellation deadline: September 16

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1051970



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AWC and the Arts

by Jane Choy

RSVP for all Arts Activities directly on AWC GroupSpaces.com.
Direct any questions to jechoy@me.com

Tour of the Royal Stables

The Royal Stables are responsible for preparing and providing all transport for the Royal Family. In the past this was just horses and carriages, but now the Stables also deal with cars, trains and aircraft. The best known of their carriages is the Golden Coach (*De Gouden Koets*), which was a present from the people of Amsterdam to Queen Wilhelmina on her ascension to the throne at the age of 18 in 1898. The Golden Coach is made of timber, which is covered with a layer of gold leaf. The pictures on the coach depict many allegorical symbols. The Golden Coach is used only once per year on Prinsjesdag, the opening of Parliament on the third Tuesday in September. Join us for an exclusive visit to this heritage-listed site in The Hague that is not normally open to the public. Please bring a valid ID with you.

Wednesday, May 25

2 – 4 p.m.

Royal Stables

Hogewal 17, Den Haag

€ 10 Members (€ 12.50 nonmembers)

Minimum 10 / Maximum 25

Cancellation deadline: May 12

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1026238



Mark Your Calendars for the Fall:

Tour of Royal Archives

King Willem I founded the Royal Archives in 1825 to manage the House of Orange's archives, library and historical collections. The archive comprises the personal archives of members of the House of Nassau and the House of Orange-Nassau from the 13th century to the present day. It also contains the archives of the Royal Household and its Officers and other individuals connected with the court. The archives are not open to the general public. Look for further details on this special tour in the September issue of *Going Dutch*.

Thursday, October 27
10 a.m.



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FAWCO Corner

by Elizabeth Kennedy

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

The Rebranding of FAWCO

In March 2015, a Rebranding FAWCO Task Force was appointed. Together with internationally experienced brand consultants Edwin and Sanja Schmidheiny of Accent Brand Consultants AG Zurich, a contemporary logo, tagline and Mission Statement were presented at the Interim Meeting in Frankfurt on March 11 to 13. The logo and tagline were approved by a vote of the FAWCO membership on March 13. After modification in response to feedback, the Mission Statement was approved the same day. The approved text is as follows:

FAWCO is an international federation of independent organizations whose mission is to:

- **Build strong support networks for its American and international membership**
- **Improve the lives of women and girls worldwide**
- **Advocate for the rights of US citizens overseas**
- **Mobilize the skills of its membership in support of global initiatives for education, the environment, health and human rights**

Thank You for Your Contribution

Once again the annual Handbag Auction was a huge success. Through the contribution of our Members, we were able to raise € 1,936 to help support the FAWCO Foundation and its programs. At the April General Meeting, **Becky Failor** announced that the AWC Board approved additional funds to round up the total donation to € 2,000 of which € 1,000 will be designated for a FAWCO Education Grant and € 1,000 will be designated for a FAWCO Development Grant.





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The Climate Mobilization

by Anne van Oorschot

FAWCO's Environment Task Force was recently contacted about cooperating with a new organization: The Climate Mobilization. This grass roots organization is based in the US and sees the confrontation of climate change as the great moral imperative of our time. Their view—backed by many scientists—is that the immense human suffering and damage to the natural world caused by climate change threatens the collapse of civilization within this century. The Climate Mobilization's goal is to increase awareness of the need to transition at emergency speed to a post-carbon economy and to get as many people as possible to take the "Pledge to Mobilize" (www.theclimatemobilization.org) and become involved. Their view is that the only way to successfully achieve the changes needed is with a WWII-scale climate mobilization.

Wow ... (I can almost hear you thinking) ... *that seems rather drastic*. The UN's Climate Change Conference in December resulted in a good agreement—isn't that good

enough? These are good questions, and while there is not always agreement on their answers, I do think more haste is needed to solve the climate problems than the Paris Agreement provides. The case for a wartime-style climate mobilization hinges on the argument that we need to transition to a post-carbon economy at emergency speed. Most proposals suggest a 35- to 85-year framework for the transition to a net-zero emissions economy. The Climate Mobilization's ten-year timeframe is grounded in the alarming findings of climate science—as opposed to the politics of "politically fashionable carbon gradualism."™ The Climate Mobilization's standpoint is not only that we need to move fast, but that the US has already shown their ability to do this in their mobilization for WWII. Let's look more closely at what mobilization is and what measures the pre-WWII mobilization entailed in the US.

Mobilization is an emergency restructuring of a modern industrial economy, typically

accomplished at rapid speed in order to fight a war. It is nothing less than a government-coordinated social and industrial revolution, and involves all citizens and impacts all areas of society. The World War II home front effort is considered the classic example of a successful economic mobilization.

While a powerful isolationist movement persuaded most Americans to ignore the gathering collapse of the international order in 1939 and the early 1940s, the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, flipped the mood of the country very suddenly to mobilization. Here are some of the far-reaching measures taken in the US:

- Factories rapidly converted from producing consumer goods to producing military products—shattering all historical records for war production.
- Women surged into factories!
- In early February 1942, the government banned private automobile production and essentially shut down the enormous private automobile industry for the remainder of the war.
- The government banned or restricted activities that did not contribute to the war effort, such as the production of civilian refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, phonographs, and washing machines.
- More than 10% of the population relocated, often across state lines, in order to find a "war job."
- The federal government poured money into the war effort, and employed more than 10 million Americans directly through the vastly expanded military.
- The government also distributed copious war production contracts, accruing huge budget deficits in the process. (At the peak of the war effort in 1944, defense spending constituted about 45% of GNP.)
- After more than a decade of depression, unemployment was quickly wiped out, dropping from 14.6% to 1.9% in five years' time. Some 17 million jobs were created, wages grew 55%, and corporate profits boomed.

- The federal government's Office of Price Administration controlled prices in order to minimize inflation and prevent price-gouging. (During the war, the American business community overwhelmingly supported price controls.)
- The National War Labor Board set wages in order to minimize inflation. (The majority of labor unions also pledged not to go on strike during the mobilization.)
- Citizens were called on to invest in war bonds, which helped in financing the war effort as well as creating a secure savings instrument for regular Americans.
- Women planted 50 million "victory gardens" that supplied 40% of America's vegetables during the war.
- Taxes were increased significantly, particularly on high earners, who were required to pay a steep "victory tax," the most progressive tax in American history. (The income tax rate on the highest earners was 94% in 1944. A tax on excess corporate profits provided 25% of revenues during the war.)
- The federal government instituted a rationing program in order to ensure a fair distribution of scarce resources on the home front, including gasoline, coffee, butter, tires, fuel oil, shoes, meat, cheese, and sugar.
- Equal access to jobs and scarce resources was a major component of the mobilization. >> 52



The Silence of Margraten Speaks

by Roberta Enschede

Memorial Ceremony
Sunday, May 29 at 3 p.m.
American War Cemetery, Margraten

On November 10, 1944, John David Singer, Jr., a 25-year-old infantryman was buried in Margraten. He was the first American soldier to rest in the green of the rolling land of Limburg. From that chilly day till the 30th day of March 1946, 17,738 Americans would be brought there to rest. Until the spring of 1945, sometimes 500 dead would be brought each day. There were so many, the mayor of Margraten had to go door-to-door to ask villagers to help the US military dig the graves.

When it was decided that Margraten would be the only American Cemetery in the Netherlands, 416 soldiers were moved from the cemetery at Son, near Eindhoven, and 795 from the cemetery at Molenhoek, near Nijmegen. Eighteen-thousand nine-hundred and forty-nine young Americans would rest in the land where fruit trees once grew. Their numbers would rise to 19,300 when soldiers who were buried where they fell were brought to join their comrades beneath the white wooden crosses and Stars of David.

In 1946, when Congress decreed that families could choose the final resting place of their loved ones, more than half took them home, including the family of John David Singer, Jr. who now rests in Denton, Maryland. They rest in little towns and cities all over America.

Today, there are 8,301 graves and 8,302 soldiers buried in Margraten. Two soldiers "Known Only to God," share a common grave—Plot 0, Row 5, Grave 9. There are 106 crosses with the words "Known Only to God," 40 pairs of brothers who rest side-by-side, 4 women and 1,722 names on the Wall of the Missing.

Every grave and every name on the Wall of the Missing is adopted by the people of Limburg. Today there is a waiting list of over 100 to *Adopt a Grave* or a name on the Wall. No matter when you go to Margraten, there are always flowers on scattered graves, perhaps for a birthday or the day of death, or Christmas, Easter or Memorial Day.

One very cold December when wet snow was on the ground, my husband and I stopped there as we always do when we visit Limburg. There was an older man and woman who got out of their car and trudged towards the cemetery with two shopping bags. They must have visited five or six graves. Each time, they'd bend down, take a Christmas arrangement out of one of their bags and place it by a white marble cross. The soldiers they adopted were not forgotten. When they finished, they looked over the white marble gleaming in the snow and matter-of-factly trudged out. I could tell it was simply part of what they do.

As I was leaving that day, a whole family arrived: grandparents, parents and a fellow about 18. They were all holding flowers. I walked over to them and said, "Thank you for remembering." They told me, proudly that their adopted graves were in the family for generations – and would always be. For the first Memorial Day, a Dutch person wrote these simple lines:

*You who enter this cemetery, look.
Remember the price your freedom took.*

These people remember. As an American, I am moved and very thankful.

Margraten speaks. The Silence of Margraten speaks! As you walk among the crosses and the stars, you find yourself stopping and

reading a name and a state and a date of death. You have no idea who this soldier was or what he looked like or what he could have become. The Silence of Margraten speaks of boys who never saw a gray hair, said "I do" and kissed their bride, experienced the joy of hearing the word "Daddy," or becoming a doctor or a fireman or a teacher or an auto mechanic or maybe even a Major League baseball player!

The Silence of Margraten is about Medal of Honor recipients whose white marble crosses have a gold star, and on the length of their cross in gleaming gold, the words "Medal of Honor":

Staff Sergeant George Peterson, New York
March 30, 1945 Plot D, Row 21, Grave 10

First Lieutenant Walter Will, New York
March 30, 1945 Plot D, Row 3, Grave 32

Lt. Colonel Robert G. Cole, Texas
September 18, 1944 Plot B, Row 15, Grave 27

The Silence of Margraten is about Major General Maurice Rose, the only general buried there whose comrades said, "He was killed where he was found most of the time —up front."

It's about Robert van Klinken, a Dutch-American, an auto mechanic from Washington whose grandfather immigrated from Groningen around 1887. He could even speak Dutch with the Groningen accent he learned from his grandfather; he died near Eindhoven on September 20, 1944, in the land of his grandfather's birth.

It's about Medic Private First Class Lloyd R. "Smitty" Smith.

It's about Private Dellapenta, 101st Airborne, the Screaming Eagles, who was a

sophomore at Cornell University when he volunteered. Before he died, he wrote home that he was "bothered by men going to Mass with their knives and guns strapped on."

An Israeli poet wrote: "Each Man Has a Name given him by God and given him by his father and mother." She concluded, "Each man has a name given him by the sea and given him by his Death."

Chiseled in the white marble of Margraten are the words of Pericles of Athens. *Each for his own memorial earned praise that will never die and with it the grandest of all sepulchers not that in which his mortal bones are laid but a home in the minds of men.*

On the 29th day of May 1945, the day before the first Memorial Day, people spent all night putting flowers on the dirt-covered graves: irises and wild poppies from the fields and roses and pansies. Thousands came walking or on horses, bikes and carriages. Thousands continue to come.

This year will be the 71st Memorial Day at Margraten. Come. Bring your friends and your children. You will never forget the green and rolling land of Limburg, the white marble crosses interspersed with Stars of David, the rhododendrons red with life, the F-16s that streak over the Memorial and the lone plane that breaks away and disappears beyond the horizon, beyond where we can see-the Missing Man Formation. What more fitting tribute.

*You who enter this cemetery look.
Remember the price your freedom took.*

From May 1 to May 5, the Faces of Margraten will feature photos placed next to their graves of more than 4,000 of those buried.

Directions: From Maastricht, take the N278 road in the direction of Cadier en Keer and Margraten. After you pass Cadier en Keer, you will see the American War Cemetery on your right.

For further information, contact OAR ~ Overseas Americans Remember at oarinnl@yahoo.com or roberta@robertaenschede.com.

MAY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Walkie Talks 9:30 a.m.	3 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m.	4 Pilates 10:15 a.m.	5 Wassenaar Coffee and Conversation 9 a.m. AWC Board Meeting 10:30 a.m.	6	7
8 <div>Mother's Day</div>	9 Special Walkie Talks: Haagse Bos and Lunch 9:30 a.m.	10 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m.	11 Farmer's Cheese Making Workshop 10 a.m. Pilates 10:15 a.m.	12 Installation of Officers 10:30 a.m.	13 Cranium Night 7:30 p.m.	14
15	16 Walkie Talks 9:30 a.m.	17 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m.	18 Pilates 10:15 a.m. Evening Book Club 7:30 p.m.	19 Out to Lunch Bunch- Leiden Tour/Lunch 10:30 a.m.	20	21 2nd Annual Trivia Quiz Night 7:30 p.m.
22	23 Walkie Talks 9:30 a.m. Volunteer Appreciation Lunch and Tea 11:30 a.m.	24 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. Heart Pillow Workshop Noon	25 Pilates 10:15 a.m. Tour of the Royal Stables 2 p.m.	26 Daytime Book Club 10 a.m.	27	28
29 Margraten Ceremony 3 p.m.	30 Walkie Talks 9:30 a.m.	31 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m.				

JUNE 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Upcoming Fall Events: Sept 14: Fall Kick Off Evening Hours Sept 15: Fall Kick Off Daytime Hours Sept 20: Prinsjesdag Luncheon		1 Tour of Esveld Garden Center and Boskoop 10 a.m. Pilates 10:15 a.m.	2	3	4
5	6 Walkie Talks 9:30 a.m.	7 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. Paint Your Wine Glasses 12:30 p.m.	8 Pilates 10:15 a.m. Evening Book Club 7:30 p.m.	9 Coffee 10 a.m. General Meeting 10:30 a.m. Luncheon Noon	10 Out to Lunch Bunch 12:30 a.m.	11
12	13 Walkie Talks 9:30 a.m.	14 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m.	15 Pilates 10:15 a.m.	16	17	18
19 <div>Father's Day</div>	20 Walkie Talks 9:30 a.m.	21 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m.	22 Pilates 10:15 a.m.	23 Daytime Book Club 10 a.m.	24 Dinner Club TBD	25
26	27 Walkie Talks 9:30 a.m.	28 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m.	29 Pilates 10:15 a.m.	30		



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FIND THE BOUTIQUE ON WWW.FAWCOFOUNDATION.ORG/BACKINGWOMENBOUTIQUE

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Backing Women: Stand Up Against Human Trafficking FAWCO Experience October 6 – 7 Symposium October 8 – 9

EXCLUSIVE: FAWCO Member Experience

We are developing a special program for FAWCO Members (all AWC Members are automatically FAWCO Members) as a precursor to the Backing Women: Stand Up Against Human Trafficking Symposium.

Thursday, October 6 in Amsterdam

Experience the reality that legalized prostitution in the Netherlands is modern slavery. This pre-tour is not sex tourism. It is a real behind-the-scenes look into prostitution with two of our Symposium partners as your guides.

Friday, October 7 in Amsterdam and The Hague

Embark on a journey where you will experience the unimaginable. We begin with in an informative tour at a women's shelter in Amsterdam for trafficked victims. After lunch, we move to The Hague where Humanity House will be our host to show you what it is like to be a refugee without friends, family or anyone to help you find your way.

Registration

Stay tuned for announcements, updates and registration. Please note that the FAWCO Experience will be capped to the first 50 Members to register. This is a separate ticket and registration from the Symposium.

Program Chairs are:
**Mary Adams and Johanna
Dishongh.**

If you are interested in learning more
about our Volunteer Committees,
please contact: **Mary Adams** at
vpfundraising@fawcofoundation.org
or **Julie Mowat** at jjbbmow@msn.com

Symposium

The symposium will cover two days, from Saturday, October 8 to Sunday, October 9 at Nieuwspoor, International Press Club of The Hague. The Symposium is open to all FAWCO Members as well as the general public.

Objectives

1. Education and Awareness: Human trafficking is human slavery.

- Understand how organizations partner and apply social tools to provide skills, literacy and safety that enable sex and labor trafficked survivors to become empowered to create a new life for themselves and their children.
- FAWCO's international involvement in human rights for women

2. Take Action: Motivate participants on how to stand up against human trafficking as "everyday heroes."

- Detect and Report
- Awareness and Education
- Conscientious Consumerism
- Policy-Making

Additionally, the Symposium will create a networking space for open dialogue with sustainable rescue operations, civil society, press and other stakeholders. The Symposium will facilitate a candid exchange of views and information, insights, solutions and practical toolkits.

Participants will include national and international human trafficking organizations, women's rights groups and networks, academic institutions, FAWCO Member Clubs, media and private sector.

Registration

Stay tuned for announcements, updates and registration. Note that this is a separate event from the FAWCO Experience and requires registration.

The Dutch Daily

by Eileen Harloff

New Modern Art Museum

The Hague area will be culturally enriched this autumn when the museum housing the collection of mainly 20th century paintings, sculptures, collages, photos, videos and artists' books of Dutch industrialist Joop van Caldenborgh is officially opened. Voorlinden Museum (www.voorlinden.nl) itself is a work of art designed by architect Dirk Jan Postel. It consists of two levels, one 25 feet (7.5 meters) above ground and the remainder below, and features glass and sand-colored concrete blending into the surrounding landscape. In addition to rooms devoted to permanent and temporary exhibitions—some 43,000 square feet (4,000 square meters)—there will also be an auditorium, a library and a museum shop. The museum complex will be located on the Voorlinden Estate in Wassenaar; the original home, dating back to 1912 and designed by English architect R. J. Johnston in the English manor style and now a national monument, will become a restaurant for the complex. Among the artists whose works will be displayed are a range of Dutch and Belgian artists, along with such world-renowned names as Damien Hirst, Tracy Emin, Anselm Kiefer, and Ai Weiwei.

The museum's creator, Joop van Caldenborgh, is the owner of Caldic, a Rotterdam-based chemical company. He lives on the Clingenbosch Estate in Wassenaar where he has a large sculpture garden, also named Caldic—open to visitors only upon request. Wim Pijbes, currently Director of the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam who so successfully directed the major renovation and

renewal of that museum, has been named Director of this new private museum. The curator of the museum will be Suzanne Swarts.

News from The Mauritshuis

Currently on display at the Mauritshuis Museum is its newly acquired painting *Vase with Flowers in a Stone Niche*, painted by Roelant Savery in 1615, which was recently bought at the famous art market TEFAF in Maastricht for the sum of € 6.5 million. The Mauritshuis is one of the few museums in the world that has a collection of flower still lifes dating from the 16th to 18th centuries, and so is delighted with its latest acquisition. It can be found in Room 8, hanging alongside flower still lifes by Jacob de Gheyn and Ambrosius Bosschaert. According to Museum Director Emilie Gordenker, Savery's work differs from that of his contemporaries in that it is less balanced, has flowers from different seasons, and includes flies and creepy-crawlies and a wild thorn in the middle. The painting was acquired with the financial help of the BankGiro Lottery, the Rembrandt Vereniging and private donors.

Vase of Flowers in a Stone Niche, 1615



From Embassy to Museum

From its very beginning in 1958, the US Embassy building on the stately Lange Voorhout in The Hague has been controversial. Its design by renowned Hungarian architect Marcel Breuer was condemned by many; comments ranged from “it looks like a prison” to “it is too modern for the neighborhood.” As for the building materials used, comments included, “it makes the building look dark and dreary,” “it is too massive,” and “it’s a blot on the landscape.” Eventually people became used to it, although were not necessarily happy with it.

Then came September 11, 2001, with the Al-Qaeda attacks in the US. The Netherlands government closed off the street in front of the Embassy, surrounded the building with fencing, and set up a manned watch tower in front of the building. No longer could people drop by to use the Embassy library or to ask for information; the building looked like it was under siege. This situation lasted for at least a decade. Gradually the ugly buildings and blocks set up to deter an attack were at least partially removed, and the Embassy sank into a gloomy-looking citadel. Finally, the word came down from Washington that a new embassy would be built outside the city center, and a plot in Wassenaar was designated for the construction of a new embassy, which is scheduled to be finished by next year—*deo volente*.

So, what was to become of that massive grey building? Many suggestions were offered, among which one of the loudest was to tear it down and replace it with something else. Another proposal, which gradually gained approval, was to keep the building as it was of architectural interest and to make at least part of it into a museum. And if that were the choice, why not move the M.C. Escher collection from

its current location in the Palace Lange Voorhout to the vacant building down the street? Moreover, the collection would not take up all of the building, so there would be room for a five-star hotel there as well. This would be a boon to the area by creating jobs, brightening up the neighborhood, and making use of available space. It appears that this is now the solution that has been chosen—at least until another idea may take root.

Now, what is to happen with the Palace Lange Voorhout (the former starting place for the Queen's carriage ride to open the Houses of Parliament each September)? One suggestion is to turn this into a museum devoted to Delft Blue items down through the ages. Time will tell.

Dutch “Eggs” in New York

The VDL Group is a Dutch family business that started in 1953 and has grown into an international industrial conglomerate of 87 companies in 19 countries. Headquartered in Eindhoven, one of the company's latest orders is to provide 36 capsules, each in the form of an egg about 33 feet (10 meters) high that can accommodate 40 people. These eggs will be attached to a huge Ferris wheel, similar to the London Eye, that is being erected on Staten Island, New York. In some of the capsules, drinks and food will be on offer during the 38-minute ride. Other companies of the VLD Group have been charged with the task of designing and installing the wheel and various of its components. Behind schedule and with costs escalating, current projections are for completion in 2017. When finished, the giant Ferris wheel will be a new attraction for Staten Island, carrying up to 30,000 passengers per day, and a feather in the cap of the designers and installers, adding approximately € 200 million to the group's income.



Heart Pillow Project

by Eileen Baker

Looking back to September at our first Heart Pillow Workshop for the Club Year, I am truly amazed at what a small group of women can accomplish in eight months! I am so pleased to report that over 300 pillow sets were completed and delivered to two area hospitals: MCH Antonioushove and Reinier de Graaf. Many thanks to all the volunteers who donated their time to the Heart Pillow Project. Your caring heart and simple skills have made a difference in the life of someone with breast cancer.

Among the many pillows delivered this year, 90 sets were made by 3 special groups of students from the British School in the Netherlands, the International School of The Hague and the USA Girl Scouts Overseas SU 602. The Heart Pillow Project provided an opportunity for them to develop their creativity, set clear goals and give back to their community. Once the pillows were completed they were given to the AWC who donated them on their behalf. They did a great job!

Have a wonderful summer and thank you again for providing women with something not only practical, but comforting as well.



An Insider's View: Windsor Castle

by Ellen Bolick

Over the years, I have been privileged to hold jobs in many different and interesting areas. The most unusual, and to me the most fulfilling, were the six years I spent as a member of the Royal Household in England based at Windsor Castle.

We moved back to Great Britain and bought a house in Windsor in the autumn of 2007. From the end of our street, the gray monolith of Windsor Castle loomed over the town. In the spring of 2008, an advertisement for the post of wardens at the castle appeared in the local paper. Duties would include security in the Admission Center, and inside and outdoor postings in the castle and its precincts. I had a Master's Degree in Medieval History and a life-long interest in British history, so I sent in a resume to see what would happen.

Within a week, an administrative officer called to schedule an interview. I was surprised and told her that I had assumed only British

people would be considered for these posts. She replied that as the castle had international visitors, they wanted international staff. A thick packet of forms soon arrived in the mail forming the basis of a nine-week-long background security check—it took much longer than usual as I was American with credentials based overseas. The staff at the castle were thorough, checking details all the way back to my grandparents.

Once the security checks were complete, I was given a start date and duly presented myself to the police stationed at the Advance Gate. The Head Warden took charge of our group of three and gave us more paperwork. We were then taken to the uniform storage area and fitted with a navy skirt, tunic-length single-breasted jacket, white shirt, and necktie. Both male and female wardens wear distinctive navy jackets with red collars and cuffs—a design created by George III in the 18th century. Indeed, in some portraits of the King, you can see him wearing the same style of jacket.



Early days on the job were spent shadowing more experienced wardens, and I soaked up their stories, admonitions, and general advice. We were given lessons in the operation of the scanners and x-ray machines in the Admission Center and instructed carefully about what to look for: knives, pepper spray, alcohol in any form, the occasional live animal and scissors. In a more gray area, we also screened for inappropriate clothing. Largely, this involved asking teenagers to turn inside out their t-shirts printed with obscene or scatological slogans; most were cooperative, if somewhat surprised, about doing so.

The role of the warden in the State Apartments was structured as well. My first weeks involved a certain amount of bantering from the male wardens: I was instructed to curtsy before the portrait of George III as “he was your last King so you should curtsy each time you pass him.” Demands to supply the teabags in the wardens’ coffee room were justified as reparations for the Boston Tea Party. Once we got past all that, I settled in quickly as the learning curve for State Apartment wardens is fairly steep.

We were assigned to one room each day and on subsequent days would be moved to the next room. I had to learn as quickly as possible the history of that room: who had painted the pictures or ceilings and what were their subjects, and the history and provenance of the furniture or *objets d’art*. This involved intense study of the guidebook, use of the reference library, use of the castle intranet to fill in details, and attendance at the staff training seminars given after hours by the Senior Curators and Surveyors (an invaluable opportunity



to be instructed by some of the best art historians in the country). I also had to master the evacuation route for each room through the mazes of stairs and corridors behind the State Apartments. And, more difficult for me, I had to approach strangers to ask them politely to stop doing any one of four proscribed behaviors while in the castle.

Four rules. That’s all. Number one: no guiding, except for official tours, was permitted. This was enforced largely to keep the traffic flow moving. Number two: no use of mobile phones was permitted—in fact, the damn things had to be turned OFF. This was hugely contentious given people’s dependence on their devices. Number three: no touching, including the silk wallpapers, furniture, or precious objects displayed within reach. Two teenagers were once found sitting on Queen Charlotte’s bed in the King’s Bedroom—now protected by an infrared motion sensor. And finally, number four, the biggest and most controversial prohibition of all: no photography. In case I was the warden who asked you to put away your camera or to stop taking pictures with your phone, here’s why.

Photography was not allowed at Windsor Castle during my tenure because many years ago, a visitor laid down at the top of the Imperial Staircase to photograph the intricate and beautiful ceiling of the Grand Vestibule. People ascending the stairs tripped over the photographer, resulting in injuries. So firstly, there was a health and safety issue. In addition, not all of the objects on display are owned by the Royal Collection, and some of the images of the artworks are protected by copyright. And lastly, the castle is the monarch’s home,



An Insider's View: Windsor Castle (cont.)

Continued from page 39

and it was felt that taking photos inside the Queen's home breached the limits of courteous and respectful behavior. By the time I had explained all of this, most visitors said they understood—possibly just to escape!

At the same time, there were days of extraordinary quiet, even boredom, usually during the early winter months. Kate Hubbard, writing in her book, *Serving Victoria*, quotes the letter of advice written to Georgiana Liddell by her mother on the advent of Georgiana's appointment as lady-in-waiting to Queen Victoria, "You must accustom yourself," she wrote, "to sit or stand for hours without any amusement save the resources of your own thoughts." One hundred and sixty years later, this is still a requirement of present-day wardens.

One of the most challenging tasks, though, was to try to answer the questions of the public. Despite my efforts to learn the history within each apartment, visitors would frequently want to know very practical things: when were flush toilets installed? Where does the Queen keep her television? How are the chandeliers cleaned, and how many prisms are there? Sometimes the questions had to be answered with the greatest tactfulness so that the visitor would not be embarrassed. In St George's Hall, for instance, the ceiling is covered with the shields of the Knights of the Order of the Garter, the highest chivalric order in the United Kingdom, founded by Edward III in 1348. A Garter knighthood is the personal gift of the Sovereign. Often, people would ask "where is Sir Lancelot's shield?" or "where is Paul McCartney's or Elton John's?" Another question (my favorite) flummoxed a fellow warden, who was asked by a visitor about Henry VIII. Before she could reply, the visitor said, "You know the one I mean: the one who chopped off the head of his American girlfriend!"

I enjoyed the way the seasons were marked at the castle. Early spring saw the arrival of more than 18,000 daffodil blossoms on the

mound of the Round Tower. One of the most iconic sights, to me, occurred on a Sunday afternoon in late spring 2012. I was posted in the dimly-lit Lantern Lobby and had walked out briefly into St George's Hall, whose tall windows were letting in the sunshine. The carriage driving competition was being held that weekend, and there below me, standing quietly by herself on the grass in the quadrangle that fronts the Private Apartments, stood the Queen, intently watching three carriages being readied for the competition. She was wearing a claret-colored dress, and that single burst of color against the gray stone of the building and the greenness of the grass, combined with the beauty of the horses and the vintage carriages, seemed to capture the essence of this Queen's reign.

As springtime gave way, however, summers at the castle passed in a blur of multitudes of visitors and often hot, crowded conditions. The changing colors of the foliage in the Great Park marked the end of the peak of the tourist year, but my favorite season at the castle was Christmas.

The castle was decorated each year for Christmas from about the end of the first week in December to early January. Christmas trees were hung from the ceilings in the Semi-State Apartments as they had been during Queen Victoria's reign. Lavish boughs of greenery draped the balconies in St George's Hall, and huge, live Christmas trees were placed throughout the apartments. A roaring fire was tended by the Fendersmith (the Queen's fire builder) in the fireplace of the Crimson Drawing Room. Visitors seemed to love touring the castle at this time of year, and staff held it in special affection, too.

Traditions involving the staff were carefully maintained at Christmas. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh gave each member of the Household a Christmas pudding made by Fortnum's with a special recipe used only for the Queen. After a designated number of years



of service, the Queen personally presented a gift to each warden, one of the most exciting and nerve-wracking events of the year. There was a Christmas luncheon for the staff prepared by her Head Chef, and each year, the wardens and other departmental staff assembled for two evenings of caroling in the castle precincts. During one of the evenings (we were never informed in advance which it would be), we moved to the main entrance of the Private Apartments and were joined in singing carols by the Queen and the Duke. Afterwards, we shared a glass of mulled wine with them as the corgis milled about our feet. Another carol-singing custom involved a long walk through the park to the Royal Dairy Farm. Traditionally, the carolers always sing *Away in a Manger* to the dozens of pale brown cows, who seem to love it. As the verses of the carol filled the cold air, the cows moved in a mass quietly to the end of the pen where we were singing and stood rapt. It was particularly poignant one year when one of the cows had just calved, and she and her newborn came to the fence to listen.

A further perk of working in the Royal Household was an invitation every three years to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. I was

fortunate enough to attend two. Preparation for the event involved a thorough search for a proper dress and, more crucially, the right kind of hat. The Garden Parties are huge with generally 8,000 people in attendance; the guests will have done something significant with charities or other good works to merit an invitation. Once through the queues, guests are released into the garden, which has a huge marquis for refreshments where they collected a plate of miniature pastries, sandwiches, elegant desserts and a cup of tea, and awaited the arrival of the Royal Family. After the national anthem was sung, guests were free to roam the rose gardens and to watch the fashion parade crossing the lawns.

>> 42



An Insider's View: Windsor Castle (cont.)

Continued from page 41

Windsor Castle is special. Working or visiting there permits time travel. Since the State Rooms in Buckingham Palace were designed by one architect, John Nash, they have a homogeneity to them. Windsor, by contrast, is the oldest continually inhabited castle in Europe, and every monarch has stamped his or her presence on it. The Round Tower is the most dominant feature of the castle and was constructed by William the Conqueror's men from 1080 to 1090. The red, blue and yellow royal standard flies from its mast when the Queen is in residence; the Union Jack if she is not. St George's Chapel, built by Edward IV and subsequent monarchs on the site of an earlier church, is the home of the Order of the Garter and is one of the loveliest medieval Gothic churches in the country. On entering the State Apartments, visitors first encounter the Dolls' House created for Queen Mary in 1923. Many of the male visitors balked at spending time in the queue to see this, believing that it was too childish to be of interest. However, the Dolls' House was never a toy and is crammed with original art works, albeit very small ones. The cars run, the elevators go up and down, and even the toilets flush.

On entering the Waterloo Chamber, the first apartment on the visitors' route, one is transported to Britain's Regency era and George IV's attempt to honor all the heroes who defeated Napoleon in 1815. On the right is a portrait of William, Prince of Orange, whose flame-colored hair is the same shade as his title. Moving further along, one enters the rooms where Charles II slept and entertained his closest companions. A stunning piece of marquetry in the Queen's Drawing Room, called the seaweed writing desk, is the work of Gerrit Jensen, a Dutch craftsman of the late 17th century; across from it is *A View of Windsor Castle* by Leonard Knyff, who was born in The Hague. St George's Hall is medieval in appearance, but is actually the creation of Giles Down, who restored it after the devastating fire of 1992. He had three small corgi heads sculpted in relief in the firebox of the fireplace in honor of the

Queen's dogs—although most tourists never notice this small detail. The shields overhead and in the window bays denote the coats of arms of the Knights of the Garter. If you visit the castle, look for Prince William's (number 1000) in a window bay, and the shields of Queens Wilhelmina, Juliana, and Beatrix at numbers 849, 919, and 970, respectively.

The opulence of the Semi-State Apartments reverts to the tastes of George IV, who is credited, with bemusement, with having invented spending. There is also the Queen's private chapel nearby, which is not open to the public, but which is entirely modern in construction (the old one was actually the site of the origin of the fire in 1992) and is elegantly furnished with a simple altar table by David Linley, Princess Margaret's son, and a Renaissance altarpiece. The room also contains a beautiful stained glass window designed by the Duke of Edinburgh. In a corner panel, a firefighter trains a hose on the burning façade of the castle, a tribute to the brave men who fought the fire.

If you visit London, please catch a train to Windsor from Waterloo Station. Allow a half a day for your visit, not the 90 minutes allocated by most tour guides. The town is pleasant and worth a visit itself, but the castle remains one of the jewels in Britain's monarchical crown. You may see the florists hard at work creating beautifully colored and fragrant floral displays for a State Dinner in the Waterloo Chamber; you may hear an orchestra rehearsing for an investiture, or smell the scents of baking coming from the kitchens. In addition to soaking up a thousand years of history and viewing some of the "best of the best" in art and furnishings, a visit to Windsor Castle enables many visitors to experience a "working" castle and opens a window onto the lives of the people who support the monarch's work as the Head of State. And by all means, please ask a warden about anything that arouses your curiosity. The best moments for all of us occur when chatting with our guests.

Announcements

Dutch Remembrance Evening

(*Herdenking*)

Wednesday, May 4 is the 71st annual Dutch Remembrance Day. Two minutes of silence are observed at 8 p.m. each year to remember all those who have died, in war and in peace operations, during and since the outbreak of World War II. For information about commemorations around the country, visit: www.4en5mei.nl. Locally, a commemoration will take place at the dunes of Scheveningen: a silent procession on the Waalsdorpervlakte, where people were put to death by the occupying forces during World War II. www.erepeloton.nl

Dutch Liberation Day

(*Bevrijdingsdag*)

Whereas May 4 is a day of sadness and commemoration, May 5 is the "Day of Liberation"—with celebrations marking the end of the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. This year marks 71 years of freedom. Celebrations are held throughout the country. To see what's happening at the free festival at the Malieveld in The Hague, go to: www.bevrijdingsfestivalvaldenhaag.nl.

Follow-up to Margraten Lecture

The AWC was very honored to have Keith Stadler, the Superintendent of the Netherlands American Cemetery at Margraten, as the guest speaker at our March General Meeting. Several ladies from the AWCA in Amsterdam attended this meeting. They have since extended an invitation for us to come to their May General



Meeting so we can learn about the village of Opijnen where an American B-17 with a crew of ten crashed in 1943. The eight who died were buried by the villagers, who have been taking care of their graves ever since.

Monday, May 9

Coffee: 10 a.m.

Meeting: 11 a.m.

Andaz Hotel

Prinsengracht 587, Amsterdam

DFAS Art Lecture

Meissen Porcelain: "White Gold" of Saxony

Augustus the Strong and Johan Friedrich Bottger overcame financial and technical problems to create a new type of porcelain in the early 18th century. Later craftsmen made superb tableware, models of animals and delightful small scale figures. Lecturer Anne Haworth was formerly a senior ceramics specialist for Christie's and Bonham's, and now regularly

>> 44



the international Anglican Church in the Leiden area

every Sunday
Church Service

with children's &
youth programme



10.30 am
BSN Senior School
Voorschoten

Contact:
Ruan Crew (chaplain)
chaplain@stjames.nl
071-5613020

Tim Carroll (youth minister)
youthminister@stjames.nl
06-46697651

www.stjames.nl

Announcements (cont.)

Continued from page 43



lectures at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Non-DFAS member fee is € 12. www.dfas.nl
Tuesday, May 10
8 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.)
Cultural Centrum Warenar
Kerkstraat 75, Wassenaar

Delta Lloyd North Sea Regatta

The largest Dutch sailing event on the North Sea starts on Tuesday, May 3 with the 110-mile Fire Ships (*Vuurschepen*) Race from Scheveningen to Harwich, England. The Regatta will be held from May 13 to 16 with over 500 boats of 25 different classes, including yachts and catamarans, competing in races starting from Scheveningen Harbor. www.nsr.nl

National Windmill Days

National Windmill Days will be held on Saturday, May 14 and Sunday, May 15. Nine



hundred and fifty windmills and watermills throughout the country will be open to the public. It is an ideal opportunity for young and old to experience these historical works that have played such an important role in the development of the Netherlands. Participating mills are identified by the blue flag, spinning blades or festive flags and are listed on the website: www.nationalemolendag.nl.

Dutch Beer Tasting Festival

The Grote Kerk in The Hague will provide a unique setting for 40 Dutch breweries to showcase their best beers during the weekend of May 19 to 21. www.weekvanhetnederlandsebieer.nl

Opera Days in Rotterdam

Operadagen (Opera Days) Rotterdam is an opera and music theater festival at various venues around Rotterdam from May 20 to 29. www.operadagenrotterdam.nl

Tong Tong Fair

The world's largest Eurasian Festival is held annually at the Malieveld in The Hague. Many of the exhibitors come from Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia just for this event. From May 28 – June 5, there will be cultural events, an East-West fair, food fest and street vendors. www.tong-tongfair.nl



Day of Architecture

Every year, cities around the country allow the public a chance to look inside some of their special buildings.

On Saturday, June 4, you can take a look inside unique buildings in The Hague that are otherwise closed to the public. There will be free guided tours (some of them in English), and architects will present information about the design and history of the various buildings. www.dvda-den Haag.nl

Japanese Gardens



Don't miss a chance to take a stroll through the serene Japanese Gardens in Clingendael Park in The Hague. There is no charge to visit these gardens, which are open daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. through June 5.

Holland Festival

The 69th edition of this international festival in Amsterdam runs from June 4 to 26 and features a mix of mainstream and experimental opera, theater, music, dance and film at a variety of venues. For more info: www.hollandfestival.nl

Open Garden Days

Each year, several Amsterdam Canal Museums organize Open Garden Days. On June 17 to 19 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., you will be allowed a rare glimpse into 25 canal gardens. Tickets can be purchased at the sponsoring museums: www.opentuinendagen.nl.

Flag Day (*Vlaggetjesdag*)

On Saturday, June 18 is a festival celebrating the arrival of the first herring (*Hollandse*

Nieuwe) in Scheveningen. Hundreds of thousands of people gather for the festivities and the fishing boats are decorated especially for the occasion. The first barrel of herring is traditionally sold at an auction on the preceding Thursday with the proceeds going to charity. Visitors are invited to watch demonstrations by rescue teams, participate in old Dutch children's games, tour boats and old fire engines, and enjoy the many colorful traditional costumes. www.vlaggetjesdag.com

Scottish Country Dancing Party



The Scottish Society of the Netherlands invites the AWC to a Summer Ceilidh (Scottish country dancing). There is no previous experience needed. Similar to American squaring dancing, there is a "caller" who walks everyone through each dance before the music starts and then calls out the moves throughout. Tickets are € 25 and includes a light meal. www.standrews.nl

Saturday, June 18

7 – 11 p.m.

British School of the Netherlands
Diamanthorst 16, Den Haag

Leiden Culinary Festival and Boat Parade

On Thursday, June 23, Leiden launches its Culinary Festival, which runs through Sunday, June 26; entrance is free for this great opportunity to try small portions from several of Leiden's best restaurants while being entertained by live music. That Friday evening, Leiden hosts its annual boat parade when 150,000 spectators will gather to watch decorated boats make their >> 50

Impressions of India - Part 2

by Celeste Brown

Our trip to India in December 2015 was the culmination of many months of planning and three weeks of bliss that have given us a lifetime of beautiful memories. After such a trip, there are fun anecdotes to share. Here are a few, from our eyes and hearts, about this fascinating country.

I'm not prone to generalizations but ... Indians have beautiful smiles. We saw this wherever we went: at the wedding, traveling, or just shopping. When a person smiled, it was as if the sun would shine brightly across their face. Every ... single ... time. Incredible.

Our tour guides directed us to restaurants that were government approved for international tourists in order to cut down on the incidence of "Delhi belly." The food everywhere was delicious, and much better than westernized Indian cuisine. What intrigued me most was the menu layout. A western menu typically lists main courses in two categories, the "main" one and then a few vegetarian options at the end. A typical Indian menu was different. The first sections (or pages) were "Veg," followed by the rest of the menu: "Non-Veg." We did indeed eat more vegetarian food during those three weeks than ever before.



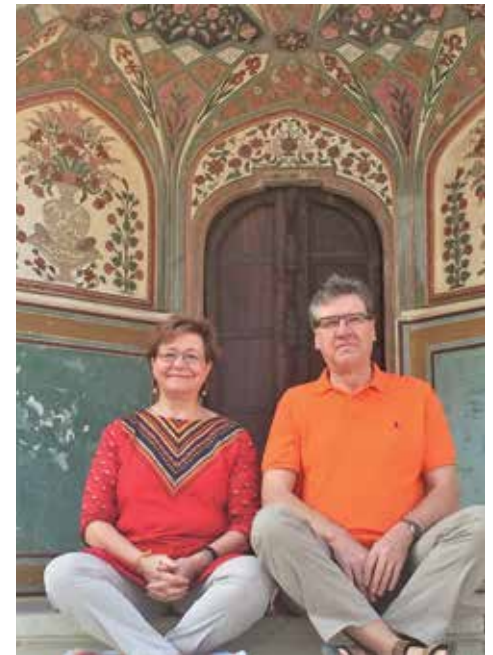
One cannot fathom the size and scope of large Indian cities. Delhi has 25 million residents and Mumbai has 21 million. In comparison, the Netherlands (an entire country, of course, albeit a small one) has a mere 17 million residents, and New York City, the largest US city, has 8 million. Many people told us that India's biggest problem is that there are too many people. It seems that



government birth control measures in years past were not merely unsuccessful—they were miserable failures.

The country struggles to provide for its burgeoning masses. There are few governmental social services, and people save what they can throughout their working lives to provide for their retirement years. Many older couples live in their later years with their employed adult children. The elders help take care of young children so the "tweener" parents can both work.

There is a huge dichotomy between the rich and the poor. In all honesty, despite this



disparity, everyone we met was interesting, hardworking, and accepting of their lot in life while still finding ways to improve it. All were very proud to be Indian.

>>48



Impressions of India - Part 2 (cont.)

Continued from page 47

One of my favorite memories was our tour through Dharavi, the largest slum in Mumbai. We wanted to see the enterprises that are based there and were intrigued to see sights such as men sewing suitcases on large sewing machines, men sorting plastics that were ultimately recycled, pottery being molded, and many others. While walking through a residential area with sheets hanging in each doorway to serve as a door, we passed a typical mother/daughter moment. The mother was brushing her daughter's long hair for a ponytail and they were sharing a private laugh together. They stopped and smiled at us as we walked by. A typical moment for many mothers and daughters around the world. The fact that this took place in a slum did not diminish the beauty of the moment.

My cousin Paul has visited India many times and is quite experienced with maneuvering through various social situations. He had warned me about the swarms of people we would encounter, including beggars and



hawkers. Now, after my experiences, I believe every visitor should follow their own conscience when deciding how to react to a beggar. For hawkers, though, my cousin had a simple suggestion. *Aj nahi* means "not today," a polite way to tell the hawker that you aren't interested in buying the wares today, but ... maybe tomorrow. That approach would not be seen as offensive, counseled Paul, and the person would be impressed that Hindu was spoken by a tourist. Good plan, I thought, and I said, "*Aj nahi*" several times with great success. Then one day, a hawker selling guide books continued putting the books in front of me as we walked towards the restaurant for lunch. As I had the other times, I said, "*Aj nahi*" as nicely as possible. The man stared at me for about five seconds, burst into laughter and said to me in English, "Then tomorrow?" He'd caught me. We shared a good laugh together, I went into lunch, and the hawker had a great story to tell his friends.



Traffic ... when to honk, when not to honk, when to nudge forward, left or right, always with the foot on the brake. After our first days of surviving all forms of Indian road traffic, we knew that we had made the right choice by having an Indian-chauffeured car for the duration of our trip. We continued to express amazement at the crazy driving habits, and a tour guide finally told us the essential rules of the road. To drive in India, you need three things: good brakes, a good horn, and good luck!

My husband Jaap and I often make one-euro bets over silly whatnots: will this happen or will that happen? After a few days of Indian traffic and many close calls nearly hitting other cars, Jaap bet me one euro that before



our three-week trip was over, our car would have been dinged at least once. A logical bet, but still I won. (As usual!)

Last, but not least: were there cows on the roads? Yes. Not many in the cities (too much traffic!), but those sacred cows do have the right of way at all times. Holy cow!



Message from the President (cont.)

Continued from page 8

a fun time with a tasty dinner and dancing to the Van Hoytema Band.

The Heart Pillow Project brings our Club in contact with women in need in our Dutch community. For the past four years, **Eileen Baker** has led this effort. She has helped get students involved in making pillows at ASH, the British School and most recently the International School. As Eileen will leave the Netherlands this

summer, we all say "Thank you" for her gentle leadership.

Have a great summer!

See you soon,

Becky
MAY/JUNE 2016 49

Announcements (cont.)

Continued from page 45



way through the city's lovely canals. www.leidenculinair.nl and www.lakenfeesten.nl

Dutch Veterans Day

On Saturday, June 25, thousands of veterans from all over the country will descend upon The Hague to take part in Veterans Day. This event focuses on acknowledging and showing appreciation for war veterans, but also features many activities that are fun and exciting for everyone. There will be festivities at Malieveld including a parade and flyovers of many different kinds of jets, airplanes and helicopters over the Hofvijver. www.veteranendag.nl

Parkpop

One of Europe's largest free pop festivals will be held in The Hague's Zuiderpark on Sunday, June 26. www.parkpop.nl

North Sea Jazz Festival

The world's largest indoor jazz festival will be held at Ahoy in Rotterdam on July 8 to 10. Come groove and move to the beat of swing, bop, electronic jazz, blues, gospel, funk, soul, hip hop and Latin. Early confirmed artists include Pharrell Williams, Diana Krall and Simply Red. www.northseajazz.com

4th of July Picnic

Come celebrate America's birthday with an old-fashioned picnic. Bring a blanket, chairs and a picnic or enjoy some hot dogs and hamburgers off the grill; drinks and ice



cream will also be for sale. There will be a bouncy castle and games for the kids and, of course, baseball. For information, contact Georgia Regnault at regnaultgeorgia@gmail.com.

Sunday, July 7

2 – 6 p.m.

ABF Clubhouse adjacent to ASH
Ammonslaantje 1, Wassenaar

Rotterdam Summer Carnival

Rotterdam celebrates cultural diversity during the Rotterdam Unlimited Festival which will immerse the city in music, dance and carnival from July 26 to 30. The Summer Carnival will be bigger than ever with amazing costumes and 30 floats. The city center will be transformed into a large Latin American outdoor party with the Battle of Drums on Friday, July 29 and the Street Parade featuring over 2,500 energetic dancers on Saturday, July 30 at 1p.m. www.rotterdamunlimited.nl

Amsterdam Gay Pride

For 21 years Amsterdam has celebrated di-



versity at the end of July and beginning of August each year with live music and street parties. The world's only gay Canal Parade on Saturday, August 6 at 1:30 p.m. is definitely the highlight! www.amsterdamgaypride.nl

Olympic Experience

If you can't be at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro this summer, a visit to Scheveningen Beach will allow you to experience the thrill of the Games at the Olympic Experience from August 5 to 21. During the day up to 4,000



visitors will be able to do sports under the guidance of more than 20 professional sporting federations. Capacity will be reduced to 3,000 people in the evening when supporters can watch a live broadcast of the Games. www.olympicexperience.nl

Scheveningen Fireworks Festival

The 37th edition of the International Fireworks Festival in Scheveningen will take place on two weekends in August: 12 to 13 and 19 to 20. www.vuurwerkfestivalscheveningen.nl

New Bike Rental Scheme

The Hague now has its own bike rental scheme called the Haagsche Stadsfiets (City Bikes). Residents and tourists can now hire bicycles at 7 different spots in the city and drop them off at 21 spots. The green and yellow Hague City Bikes can be hired for the day without a subscription for € 7.50 for a single gear or € 9.50 for three gears. www.fietsverhuurzuidholland.nl



If you or someone you know has experienced domestic violence in a foreign country, contact us:

International Toll-Free Crisis Line

866USWOMEN

(866-879-6636)

When calling the crisis line from the Netherlands, first dial the AT&T operator at 0 800 022 9111

National Domestic Violence Helpline Veilig Thuis (Safe Home):
0800-2000 (free, 7 days per week, 24 hours per day)

Veilig Thuis: www.vooreenvelighuis.nl (Dutch)

They will first ask you for your location and will connect you with local services.

In case of emergency, don't hesitate to call 112!

For help from The American Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center by email:

crisis@866uswomen.org

The Climate Mobilization (cont.)

Continued from page 27

- The government also called on Americans, and local communities, to hold scrap drives to recycle tin, used tires, silk stockings, cooking fats, and newspapers. (In 1943, scrap drives provided more than 50% of the rubber produced in the US)
- A national speed limit—or “victory speed”—of 35 miles per hour was imposed, and pleasure driving and automobile racing (including the Indy 500) were banned, in order to conserve fuel and rubber.
- The federal government also partnered with universities and scientists to conduct incredible research and advance scientific knowledge in many areas.

Mobilization is *not* an indiscriminate use of government power. It is a specific economic approach that directs the collective force of industry away from consumerism and toward a singular national purpose. It is characterized by large-scale deficit spending, sweeping command-and-control regulations, increased taxation in order to control inflation and re-direct private sector activity, and strong government controls over the distribution of raw materials and basic goods. Although corporations can play a constructive role in mobilization, they do not drive the change process. The government does.

For Further Information

The Climate Mobilization: www.theclimatemobilization.org The Case for Climate Mobilization: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9HHPq85FjLGcjJvbGdWVUZCZVtk/view?pref=2&pli=1>

Sources for This Article

The Transformative Power of Climate Truth: The Climate Mobilization's Manifesto: www.theclimatemobilization.org/transformative

*Hoexter, M. (2013) “Politically fashionable carbon gradualism vs. reality,” *New Economic Perspectives*: 10 July, 2013, <http://neweconomicperspectives.org/2013/07/politically-fashionable-carbon-gradualism-vs-reality.html>

I don't know about you, but I was very surprised by the extreme nature of some of the actions taken in the US to mobilize prior to WWII—and the fact that I had never heard anyone speak negatively about any of the measures taken! Obviously, the threat of war was clear and real to everyone. This common and very tangible challenge made the far reaching actions acceptable for citizens who would otherwise have balked at such measures. (I cannot help but mention that this was the period in which the international image of the US grew to superpower status; the world looked on in amazement at what the united country was able to achieve. The US truly led by example!)

Therein lies an essential difference between WWII and climate change: Americans all agreed on the threat posed by WWII, but that kind of agreement does not exist towards climate change. There are scientists who claim nothing short of drastic measures will do, while others deny that climate change is a man-made problem. This makes it of the utmost importance to really look at the facts to decide for yourself where on the scale of urgency you place the climate problem. Could climate change be the sort of problem that calls for extreme measures? What do you think?

Don't Put All Your Eggs in One Basket

by Mary Adams

As I stuffed clothes in the bag for a three-night Easter holiday to Belgium, I never considered including paper maps. All I took was a slender plastic folder from the Belgian tourist website. Why? I had a new TomTom GPS system to show me hotels, gas stations, restaurants and points of interest along the way. I selected the American female voice as my navigator and named her Martha.

“That is the name of a cow!” Jerry exclaimed.

I laughed, “No it isn't! It is a nice name.”

He shrugged and muttered “cow.”

We started the car and Martha sprang to life, connected with the satellite and charted a course. Little did we suspect, that Martha would indeed prove herself to be a silly old cow.

Martha guided us through the back roads and to Manoir L'Ormillé, our B&B which was

surrounded by lush gardens and statuary. The owners greeted us with a hot cup of coffee and a chat. They explained that the manor was built in the 1890s. Our hosts were jolly grandparent types, who had recently bought and restored the old manor. They reminded me of Mr. and Mrs. Beaver from Narnia: the kindly wife constantly fixing tea and making provisions while the skinnier husband stood smoking an ever-present small cigar and rubbing his whiskers.

The house could have been one that C.S. Lewis imagined in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. It was stuffed full of copious wardrobes filled with dishes, glasses and books. The wooden floors held a multitude of furniture in a multitude of styles: Japanese, Chinese, English and French—all thrown together in a curious mishmash. We sat on velvet Louis XIV divans and sipped our coffee from large, square Japanese cups and saucers with spoons decorated with bamboo. There was a white milk pitcher that looked like it had just arrived from Provence. After our refreshment, the owners led us up the >> 54



Don't Put All Your Eggs in One Basket (cont.)

Continued from page 53

stairs (creek, groan, creek) to the second floor, where our suite awaited.

The next morning, as I was leaving the room, I felt someone was watching me. I looked around the hallway and saw carpet, bookcases, armoires, chairs, and then glanced slowly up the steps to the next landing where I saw a foot. I looked down at the keyhole on the door and fiddled with the lock. Then I surreptitiously looked again. The lady was sitting very still, her legs crossed and her hair perfectly coiffed in a Jackie-O hairdo from the 1960s. I thought about saying a cheery good morning, but she looked so impervious that instead I scampered downstairs to the breakfast buffet. Our hostess was cooing and fussing over her guests. After breakfast, I looked to see if the lady was still there and she was. She was stock-still for a good reason: she was a mannequin. Perhaps the White Witch was lurking somewhere in the winding corridors and had turned this poor guest into stone.

There was then a great deal of debate: should we stay in Belgium or should we head for Luxembourg to stock up on wine? We decided that both were possible. I tapped the address into Martha's screen. On the way to Luxembourg, Martha's gentle voice started to moo at us, "Make a U-turn when possible," "Make a U-turn when possible," until at last we did.

I had intended to visit abbeys, castles, ruins, museums, wineries and breweries, but Martha would not be reasonable. Somehow she couldn't grasp my selected points of interest. As we snaked our way through the narrow streets of Remerschen, Luxembourg, to visit Caves du Sud, Martha advised us that we would soon be at our destination.

She then announced, "You have arrived." We had arrived? On either side of us, there were houses—not the wine center we were expecting.

"You must have entered the wrong ad-

dress," Jerry commented.

"Did not!" I responded. I glared at Martha. "She's gone wacko!"

Jerry steered the car around a curve and looked for a place to pull over. Eventually, we saw the Caves du Sud. We spent a very pleasurable time in the wine shop, had another tasting and loaded up the car. Jerry grabbed Martha. I waved a store brochure under his nose, "Look what I have!" and I read out the address that I had given Martha. "See! It is the same! She was WRONG."

I got out my brochures and started pointing my finger at the next destination. I cried out, "Here it is, the N86. Just turn off that stupid cow and let's do this the old-fashioned way!" But my cries fell on deaf ears. I was doomed to sit in the car on the side of the road while Martha was caressed and questioned by Jerry. Martha, however, was not content. Martha was not calm; she was distressed and disoriented. She could not connect with her satellite. Once she made contact, she could not keep it. She kept muttering to herself, "In 50 meters, turn left." We ended up taking a circuitous route back to the B&B with Jerry hugging the curves on the forest road while I tried to figure out how to throw Martha out the window.

Easter Sunday dawned with rainstorms and fog. Even though I am an adult, I still check the end of my bed for my basket of goodies; who knows where the rabbit might appear? After breakfast, I carefully made an itinerary for Martha since Easter is about rebirth.

Martha found the center of Weris; even dripping in the rain, the town is charming with its church, countryside setting and old timber set in the brick outlines of the houses. If it had been a sunny day, I would have settled myself at one of the cafés and stayed. Martha prodded us along; suddenly in the middle of a stretch of fields, she proudly announced,

"You have arrived."

"Bad, bad Martha! You are utterly useless!" I said as I shook my finger at her.

Our next stop was Dinant to do a beer tasting at an artisan brewery. Dinant is a bustling tourist town on the Meuse River; due to its strategic position, its history is full of war, death and destruction. For example, in the 1400s, Phillip the Good and his son, Charles the Bold, burned the city and tied any survivors together two-by-two and threw them into the Meuse to drown.

On the quaint river road, Martha suddenly became possessed by demons, "In 30 meters, turn left." Her navigation arrow twirled and flitted about on the screen. "Make a U-turn," she advised. The map viewpoint started to spin. Jerry doggedly drove straight ahead. We came to a small plaza. Martha sputtered, "You have arrived." I felt Phillip's ghost touch my shoulder, and I had a strange desire to throw her into the river. We were expected back at the manor for Easter dinner, so after our guided tour of the citadel, we headed to the manor.

Easter dinner was included as part of the accommodation price for the B&B. We presented ourselves in the salon at 8 p.m. for cocktails and conversation. Our hosts poured drinks and then left their guests to chat. We met the other visitors. Have you ever walked into a magic circle where everyone starts to talk at once and it is interesting and fun? How nice it was to realize that I'm not the only American living with a Dutch man who sometimes craves Taco Bell fast food. One drink spilled into another, one conversation lit another until it was finally time to eat. It is odd when a group of strangers can come together for an evening of such fun and merrymaking and then set out in different directions the following morning, forever to be friends who remain strangers.

The next day, I input a homeward bound itinerary for Martha, but it was clear that she had spent the previous evening chewing her cud and rolling in the mud. She



refused to connect with her satellite. We sat in the manor driveway and waited ... and waited. Finally, Jerry pulled out in the general direction of Durbuy, our first stop.

Martha finally sputtered to life and called out, "Turn left in 80 meters", a sure indication that she was not on track. I had requested the fastest routes, so in a little while Martha recommended a right turn. We looked down the little country lane and could see no signs to Durbuy. On the other hand, we could see a sign to Durbuy on the main road. "Ignore her!" I hissed.

"Let's just see where she takes us," Jerry said, "we have some time." So we turned right and soon were in a neighborhood and then in the fields. I started drumming my fingers on the dashboard. We rounded a corner and Jerry cried out, "There! There it is! She is right, this way is faster." I looked out the window and saw the tiny town of Durbuy. I glared at Martha, but she was keeping mum about her victory.

A mere two and a half hours later, after crossing over the mountain near Aachen, Germany, and rounding the corner into the Netherlands, we arrived home. Now, it may seem to you that I bore Martha ill will—perhaps wishing to see her carcass on a spit or stuck away in a dairy for the rest of her life—but actually, this trip taught me something important. Just as a good Easter basket should contain a variety of chocolates, eggs and bunnies, a good vacation should contain a sense of wonder, whether you are navigating from a satellite, star or map. Martha may have made chopped liver out of me on this trip, but on the next one, she'll be wearing a cowbell and I'll be holding the stick.

Classifieds

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Watercolor "house portraits" and paintings of Holland by American artist Albert Dolmans make ideal pre-leaving gifts for friends, mementos for "the man who has everything," or simply for yourself. References and samples available, many from AWC Members. Prices from € 550. Contact: sgazaleh@gmail.com or call 010 422 9511

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Here's Holland

by AWC Honorary Member **Sheila Gazaleh-Weevers** The "must have" guide to the good life and to living in Holland. Packed with information, tips for trips, contact addresses and invaluable advice for newcomers as well as "old hands" and their visitors. Available from bookshops, also AWC Front Office at discounted price.

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Excellent Location for International Families 5-bedroom detached house in Voorschoten. A short walk to BSN Senior School or an easy drive to ASH. Close to Voorschoten high street, train station and bus routes. 2x bathrooms, 1x shower room, off-road parking for 2+ cars, large bicycle storage room and private garden. Available immediately. Contact: pfrancispet@yahoo.co.uk or call +44 7734374156 View 34 Veurseweg, 2252AB Voorschoten on www.Funda.nl website

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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 32	Cyprus Vacation Villa page 24	Happy Critters page 19	St. James Church page 43
American Travel Center page 15	Expat Wedding Planner page 17	Kimmel & Co Makelaars kantoor Inside cover	The Wall Renovations page 25
Aveda Lifestyle Salon Inside Cover	Frans Burgers Tapijt page 23	Marcel Vermeulen Jewelry page 11	Wassalon Weissenbruch page 32
The British School in the Netherlands Back Cover	FRITSTAXI Airport Service page 21	Petros Eyewear page 11	Your Cleaning Service page 32
Bulthaup Zoetermeer page 13	Intraco Inside cover		

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.

Members: eNews Distribution

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

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