Going Dutch

May / June 2016

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Handbag Auction
Impressions of India
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An Insider’s View: Windsor Castle

American Women’s Club of The Hague
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.
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 Duyssens  awcthehague.2ndvp@gmail.com
Communications  Teresa Mahoney  awcthehague.communications@gmail.com

Front Office

Siska Datema -Kool
Becky Failor
Rachel Kuppers
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Pamela Schellekens

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Assistant Treasurer  Rebecca Wood
At Home in Holland  Becky Failor
Board Advisor  Jessie Rodell
Caring Committee  Naomi Keip
Community Service Coordinator  Pamela Pruis
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
Tennis  Molly Boed
The Arts  Jane Choy
Tours  Jan Essad, Seanne Maeve
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.

Deadlines:  Submissions are due no later than the last Monday of the month preceding the publication month. For example, for the September issue, submissions are due before Monday, July 25.

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

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Message from the President

by Becky Failor

O ur 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 Coignez, 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 Duyssens 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 Keenan, 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? Let me or Laurie Martecechini, 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

Installation of Officers

Please join us for the Installation of Officers for the 2016-2017 AWC Board. Veerle Coignez, 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.

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).

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

Barbara Bremer
Holly Savoie
Elizabeth Keenan
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 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!

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

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

Thursday, May 26 10 a.m.
AWC Clubhouse FREE

The June Daytime Book Club selection is *Atonement* by Ian McEwan:
Published in 2001, this novel by the acclaimed author won the 2002 Booker Prize. Here is 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 1989. Please note that this classic book is available for free for Kindle on Amazon.

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

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 Argentina in 1975? Find out for yourself!

Wednesday, June 8 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.
Ongoing Activities (cont.)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.
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 is lunch 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 Talkie
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 vancerten@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/78299

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MAY/JUNE 2016 19

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*by Mallery 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.

http://groupspaces.com/AWCThe Hague/ item/1052750

**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 Boerin, Kamerik
€ 30 Members (€ 35 nonmembers)
Minimum 10 / Maximum 25
Cancellation deadline: May 5
http://groupspaces.com/AWCThe Hague/ 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
http://groupspaces.com/AWCThe Hague/ item/1028989

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**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.

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

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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/AWCThe Hague/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/AWCThe Hague/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/AWCThe Hague/item/1051986

2016 Prinsjesdag Luncheon
Early-bird registration for this annual luncheon will begin in July. The second floor of the Garroeda 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.
Garroeda Restaurant
Kneuterdijk 18a, Den Haag
Pricing still to be determined
Maximum 50
Cancellation deadline: September 16
www.groupspaces.com/AWCThe Hague/item/1051970

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One of a Kind Activities (cont.)
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.

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.

Traditional Vacation Villa
For Rent in Cyprus
Sleeps 6 + 2 in adjacent studio
4 km from the beach
Paphos area, Coral Bay
Easy key exchange with owner in Voorschoten
For information contact:
cyprusbest@gmail.com
For additional photos:
www.homeaway.co.uk/p1074108
The Climate Mobilization

by Anne van Oorschot

AWCO’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.”

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 answers, I do think more haste is needed to solve 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.

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. 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.
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 grew. 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 the thirteenth.[…] I offered “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 woman 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 D, 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 who 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 fields and roses and pansies. You will never forget the price your freedom took.

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 oarinlnl@yahoo.com or roberta@robertaenschede.com.
### May 2016

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<td>Special Walkie Talkies: Haagse Bos and Lunch 9:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m. Volunteer Appreciation Lunch and Tea 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. Heart Pillow Workshop Noon</td>
<td>Pilates 10:15 a.m. Tour of the Royal Stables 2 p.m.</td>
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<td>Margraten Ceremony 3 p.m.</td>
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- **Upcoming Fall Events:**
  - Sept 14: Fall Kick Off Evening Hours
  - Sept 15: Fall Kick Off Daytime Hours
  - Sept 20: Prinsjesdag Luncheon

### June 2016

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- **Upcoming Fall Events:**
  - Sept 14: Fall Kick Off Evening Hours
  - Sept 15: Fall Kick Off Daytime Hours
  - Sept 20: Prinsjesdag Luncheon

- **Father's Day**
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 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.

Symposium

The symposium will cover two days, from Saturday, October 8 to Sunday, October 9 at Nieuwspoort, 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.

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
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 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.

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.

So, what was to become of that massive grey building? Many suggestions were offered, including “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 they 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.

Dutch “Eggs” in New York

The VDL Group is a Dutch family business that started in 1953 and has grown into an international industrial corporation 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.
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 England based at Windsor Castle.

Within a week, an administrative officer came 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 curtsey before the portrait of George III as “he was your last King so you should curtsey each time you pass him.” Demands to supply the teabags for State Apartment wardens 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.
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) hummocked 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 bouquets 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.

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

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

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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 baulked 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. The portraits 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 supplied 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.

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.bevrijdingsfestivaldenhaag.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

42 GOING DUTCH MAY/JUNE 2016
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-denhaag.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
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.
Impressions of India - Part 2 (cont.)

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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
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.veterandag.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 bouncey 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
Ammonstraat 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 1 p.m. www.rotterdamunlimited.nl

Amsterdam Gay Pride
For 21 years Amsterdam has celebrated diversity 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 sportsing 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.vuurwerkfestival scheveningen.nl

New Bike Rental Scheme
The Hague now has its own bike rental scheme called the Haagse 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

Olympic Experience
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.veiligthuis.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.)

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• 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.

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?

For Further Information

Sources for This Article
The Transformative Power of Climate Truth: The Climate Mobilization’s Manifesto: www.theclimatemobilization.org/transformative


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’Ormille, 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 a cow.

We went for a walk, and Martha’s cow Moo guided us through the back gardens. She would indeed prove herself to be a silly old cow.

The owners led us up the stairs to a small room that was filled with a multitude of beautiful artifacts—vases, porcelain, 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 a cow.

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“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, and 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. 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 address,” Jerry commented.

“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**

**Commission a Portrait of Your Home**
Watercolor “house portraits” and paintings of Holland by American artist Albert Dol. Contact 010 422 9511 or call 010 422 9511.

**Counselling International**
For professional, confidential individual counselling or coaching, relationship/couple therapy or conflict mediation. Available, many from AWC Members. Prices from €550. Contact: sgazaleh@gmail.com or call 010 422 9511.

**North Sea Chiropractic for All Your Spinal Health Needs**
Chiropractic care for your whole family, specializing in general pain, pregnancy, pediatrics, sports injuries and more. The chiropractor is an AWC Member and American graduate. Most insurances cover chiropractic. Call for a free 15-minute consultation: 065 369 7739 chiropractienoordzee@gmail.com. www.chiropractienoordzee.nl

**Sculpting Art Classes**
Offered in the center of The Hague, Atelier anart offers weekly lessons given in small groups guaranteeing personal attention. Anat’s generous approach ensures each individual’s progression. Her teaching method guides and stimulates your creativity to its full potential. Contact: anart@xs4all.nl www.atelieranart.webs.com www.anatratzabi.com

**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.

**House for Rent/Sale**
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: pfiscipes@yahoo.co.uk or call +44 7734374156 View 34 Veurseweg, 2252AB Voorschoten on www.funda.nl website

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**ACCESS**

**American Travel Center**

**Aveda Lifestyle Salon**

**The British School in the Netherlands**

**Bulthaup Zoetermeer**

**House for Rent/Sale**

**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.**

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