

Going Dutch

2016
November

In
this
issue

Expatriate Life

A New Knight

An Adventure in China

Thanksgiving Day Service

American Women's Club of The Hague

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Fr.	09:00 - 20:00
Sa.	09:00 - 18:00
Su.	11:00 - 18:00

Going Dutch

November 2016



The Netherlands has a new Knight: the AWC's own Georgia Regnault. Here are photos and the story behind this amazing honor



Lots of familiar faces as well as several new ones as we "Kicked Off" the new Club Year



Anne van Oorschot saw much more than the Forbidden City on her recent visit to Beijing

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

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AWC Mission Statement

The AWC 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. Membership in the club is open to women of all nations who are friendly and welcoming to American culture. The association does not endeavor to make a profit. The AWC is a 100% volunteer organization.



The
Netherlands'
Newest Knight:
Georgia
Regnault



Message from the President

by Becky Failor

Congratulations from all the AWC Members to **Georgia Regnault** for being honored as a *Ridder in the Orde van Oranje-Nassau*—Knight in the Order of Oranje Nassau. She was awarded her star on October 9 during the FAWCO Symposium: Stand Up Against Human Trafficking. We were delighted when Hague Mayor Jozias van Aartsen recognized her for her long contributions not only to the AWC but to the wider community. On pages 6 and 7 you can find photos from the ceremony and on page 26 is an article explaining the award for our fabulous Member. *Gefeliciteerd, Georgia.*

The FAWCO Symposium was a grand success. Each of us who attended learned that we too can help stop the scourge of human slavery. Many AWC Members participated to make this event a success. I want to draw special attention to the work of **Mary Adams, Johanna Dishongh, and Julie Mowat.** We will have more articles about the symposium in future issues of *Going Dutch*.

I am feeling super guilty and torn between my AWC duties and the love of my life, Hugh Gregg. (I know I have now lost a bunch of readers and grabbed a few with that line.) Hugh turns 60 this year and his birthday trip to South Africa had to be coordinated with his many obligations for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. So it ended up being the first two weeks of November, which is a very important time in the AWC Club Year. I will be gone for the Holiday Bazaar—the first one I will miss in our six years here. I will be gone

for the November Annual Meeting where we will recognize the beneficiaries of our fabulous Red, White, & Blue Gala, vote on the annual budget, chose our audi-

tors, and have our fun Thanksgiving Potluck Lunch. ARGH! However, I do not worry about the success of these events because there are great Members of our Board managing each one.

Our annual Holiday Bazaar is being led by **Mary**

Ann Nation-Greenwall. Mary Ann shares the Club and Community Officer position on the Board with **Susan Cave.** Mary Ann was Vice President of Volunteer Services in a previous job, so she has the energy and know-how to manage an event such as this. Most incredible of all, this Holiday Bazaar that she is managing will be the first one she has ever attended. WOW! She is very grateful for the excellent guide book put together by last years' Holiday Bazaar Chairs, **Ginny Mees** and **Barbara Bremer.** Of course, Mary Ann is getting lots of help from **Jan Essad, Jan de Vries, Kathy DeBest, Marilyn Tinsay, Teresa Insalaco** and **Laurie Martecchini.** Volunteering at the Holiday Bazaar is fun. See page 12 to learn more about how you can help.

Trena Cormier, AWC Vice President, will lead the November Annual Meeting. **Kathy de Best,** AWC Treasurer, will provide all the information you need to vote on the 2016-2017 Budget. She will also give you the Board's recommendation for auditors to do our financial review. **Dominique Duysens,** Clubhouse Administrator, and a team of helpers will ensure the Thanksgiving Potluck is set up and the turkey and gravy are on the table. I am sure Dominique will appreciate you volunteering to help with this luncheon. Please send an email to awcthehague.2ndvp@gmail.com if you are willing to help.



Annual General Meeting

Our November meeting will be our Annual General Meeting when we will review Club financials and general business.

- Reports will be given on the activities and finances of the Club from the past year.
- **Kathy DeBest,** our Treasurer, will present the proposed budget for the 2016-2017 Club Year. Beginning November 5, copies of these documents will be available in the Front Office for your review.
- Nominations for the Audit Committee will be presented for your approval.

We will also recognize the beneficiaries of our 2016 Red, White, & Blue Gala. If you are unable to attend, please submit a proxy

ballot; if you are in need of a proxy ballot, please request one from the Front Office.

November is also when the Club traditionally celebrates Thanksgiving with a potluck luncheon. After the conclusion of the Club business in the morning, we invite everyone to join us for this traditional American meal, featuring a roasted turkey (provided by the AWC) and all the trimmings. Please RSVP by Thursday, November 3 on GroupSpaces.com and mention in the comments which dish you will bring. Please note: we request that your dish serve around six to eight people.

Thursday, November 10

Coffee: 10 a.m.

Morning Meeting: 10:30 a.m.

Potluck: Noon

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1067352

>> Hugh and I will have submitted our votes for the November US election before we leave. I hope every one of you who is eligible to vote will submit your ballots, too. Passing the legislation for overseas Americans to vote was a hard fought battle and a right we should not take lightly. We will also be gone for the "Who's the President Breakfast" at the Kurhaus on Wednesday, November 9. If we were in Holland, we'd be there at 5 a.m. when the doors open. It was so exciting four years ago; there was such energy in the room. This year's election outcome could not be more compelling. And while you wait for the results to be announced, you can admire all the flags from the 50 states, enjoy breakfast, and mingle with friends who will all band together as Americans, secure in the knowledge that transfer of the office will be smooth regardless of who is the new President. Go to www.electionbreakfastkurhaus.nl to secure your tickets. Thank you, **Roberta Enschede,** for your hard work making this event possible.

events, I will be happily enjoying my vacation with Hugh. As I have said many times, we want the AWC experience to enrich your life in the Netherlands and your AWC duties should not get in the way of your important life plans. So I am taking my own advice.

I am happy I will be back in time for the marvelous Thanksgiving Day Service at the Pieterskerk in Leiden with our AWC luncheon afterward (see page 21 for details). I am grateful for all the efforts of **Roberta Enschede, Tove McGrew, Jessie Rodell** and many others of Overseas Americans Remember to make this service of Thanksgiving such a marvelous event.

I am thankful for the wonderful women of the AWC who will make all the events I will miss a big success.

Thankfully,

Becky

While I will be missing many AWC



Ramblings from the Editor

by Melissa White

I'm not proud to make this confession: my husband James and I have an embarrassing addiction. We are addicted to the train wreck otherwise known as the 2016 Presidential Election. Whichever one of us wakes up first is in charge of scanning the headlines on BBC to inform the other of the latest scandal to hit the campaign trail. Several evenings per week we set aside an hour or so to catch up with the latest election news as reported by our favorite pseudo-journalists on YouTube: British comedian John Oliver on *Last Week Tonight*, South African comedian Trevor Noah on *The Daily Show*, American comedian Seth Meyers on *A Closer Look*, and Canadian comedian Samantha Bee on *Full Frontal*.

James and I have also been entertained by the recent presidential and vice presidential debates, which we have watched in their entirety along with our 16-year-old daughter Ashlynn. We were impressed to learn that our 19-year-old daughter Veronica actually stayed up to watch the debates live as she has taken the responsibility of voting in her first presidential election quite seriously. The three of us are all grateful for the efforts made to ensure that Americans abroad can easily make their voices heard. It felt very good to submit our absentee ballots via email.

No matter the outcome of this election, it will be historical. Either the United States will have its first female president or it will have its first openly misogynist president. While I'm sure there have been presidents in the past that have not always held women in the highest regard, this is the first time that I'm aware of that one of the candidates has been so open about his disrespect for the opposite sex.

If my honesty has offended you, I'm sorry. I'm not attempting to open a political debate, but sometimes it's just too hard for me to say nothing. The longer I live in Europe (we'll celebrate our 11th anniversary in Holland this month), the less I follow that American cardinal

rule to never discuss religion, politics or money. I admire the frankness of the Dutch and their willingness to put any topic up for discussion.

*Elections belong to the people.
It's their decision. If they decide
to turn their back on the fire
and burn their behinds, then
they will just have to sit on
their blisters.*

~ Abraham Lincoln

I'm also interested in how fascinated the Dutch are in our election. The first time I attended a "Who's the President?" Election Breakfast in 2008, I was surprised at how many Dutch businessmen and women were in attendance. This was fairly naive on my part as clearly our elections have a global effect and the outcome is watched by the whole world.

This month James and I will attend our third election breakfast. Once again we've booked a room at the Kurhaus. We'll only get a few hours of sleep as we'll watch the returns throughout much of the night. After attending the 2008 breakfast on our own, we took our daughters along in 2012. With only the youngest still at home now, Ashlynn will accompany us and be late for school that day. Veronica was so disappointed when she realized that she'd miss the election breakfast that she decided to try to start one at her university in England. Despite having relatively few American students, the Student Union has been very supportive and is helping her to organize an event starting at 4 a.m. on her campus.

Regardless of your political leanings, I hope to see you at the breakfast in Scheveningen (see page 41 for more details). **Roberta Enschede** and her team of tireless volunteers work hard to put together this unique and memorable event. It's definitely worth the early alarm to attend. And, don't forget to vote!

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Volunteers Needed

by Laurie Martecchini

Join the Fun at the Upcoming Holiday Bazaar

Taking a shift at the annual Holiday Bazaar is a wonderful opportunity to get to know AWC Members, both old and new. We have a fun and festive time. Most jobs involve working in pairs with the aim to pair an experienced Member with someone new to the Club or Bazaar.



Saturday, November 12 & Sunday, November 13

There are two shifts each day.
Morning Shift: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Afternoon Shift: 2 p.m. – to closing

Volunteer Opportunities Include

- **Entry**—welcoming visitors and issuing tickets
- **General Floor Monitors**—helping wherever needed
- **Bake Sale**—full of “sweet” smiles
- **Raffle Table**—selling raffle tickets to Bazaar visitors
- **PIN/Payment Tables**—using a PIN machine and tallying up funds received. Past experience isn’t necessary, just a general comfort with taking payments. If you’re new to this, you’ll be paired with someone with experience.

We’re working on the master schedule now. To join the fun or find out more, send me an email today at lmartecchini@gmail.com

Membership

by Shirley Newlin

Welcome New Members!

Sherri Hammond
Leisa Weld

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!



November Birthdays

Lana Heidar	4
Seanette Meserole	8
Carol van Dijk	12
Ellen Koup	12
Pearl Waterreus	13
Anja Knoop	15
Paula Looijmans	16
Marianne Lemstra	17
Laurie Martecchini	20
Lynne Roukema	21
Sarah Allen	23
Teresa Mahoney	29
Liliana Gonzalez	30

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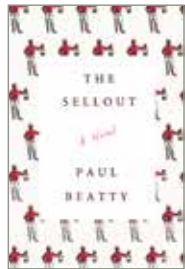
www.zoetermeer.bulthaup.nl

Ongoing Activities

Book Club: Daytime

The AWC Daytime Book Club is open to all book lovers and is always open to new Members. There is no obligation to attend every meeting or lead a discussion. We take turns bringing a snack. Any questions? Please email **Teresa Mahoney** at awcthehague.bookclub@gmail.com. Happy reading!

The November Daytime Book Club selection is *The Sellout* by Paul Beatty:



This biting satire won the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award in Fiction and was short-listed for the 2016 Man Booker Prize. The African American narrator, known only by his last name of Me, attempts to reintroduce slavery and segregation in his Los Angeles neighborhood, resulting in a Supreme Court case. In addition to challenging the US Constitution, this novel explores the civil rights movement, urban life and the father-son relationship.

Thursday, November 17
10 a.m.
AWC Clubhouse
FREE

Recap of the September Discussion

In the Light of What We Know: Some of the most exciting Book Club choices can inspire polemic reactions. What a thrill it can be to engage in a heated and passionate argument amongst people who respect each other even

while being mystified by their conflicting interpretations of a book, its author, and the ideas (or lack of ideas) the writing elicits. This novel was such a book for the five attendees of our discussion. “Banal!” said one, “Brilliant!” said another. “No discernible plot!” bemoaned more than one, while others argued it was a “Beautiful exploration of the philosophical themes of our lives.” We did not reach a consensus, but what a great discussion we had. The author was born in Bangladesh, but raised in Britain. He obtained a first class honors degree in mathematics from Oxford and worked as an investment banker, corporate lawyer and eventually as a human rights lawyer focusing on corruption—a background partially shared by his two main characters. While a work of fiction, it is fiction informed by someone who has had many personal experiences which mirror those of the characters.

This novel uses the story of two friends who reunite after many years as a framework for discussing all manner of philosophical and mathematical themes. The author touches on many themes which inspire questions of their own. He touches on the life of exiles (can a voluntary migrant be considered an exile?); on what is known (is Godel’s mathematical theorem of incompleteness philosophically true as well as mathematically true?); of intellectualism (is there value in discussing intellectual ideas or is it all posturing and nonsense?); and, of the value of an elite education (is education gained through life experience perhaps more authentic and useful?). For some, musing along with the author was a privilege; for others, it was beyond boring.

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.

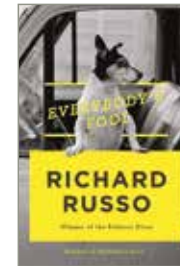
Daytime Book Club Planning Ahead:

Wednesday December 14:
Everybody’s Fool by Richard Russo
Thursday, January 26: *Brother of the More Famous Jack* by Barbara Trapido

Book Club: Evening

Calling all readers! The Evening Book Club would love to have you join us this year. We typically meet on the third Wednesday of each month, with some alternative dates when that is a public holiday or school vacation. Whether you come once, or are available to join us every month, you are most welcome. Interested, want to know more, or get on our mailing list? Please contact **Rebecca Fry** at awcthehague.bookclub@gmail.com. Happy reading!

The November Evening Book Club selection is *Everybody’s Fool* by Richard Russo:



Known for his humorous examinations of small towns, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author returns to the fictional town of North Bath, NY in this sequel to his 1993 novel *Nobody’s Fool*. This time the narrative follows the lives of the town’s inhabitants for just 48 hours over a Memorial Day weekend filled with humor, hard times, suspense and heart.

Evening Book Club Planning Ahead:

Wednesday, December 14: *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins
Wednesday, January 18: *The Sympathizer* by Viet Than Nguyen
Wednesday, February 15: *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead
Wednesday, March 15: *The Bad Ass Librarians of Timbuktu* by Joshua Hammer
Wednesday, April 12: *Bearskins* by Annie Proulx
Wednesday, May 17: *One in a Billion: The Story of Nic Volker and the Dawn of Genomic Medicine* by Mark Johnson and Kathleen Gallagher
Wednesday, June 14: *Eligible* by Curtis Sittenfeld

Wednesday, November 16

7:30 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse
FREE

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 sug-



gestions from a fresh pair of eyes. Each week, a different Member will bring a cake made from a never-before-tried recipe for tasting and critiquing. We’re sorry, but babysitting is not available and thus we can’t accommodate children. Questions? Contact: **Suzanne Dundas** at awcthehague.crafts@gmail.com

Tuesdays
10 a.m. – Noon
AWC Clubhouse
FREE

Dinner Club

Dinner Club has a new organizer, **Krishna Thakrar**, and a new twist for our new Club Year: sometimes we’ll eat at each other’s homes and sometimes we’ll eat out together at a restaurant. **Suzanne Dundas** has kindly agree to open her home for the next Dinner Club with a very creative theme: global, vegetarian and fresh. Come and enjoy a fun-filled evening of chats, laughs and great food! If you would like to RSVP or if you have questions, please email Krishna >> 16

Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 15



at kthakrar2000@gmail.com. Please let Krishna know if you are willing to host in February.

Saturday, November 5

Suzanne Dundas' Home

RSVP deadline: November 2

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1068982

Heart Pillow Project

The AWC is in its 9th 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, stuff or wrap! 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 **Jan de Vries** at awcthehague.heartpillow@gmail.com.

Tuesday, November 8

Noon – 2 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

Visitors Welcome

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1073456

Ladies' Night Out at the Movies

What are your plans on the first Monday evening of each month this Club Year? Joining your fellow AWC Members for a fun night out at the movies, of course! We'll meet in the lobby of the theater (either Pathé Spui, Pathé Buitenhof, or Filmhuis Den Haag) and buy our own tickets. **Rebecca Fry** coordinates this activity, and chooses a movie beginning as close to 7 p.m. as possible. There is no need to sign up, and all are welcome. The time and movie listing for that month will be announced through eNews. Questions? Contact Rebecca at fry_rebecca@hotmail.com. Please note that we will skip the busy month of December, but will start the New Year with a movie on January 9, 2017.

Monday, November 7

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1076853

Out to Lunch Bunch

If you're interested in making new friends and exploring new restaurants throughout The Hague, then this is the group for you! Rather



than setting one specific day of the month, we will change our days each month in order to accommodate a variety of schedules. If you have a favorite restaurant in your neighborhood you'd like to share with the group, please contact **Kathy DeBest** at debestjk@comcast.net.

Come and enjoy the historic atmosphere of art and culture at Café Restaurant Schlemmer (www.schlemmer.nl) in the Hague City Center. Lunch is at your own expense. Please RSVP on *GroupSpaces* or contact Kathy at debestjk@comcast.net.

Tuesday, November 15

12:30 p.m.

Long Houtstraat 17, Den Haag

Registration deadline: November 11

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1072381

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

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

€ 15 per class Members

(€ 20 per class nonmembers)

Min 6 / Max 10

Contact: Ineke at

Latour@globalswing.com

Tennis League

The AWC Tennis Group plays doubles every Tuesday in Warmond. Ladies move up and down the courts according >> 18



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Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 17

to a ladder tennis system. The emphasis is on having fun! The league is available for all levels except true beginners. If you are interested in being placed on the waiting list to become a regular player or would like to be on the sub list, contact **Molly Boed** at mollyboed@yahoo.com.

Tuesdays
(except specific holidays TBD)
1 – 3 p.m.
Dekker Tennis Courts
Veerpolder 14, Warmond
€ 275 Members (€ 325 nonmembers)

Walkie Talkies

Taking a walk with friends is the perfect way to start your week! Join us for an energetic walk and talk. We meet in front of the



Clubhouse each week and then walk to a variety of destinations between the beach, woods and city. Occasionally, we take longer walks which we announce on the AWC Facebook Group. Sign up for this group on GroupSpaces.com to get email updates or email **Emily van Eerten** at vaneerten@gmail.com or **Greetje Engelsman** at awcthehague.newcomers@gmail.com.

Mondays
9:30 a.m.
FREE

Wassenaar Coffee & Conversation

Do you live in Wassenaar and environs and long for the camaraderie of the AWC without driving to the Clubhouse? One of the Members living north of The Hague will host a casual coffee at her home on the first Thursday of each month for Members and prospective Members. **Suzanne Dundas** will provide information as to the hostess of the month and directions to her home when you sign up.

Thursday, November 3
9 – 11 a.m.
Bronia Ichel's Home
FREE

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1067346

Tours

by **Seanette Meserole**

Christmas Market Trip to Cologne

Are you ready? Can you smell it? Can you taste it? Step back in time to enjoy the aromas of spiced mulled wine, gingerbread, sausage and more as they fill the air while you wander through the finger-tingling cold streets full of wooden stalls, soaking up the festive atmosphere. From food and drink to handcrafted



toys, tree decorations, candles and lambskin slippers, the stalls in Cologne's Christmas Markets offer something for everyone. We looked for their delicious "fire punch" last year, but couldn't find it in Dusseldorf, so I guess we need to go back to Cologne to get it!

Please join us for our annual German Christmas Market Trip with a special twist—we will travel with our sister club: The American Women's Club of Amsterdam. We visited Cologne in 2014, but enjoyed it so much that we decided to go back. We will depart Den Haag Centraal Station (DHCS) at 8 a.m., ride in comfort in a deluxe bus to Cologne chatting along the way, and shop until we drop. We will catch a train at 5:45 p.m. back to The Hague arriving about 9 p.m. In the event you have a large amount of purchases, arrangements can be made to have them stored overnight and sent on the bus back to The Hague on Friday.

Overnight Option: We have added an overnight option for those Members who desire to experience the market at its most magical—at night! If you opt to stay overnight, you will ride the bus with the day trip ladies. You will be staying at CityClass Residence, a centrally located hotel, and arrive by bus to DHCS by 7 p.m. on Friday, December 2. Unless otherwise

RSVP for all tours directly on
[AWC GroupSpaces.com](http://AWCGroupSpaces.com).
Direct any questions to
meserolefamily@gmail.com

announced, the overnight trip is offered strictly to Members.

Thursday, December 1
Meet at DHCS at 8 a.m.
www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1070834

Day Trip
€ 45 Members (€ 50 nonmembers)
Maximum 12
Nonrefundable

Overnight Option
Cost includes: Bus transportation, hotel, breakfast
€ 165 Single Occupancy, € 125 Double Occupancy
Maximum 13 (5 single rooms + 4 double rooms)
Nonrefundable



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One-of-a-Kind Activities

by Trena Cormier

Candlelight Tour of Kasteel Duivenvoorde

Back by popular demand, the candlelight tour of this beautiful castle is not to be missed! Located in Voorschoten, Duivenvoorde is one of South Holland's oldest castles, dating from 1226. Owned by the Duivenvoorde family for five centuries, this castle has never been sold and has passed through several noble families by inheritance. Although the last private owner of the castle died in 1965 and left it to a foundation, one wing of the castle is still inhabited by a baroness. The estate has a wonderful collection of furniture, family portraits, silver, porcelain and Delftware. Our English-speaking tour guide will share the castle's history with stories that will transport us back to the days of the 17th century when candlelight illuminated the stately rooms. The tour will be followed by a concert and refreshments. This special tour is a wonderful way to spend a fall evening while enjoying a bit of Dutch History. Children over the age of seven are more than welcome to join us. Transportation will be on your own, however, we will be happy to assist with carpooling.

Friday, November 4

7:30 – 10 p.m.

Kasteel Duivenvoorde

Laan van Duivenvoorde 4, Voorschoten

€ 15 Members or Family

(€ 20 nonmembers)

Minimum 8 / Maximum 32

Non-refundable

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1072279



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

Direct any questions to

awcthehague.activities@gmail.com.

Payment must be made within 5 calendar days of reserving or your name will

be moved to a waitlist. Payment can

be made in the Front Office by PIN or

by bank transfer to the AWC account

NL42ABNA0431421757.

Card Buffet of Winter Wishes

Do pine boughs, pine cones, holly leaves and bay berries speak to you? Or are reindeer and a jolly sleigh filled with presents more your style? If it's one or the other—or even both—this Card Buffet Workshop is the place to be. You'll get to pick the ten cards you'd like to make from a select of nine different styles. Two of one style and then one of each of the nine other? No problem. So come craft, chat and get some holiday cheer! To register or ask questions, contact AWC Member **Jaimie Molenaar-Keppel** at JaimiesJoyfulStampin@yahoo.com

Sunday, November 6

3 – 5:30 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

€ 25 Members (€ 30 nonmembers)

Maximum 8



Essential Oils and Heart Health

Discover the natural benefits of essential oil usage to support cardiac health. Do you suffer from high blood pressure, cholesterol or other related issues? Join us to learn about how you can improve your heart health with these powerhouse essential oils. Also, learn why they have been used for thousands of years as nature's medicine to provide relief from chronic pain, headaches, digestive issues, respiratory issues, emotional health, stress, inflammation and so much more. Everyone will be able to try the oils and receive a free sample at the end. There is no need to register. For more information, contact AWC Member **Ginny Mees** at 063 979 0178.

Wednesday, November 9

10 – 11:30 a.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

Dutch Etiquette Class

One of the most important aspects of living in and traveling throughout the Netherlands is getting to know the people and their customs. You will quickly learn that what you might

consider to be customary and polite may differ substantially from what is expected in The Hague. Do not be misled by the sometimes seemingly brusque Dutch manner as behind it lies a friendly good humor and an old-fashioned dependability. This class is all about "Dutch Manners" and

will help you to understand the differences in culture between the US and the Netherlands. You will learn more than just "facts," such as the Dutch kiss three times, eat with knife and fork, cycle on the sidewalk and walk on the bike lane. Join **Greetje Engelsman** to have fun in this special class!

Thursday, November 17

10 a.m. – Noon

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

RSVP by November 14

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1067266

Thanksgiving at Pieterskerk And Lunch in Leiden

Each year, OAR ~ Overseas Americans Remember hosts a wonderful non-denominational Thanksgiving Service at the Pieterskerk in Leiden where our Pilgrim story began (see page 31 for more information). Entrance is free and there is no need for registration to attend the service. Following the service, we will have lunch at Het Koetshuis de Burcht; please RSVP on *GroupSpaces* if you'd like to join us for lunch (at own expense). This restaurant sits at the base of the ruin of a historic castle built in the 11th century. It was a coach house from 1657 until 1981, when it was opened as a restaurant. After enjoying lunch, we will head to the train station.

We will meet in front of Starbucks at Den Haag Centraal Station (DHCS) at 9:45 a.m. to train to Leiden. We'll then walk to the Pieterskerk, arriving at approximately 10:30 a.m. The Pieterskerk is always crowded, so we want to be there in time to get a good seat. Specific train details will be sent to the participants prior to the event. Don't

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One-of-a-Kind Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 21

forget your OV-chipkaart. Questions? Contact **Greetje Engelsman** at greetje.engelsman@gmail.com.

Thursday, November 24

Meet at Starbucks at DHCS: 9:45 a.m.

Service: 11 a.m.

Lunch: 12:30 p.m.

Train and lunch at own expense

RSVP by November 22

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1066258

Amsterdam Light Festival Boat Tour

Join us for a private boat tour with Those Dam Boat Guys (www.thosedamboatguys.com) along the *Water Colors* route of the annual Amsterdam Light Festival (www.amsterdam-lightfestival.com). All artworks on display are made especially for the festival by local and international artists. The artists are challenged to give a new view on the city and its architecture, future and role in the world.

We'll travel by train to Amsterdam at approximately 4 p.m. and board a private boat with a removable roof and windows for a 1.5- to 2-hour tour of the light installations along the canals. Please bring your own drinks and an appetizer to share. After the tour there is an option to have dinner at a local restaurant before taking the train back to The Hague. Please note that the fee is nonrefundable unless your spot(s) can be filled from the waiting list. Contact **Seanette Meserole**



at meserolefamily@gmail.com for further information.

Saturday, December 10

4 – 10 p.m.

Canals of Amsterdam

€ 35 Members or Spouses

(€ 45 nonmembers after December 1)

Minimum 18 / Maximum 20

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1074898

Holiday Ornament Exchange

For those AWC Members who are still in town, let's get together for some holiday fun and raise some money for a good cause (fee to be donated to charity). Bring a new, unwrapped ornament (€ 20 or less) and we'll have fun swapping, chatting and snacking on holiday fare. Questions? Contact **Trena Cormier** at awc.firstvp@gmail.com



Thursday, December 15

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

€ 5 Members PLUS one gift-wrapped ornament

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1072469

Private Dinner on the Hoftramm

In May 2014, the Hoftramm rumbled into existence (www.hoftramm.nl). Once just a regular tram, it is now a culinary tram, complete with a WC, with seating for 44 din-

ers (8 tables for 4 and 6 tables for 2). The Hoftramm follows a scenic route through The Hague while serving a four-course gourmet meal designed by Dutch celebrity chef Pierre Wind. The Hoftramm is literally a "moveable feast."

The AWC has reserved the entire Hoftramm for a special AWC event. Dinner will include an aperitif, bread, appetizers, a main course, dessert and unlimited drinks (wine, beer and non-alcoholic options). A vegetarian option is available if reserved in advance; please note any food allergies when registering.

We will meet at the Grote Kerk at 5:45 p.m. and board the Hoftramm for a 6 p.m. departure. During our 2.5-hour tour of the city, we will ride through Scheveningen, the Statenkwartier and the Centrum. In order to ensure that Members have a chance to register for this unique experience, registration for nonmembers will not open until January 5. Please note that we have an early cancellation deadline to this activity; after January 20, the

fee is nonrefundable unless your spot(s) can be filled from the waiting list.

Saturday, April 1

Meet at 5:45 p.m. for a 6 p.m. departure

Kerkplein, Den Haag

€ 78 Members or Spouses

(€ 83 nonmembers after January 5)

Minimum 22 / Maximum 44

Cancellation deadline: Friday, January 20

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1076636



Cancellation Policy

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



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Holiday Bazaar

by Mary AnnNation-Greenwall

The AWC Holiday Bazaar Committee have been busy organizing a festive, fun-filled 2016 AWC Holiday Bazaar for the entire family! Everyone is welcome, so please invite everyone you know to attend, whether you celebrate Sinterklaas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or Christmas.



The Bazaar is open to the public and is a superb way to begin your holiday season. Why travel to other Christmas Markets when we have one right here in our own backyard! This year's Bazaar will feature a wide variety of international gifts with a continued focus on handmade and/or unique gift ideas. There will be fresh baked goods, specialty food items, paintings, scarves, jewelry, pottery, Dutch collectibles, wines and health and wellness vendors plus a few special surprises. You will not want to miss this fun event! Of course, there will also be the opportunity to talk and take a picture with Santa. The AWC Holiday Bazaar is the perfect family outing where you are sure to find a warm festive atmosphere, and special gifts for everyone!

When: Saturday, November 12, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Sunday, November 13, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Where: Carlton Ambassador Hotel, Sophialaan 2, The Hague

Admission: € 2, children under 12 years are free

Children's Activities: € 5

The American Women's Club of The Hague HOLIDAY BAZAAR 2016

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Nov. 12, 11:00 until 18:00

Nov. 13, 11:00 until 17:00

€ 2 Admission

Kids under 12: Free

€ 5 Kids Craft & Activities

Happy Holidays

A New Dutch Knight

by Emily van Eerten

At the closing of the STAND UP Against Human Trafficking Symposium on Sunday, October 9, attendees were joined by Members of the American Women's Club of The Hague and invited guests for a surprise announcement. The Mayor of The Hague, Jozias van Aartsen, arrived to confer a Royal Dutch recognition on long-time AWC Member **Georgia Regnault** by naming her a Knight in the Order of Oranje-Nassau.

Greetje Engelsman and I spearheaded Georgia's nomination as a result of a casual conversation during a Walkie Talkies walk in March. Greetje made initial inquiries to the City of The Hague. With encouraging words that it would, in principle, not be inconceivable that an American with Georgia's credentials could be considered for such a special Dutch award, we invited **Celeste Brown**, **Ginnie Rempt** and **Jessie Rodell** to work on preparing an application. Working in secret, the group researched Georgia's volunteer history by interviewing people (most of whom did not know they were being interviewed) in a variety of organizations where Georgia had been a key volunteer.

Having collected a mountain of information, a strategic decision was made to focus on key aspects of Georgia's service to the local community, primarily as someone who has worked over the years helping Americans and other international residents integrate into

Dutch society. She helped to showcase Dutch society to the international community by organizing conferences and meetings over a period of decades and contributing English-language articles and booklets to multiple publications while volunteering energetically and tirelessly in a variety of organizations. The AWC, FAWCO, the Benoordenhout Neighborhood Association, and a former US Consul General to the Netherlands contributed excellent and enthusiastic letters of recommendation in support of the application we submitted in June.

The majority of *Lintjes* (Royal ribbons) are bestowed on the King's birthday in April during the so-called *Lintjes Regen* (Rain of Ribbons). Due to the declining health of Georgia's husband, the Mayor's office graciously agreed to expedite the announcement of Georgia's award during a special ceremony coinciding with the international symposium sponsored by FAWCO and the FAWCO Foundation, two organizations who have also benefitted from Georgia's ongoing volunteer commitment since 1981. Georgia's husband, Peter, her three children, Philippe, Lara and Alexander, many of Georgia's long-term FAWCO friends, and other personal friends and neighbors were able to raise a glass in celebration of this extraordinary recognition.



Georgia joins AWC Member **Roberta Enschede** as a Knight in the Order of Oranje-Nassau. The AWC is extremely proud of both American women who have made us all look good through their exemplary and sustained commitment to Dutch society and our own Club.



Calling All Bakers!

by Jan Essad

Sugar, Spice and All Things Nice... And Yummy!

The Holiday Bazaar Bake Sale needs your favorite cookie, fudge, cake, pie, muffins and anything and everything sweet or savory you love to bake. We need as many baked goods as possible to make this very important fundraiser a true success, so if you haven't signed up already to contribute your most delicious culinary delight, it's not too late. Email me at bjessad@hotmail.com and I'll sign you up, send you some helpful hints, and answer any questions you may have.

Deadline for dropping off your baked goods at the Clubhouse is Friday, November 11, since we will need some time to put the finishing touches on your goodies to prepare them for sale. If it's not possible to drop them off then, please deliver them to the Carlton Ambassador by 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 12. If you would like volunteer to work for the Bake Sale at the Bazaar, be sure to email our Volunteer Coordinator, **Laurie Martecchini** at lmartecchini@gmail.com.

So put on your aprons, grab those wooden spoons and Happy Baking! We are looking forward to a "Sweet" success thanks to all you bakers.



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NOVEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Chat, Crafts'n Cake 10 a.m. Hanos Tour 10:30 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	2 Pilates 10:15 a.m.	3 Wassenaar Coffee and Conversation 9 a.m. AWC Board Meeting 10 a.m.	4 Candelight tour of Kasteel Duivenvoorde 7:30 p.m.	5 Dinner Club TBD
6 Card Buffet of Winter Wishes- Card Making 3 p.m.	7 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m. Ladies Night at the Movies 7 p.m.	8 Chat, Crafts'n Cake 10 a.m. Heart Pillow Workshop Noon AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	9 OAR event: "Who's the President?" Breakfast 5 a.m. Essential Oils and Heart Health 10 a.m. Pilates 10:15 a.m.	10 Coffee 10 a.m. Annual General Meeting 10:30 a.m. Potluck Lunch Noon	11	12 AWC Holiday Bazaar 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
13 AWC Holiday Bazaar 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.	14 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	15 Chat, Crafts'n Cake 10 a.m. Out to Lunch Bunch 12:30 p.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	16 Pilates 10:15 a.m. Evening Book Club 7:30 p.m.	17 Daytime Book Club 10 a.m. Dutch Etiquette Class 10 a.m.	18 Guided Tour of Nieuwspoor & 2nd Chamber of Parliament 10 a.m.	19
20	21 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	22 Chat, Crafts'n Cake 10 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	23 Pilates 10:15 a.m.	24 Thanksgiving Service at Pieterskerk and Lunch in Leiden 9:45 a.m. Happy Thanksgiving! Clubhouse Closed	25	26
27	28 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	29 Chat, Crafts'n Cake 10 a.m. Jan Steen's Holidays with Jane Choy 10 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	30 Philanthropy Activities: Gingerbread House Assembly 10 a.m. Sinterklaas and Toiletry Gift Bag Workshop 1 p.m. Pilates 10:15 a.m.	Final 2016 Events: Dec 1: Christmas Markets in Cologne Dec 8: Making Gingerbread Houses Dec 10: Amsterdam Light Festival Boat Tour Dec 15: Ornament Exchange		



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www.access-nl.org

Thanksgiving Day Service

by Roberta Enschede

Thursday, November 24 at 11 a.m.
Pieterskerk in Leiden



Please join us at this non-denominational service on Thanksgiving morning at the historic Pieterskerk. The service lasts approximately one hour, combining a civil ceremony with a Service of Thanksgiving. A Catholic priest, Protestant and Anglican ministers, a rabbi and a cantor will conduct the service. Bring your Dutch friends and friends from all nations and beliefs. This is a service for everyone! Consider joining the AWC for lunch afterwards (see page 21 for more details).

For Americans, Thanksgiving at the Pieterskerk in Leiden is unique. In that church, the Pilgrims recorded their births, marriages and deaths. They lived in its surroundings from 1609 to 1620. In fact, some of the descendants of Moses Fletcher, a Leiden Pilgrim and subsequently a signer of the Mayflower Compact, still live there. Ria Koet, his direct descendant, will tell the story of her family, the only non-American members of the Mayflower Society.

On the occasion of the visit of President George H.W. Bush, the first sitting American President to visit the Netherlands, the Pieterskerk was the site chosen for him to speak. The Bush Family traces their ancestry to Francis Cooke, also a signer of the Mayflower Compact and a Leiden pilgrim. A few years ago, the Leiden roots of President Obama were also discovered. He descends from the Blossom Family who came to America on another ship called the Mayflower in 1629.

In Leiden, one feels how inextricably the values of the American nation are linked with the Netherlands. The story of a group of English dissenters who were welcomed there and able to live and worship freely and even

publish at a time when freedom of religion and the press were certainly not the norm, is a Dutch story, an American story, and reflects the aspirations of millions today.

*I would not omit to
 mention I felt a respect
 and veneration upon
 entering the church at
 Leiden.*

~ Abigail Adams

American sopranos, Anna Trombetta and Jennifer Whennon, will sing and the congregation will join with the hymns we love and associate with Thanksgiving. Coincidentally, one of those hymns, *We Gather Together*, is originally the Dutch hymn *Wilt Heden Nu Treden*.

The Mayor of Leiden, the Honorable Henri J. J. Lenferink, will speak as well as the US Chargé D'Affaires Shawn Crowley, who will also share excerpts from the President's Thanksgiving Proclamation. JAKK, the select choral group from the American School of The Hague, will sing under the direction of Iban Goldwasser and the ASH Concert Band directed by Jimmy Yarnell will perform. The Boys and Girl Scouts of all ages and the "Little Pilgrims" led by Katherine Farnsworth will be there to welcome everyone. You won't forget Thanksgiving in Leiden! Please join us.

We would welcome a "cookie contribution" for the coffee after the service. For your convenience, please carpool or take public transportation, if possible.

The Thanksgiving Day Service is sponsored by OAR ~ Overseas Americans Remember (oarinnl@yahoo.com). For further information, contact: Roberta Enschede, Coordinator at robertaenschede@yahoo.com, Anneke Beeuwkes, Michele Fiszbeijn, Tove McGrew or Jessie Rodell.

The Dutch Daily

by Eileen Harloff

From Greenhouse to Home

The dream house of Ron van der Burg, Director of Nobutec Greenhouse Projects in Wateringen, is, in fact, one of his own greenhouses. Located in 's-Gravenzande, a town west of The Hague, it is an example of combining living space with nature on a luxurious level. The house is divided into four sections: eating, reading, TV viewing and relaxation. In addition, there is a well-equipped kitchen, five en-suite bedrooms for the children, and a master bedroom with a covered roof terrace. The living area can be closed off with sliding doors from the greenhouse. Sustainability was definitely taken into consideration in the design, with special solar panels in the cover glass of the greenhouse. Water collectors catch rain on the roof and is stored in a concrete pit below ground to be used for toilets, cooling the house, the washing machine and to water plants. When the sun shines, screens are automatically closed and the windows open. In case of rain, the windows are shut. At present there is much interest internationally in the field of horticulture, and thereby in various uses of greenhouses, for example in urban areas for urban farming. This house is a prime example of what the future may hold, both in the traditional use of greenhouses and as a new type of housing.



Photo by Thierry Schut

Be Careful of What You Promote

I use my age as an excuse for not understanding the rage that has seized my favorite local seaside spot, Kijkduin, which lies along the coast south of Scheveningen, en route to Hoek van Holland. The boardwalk is full with people of all ages. They sit on the concrete benches above the Deltaplein and spread out into the sand dunes beyond the Atlantic Hotel. They mosey along the cafés and restaurants that line the boardwalk, but seldom go inside. Suddenly, they stampede from one end of the boardwalk to the other—faces grim, backs bent over, eyes on their iPads and hope in their hearts—for the word has gone around that the latest Pokémon GO character has been spotted in the vicinity of the boat. Whoever is in the way just about gets knocked over because everyone's focus is on what he or she holds in his or her hand. After a while the crowd stampedes back to where it started from. For those unfamiliar with the app, players use their phone's GPS capability to locate, capture, battle, and train virtual creatures, called Pokémon, who appear on the screen as if they were in the same real-world location as the player.

In the beginning of this fascinating cultural happening, the local merchants were jubilant—look at the daily crowds, they will buy food and Pokémon GO paraphernalia—they even named Kijkduin Holland's Pokémon GO



Photo by Richard Mulder

Capital and erected a Pokémon GO pole on the square. Gradually local merchants have come to see another aspect of this craze—they want to be rid of their title and all those Pokémon GO seekers who bring their own food with them, hang around all day and far into the night, drop their trash wherever, ramble around in the forbidden parts of the dunes, relieve themselves in open spaces and, frankly, become a disaster. The cost to the taxpayer is € 1,470 per week, says Mayor Jozias van Aartsen—this includes the rental of fences, additional trash cans, more security guards, the rental and cleansing of movable toilets, and the removal of broken fences and outdoor furniture, among other expenses. Now the city has hired a lawyer to negotiate with Niantic, the maker of the “game,” for a reduction in the number of Pokémon GO figures that are being created. The local citizens and businesses have had it. They're fed up with the excessive noise, the trash, the “cattle run” along the boardwalk that sweeps away everything and everyone in their path, and especially with the Pokémon GO pole located on Deltaplein. In other words, Kijkduin wants out, and the sooner, the better.

Five Came Home

In the night of January 9, 2005, the heart of the Westfries Museum's 17th and 18th

centuries collection, namely 24 paintings with a value of € 1.3 million, as well as 70 pieces of silver, were stolen. In 2014 one of the paintings turned up on a Ukraine website and now, two years later, five more paintings have recently been turned over to the Dutch Embassy in Kiev by the Attorney-General of Ukraine. Three of the paintings are badly damaged, but fortunately can be restored; the other two are framed, and it can be assumed that they had hung on someone's wall. Director Ad Geerdink was not working at the Westfries at the time of the burglary, but was present at the handover of the paintings where he saw them for the first time, saying “I knew the paintings only from images. I had often dreamed of how they would look like in real life. They are really stunning!” They smelled musty, as if they had been kept in a cellar; one was rolled up in paper, two others were rolled up in a piece of clothing. They are now back home in Hoorn, where they were displayed to the public for a short time before being sent for restoration. Now a crowd funding action is under way to meet the costs of the restoration, which is estimated to be around € 100,000. The hope remains that more of the missing paintings and the silver may also one day find their way back to the Westfries Museum, where they belong.

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The Dutch Daily (cont.)

Continued from page 33

From Advertising to Taxidermy

This is the story of two Dutchmen, Jaap Sinke and Ferry van Tongeren, who began their careers in advertising and ended up making compositions of exotic animals. This transformation started when van Tongeren decided to sell his ad agency and retire in 2011 at the age of 42 and then to travel for one year through the Far East with his wife and children. He had always admired still lifes of exotic animals in early Dutch paintings as well as more recent works of art by modern day artists such as Damien Hirst. He wondered how the animals displayed had been treated after death to become so life like. So, once back in the Netherlands, he began an apprenticeship with a local taxidermist, and after mastering this art, he invited his former partner Sinke—who coincidentally was the son of a veterinarian and therefore had no aversion to dead animals—to join him in a new career: creating compositions with both exotic and everyday animals in a studio in Haarlem (www.fine-taxidermy.com). Van Tongeren still works one day per week as a taxidermist at the Leiden Museum of Natural History, which enables him to learn a broad variety of techniques and spend time with one of the larg-



est and oldest taxidermy collections in the world. The men only buy animals that were born into captivity and have died, usually of natural causes, from zoos and exotic animal breeders. Their first collection of 22 pieces took two years to complete and included black and white swans, a squirrel monkey, an iguana, a pelican and a pair of baby lions. They also photograph animals, focusing on the unusual poses of their bodies in their everyday activities.

When the partners showed 39 examples of their work at an exhibition in London, their art took wings. The day after the opening, they were informed by the exhibition organizers that 38 of their compositions had been purchased by Damien Hirst. This meant that other potential buyers would have to wait, for taxidermy is complex and time consuming. So they focused on their photography, creating a series they called *Water Ballet*, which was shown in an Amsterdam gallery this past spring.

News Flashes

With minimum pomp and circumstance, 55-year-old Daniel Gatti of Milan, Italy, was officially inaugurated in September as the seventh Chief Conductor of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam. Gatti formerly served the orchestra as a guest conductor.

The Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) has been named as 59th on the list of the world's best universities by *The Times Higher World University Ranking*. In addition to TU Delft, 12 other Dutch universities were also included, making the Netherlands the 4th country on the world list, after the US, the UK and Germany.

AWC and the Arts

by Jane Choy

Guided Tour of the Second Chamber and Nieuwspoor: A Morning at the Center of Government and News of the Netherlands

Our morning will start with coffee and cake at the Nieuwspoor, the Press Center of the Netherlands, where Dutch politicians, lobbyists and journalists meet informally and serves as a location for press conferences (most notably the Prime Minister's weekly address). Our tour will begin with a member of government showing us the Second Chamber of Parliament, followed by a tour of the Nieuwspoor. We will finish our morning at the nerve center of Holland with lunch in the dining room of the Nieuwspoor. The fee includes the tour, lunch, coffee and cake. Please bring a valid ID.

Friday, November 18

10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Nieuwspoor

Lange Poten 10, Den Haag

€ 35 Members (€ 38 nonmember)

Minimum 15 / Maximum 22

Cancellation deadline: November 1

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1072466



Jan Steen's Holidays

Jan Steen, one of best loved Dutch artists of the 17th century, is known for his rollicking scenes of everyday life—each one telling a story. He has also given us some charming scenes of Dutch holidays and was the first to concentrate on the portrayal of these activities. AWC Member **Jane Choy** will host this lighthearted talk in the intimate living room of

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[AWC GroupSpaces.com](http://AWCGroupSpaces.com).
Direct any questions to jechoy@me.com

her 17th century home in the historic center of Voorburg. She will tell of the Dutch holidays which have been painted by Steen: Sinterklaas (St. Nicholas), celebrated on December 5, is regarded by many as the quintessential Dutch holiday, and Twelfth Night, celebrated on January 6. Sinterklaas has always played a very important role in Dutch life and Jan Steen has interpreted scenes of the *Feast of St. Nicolas* in many ways, traditionally dedicated to Dutch children. He also painted *Twelfth Night* more than once capturing the revelries as only he could.

This talk will be followed by coffee or tea and special Sinterklaas treats. Parking is free in the neighborhood, with a two-hour limit. Her house is easily accessible by public transportation: Bus 23, 45 or 46 and sprinter train from Centraal Station.

Tuesday, November 29

10 a.m. – Noon

Jane Choy's Home in Voorburg

€ 15 Members (€ 17.50 nonmembers)

Minimum 8 / Maximum 22

Cancellation deadline: November 21

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1072668



Philanthropy Projects

by Mary Ann Nation-Greenwall

Sinterklaas Gift Drive

December 5 is a very special day for children in the Netherlands for it is when Sinterklaas surprises them with presents. This holiday season, the AWC will assist Sinterklaas by helping him not to overlook some needy children. In keeping with our tradition of helping the underprivileged in our community, we are proud to help bring smiles and laughter to these children. The impact of our work is not just felt by the beneficiaries, but also by the entire community. We will gather treats and small toys this month at the AWC Clubhouse and then gift wrap them during our workshop so they can be dropped off in time for Sinterklaas. Help spread happiness! Support us by donating goodies for children up to 12 (candy, small plush toys, Play-Doh, markers, coloring books, bubbles, etc.), volunteering to collect donations or helping at the workshop. Please email questions to AWC Community Service Coordinator **Pamela Pruijs-Bott** at pjpruijs@gmail.com.
Gift Drive: November 1 – 29
Gift Workshop: November 30
1 – 3:30 p.m.
www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1078889
Gift Delivery: Friday, December 2

Holiday Toiletry Drive

Between the holiday parties and gift wrapping, consider the small things you might do that would make a meaningful difference in your community. Pamela has partnered with a local organization on behalf of the AWC to donate toiletries and personal care items to those less fortunate. Your contribution will make a difference. Needed items include: toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, shampoo, lotion, pocket size facial tissues, etc. Trial- and travel-size products as well as full-size items are all welcome. Donations may be dropped off at the Clubhouse throughout the month of November. No contribution is too small and every little bit helps! Please email Pamela at pjpruijs@gmail.com with any questions.

Toiletry Drive: November 1 – 29

Toiletry Workshop: November 30
1 – 3:30 p.m.

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1078889

Toiletry Delivery: Friday, December 2

Making Gingerbread Houses

Join us for a fun and meaningful way to get into the Christmas spirit by creating authentic homemade German gingerbread houses—two FREE workshops are available for your convenience. We will joyfully mix and bake dough, then construct the houses with colorful chocolates and candies. The finished houses will be donated to local organizations.

Before we can decorate, we need volunteers to bake the roofs and walls of the gingerbread houses in their homes prior November 30. Even if you can't make it to either workshop, please let us know if you would like to help by contacting Pamela at pjpruijs@gmail.com to get the recipe and pattern for the house.

Wednesday, November 30

10 a.m. – Noon

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1074712

or

Thursday, December 8

7 – 10 p.m.

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1074713

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

Min 6 / Max 16



AWC SINTERKLAAS GIFT BAGS DRIVE ITEMS NEEDED



The following donations are needed to make lovely gift bags for needy children: candy, coloring books, small toys, markers, bubbles, books, cookies, stickers, Play-Doh, etc.
Please drop off your donations at the clubhouse by: November 29th.

FAWCO Corner

by Karla Kahn and Julie Mowat

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



As we are writing this, we are busy working on the Stand Up Against Human Trafficking Experience and Symposium. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, both events were well attended, informative and interesting for all! We look forward to giving an update in the December issue of *Going Dutch*.

Mumbai 2017 FAWCO Conference

The Butterfly symbolizes personal transformation ... from her cocoon the butterfly emerges in her unfurling glory. A symbol of grace and tenderness, she brings the awareness and energy of another way of being. The Woman Warrior is the symbol of strength, wisdom and passion. She is autonomous, independent, strong-willed and powerful! The bold colors of the wings represent the global effort to bring change. **Learn • Reach • Shine** are words that speak to the overarching theme of the FAWCO Target Program for 2016 – 2019: Education—Empowering Women and Girls through Knowledge and Skills. These are our goals for the 2017 Biennial Conference.

The American Women's Club of Mumbai is proud to host the 43rd Biennial FAWCO Conference to be held from March 30 to April 2, 2017. Optional tours are being planned for both before and after the conference. This should be a wonderful adventure and conference. Several Members of our Club are already planning to attend. Please let us know if you have any questions.

FAWCO Education Awards

Did you know that, as a FAWCO Member, you and your children are eligible to apply for the Foundation Awards program regardless of nationality? Grandchildren are also eligible for the Dual Cultural Award.

The 2017 Education Awards will fall into three separate categories: Academic Studies Awards, a Dual Cultural Award and Member Awards. Please visit the website for more information: www.fawcofoundation.org

Happy Fall!



Missing Pieces

by Suzanne MacNeil



One afternoon in mid-September, I met with **Teresa Mahoney** and **Trena Cormier** at the Clubhouse. While we were chatting, an American woman stopped by to donate books, which we no longer accept. It was the last day for the woman and her family in The Hague

as they were relocating to the UK. During our discussion she mentioned that she attended the 2007 AWC Gala and had been given a piece of a large painting of the American flag that had been painted during the Gala. She asked if we wanted it and was kind enough to donate it to our Club.

The piece of her flag is red and white stripes and signed on the back by the artist. Were you at the 2007 AWC Gala? If so, do you have a piece of the flag painting? And can you fill in the missing pieces, either with your painting or a story about the painting?

Please contact me at smacneil56@gmail.com if you can help put together the puzzle!



A Thank You from



Dear Becky and Elizabeth,

Thank you very much for the generous donation that AWC of The Hague recently made to The FAWCO Foundation's programs. Your donation has been divided equally to fund both our 2017 Development Grants and Education Awards Programs.

We are proud of our programs and the good work that they accomplish. And we are most grateful for the ongoing donations The Foundation receives from FAWCO Clubs, FAUSA, and their members. Together, with the unstinting support of AWC of The Hague and others, we are improving the lives of

women and girls throughout the world. Please pass on our sincere thanks to your members.

Please forgive my long delay in acknowledging your kind donation. We are just catching up with our financial reports for the summer months. Attached you will find a receipt for your records.

Very best wishes,

Patti

Patricia Meek
The FAWCO Foundation
2015-17 Board President
president@fawcofoundation.org
www.fawcofoundation.org

Announcements

Crossing Border Festival



Ever since the first edition in 1993, Crossing Border has examined the frontiers of music and language in the city center of The Hague. It has expanded to become one of the most progressive international music and literature festivals in Europe featuring more than 100 artists ranging from renowned names to promising upcoming talent.

Wednesday, November 2 through Sunday, November 6

Various venues in Den Haag Centrum
www.crossingborder.nl

IamExpat Fair Comes to The Hague

The first IamExpat Fair in The Hague will host stands from dozens of companies and organizations working in housing, careers, education, expat services, health, leisure, and family needs. Free workshops and presentations will also be happening throughout the day. Entrance is free with online registration.

Saturday November 5
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Grote Kerk, Den Haag
www.thehague.iamexpatfair.nl

Annual Church Bazaar

The American Protestant Church of The Hague will host its 59th Annual Bazaar. You can savor appetizing dishes and delicacies from the international kitchen, as well as shop for books, clothing, accessories, arts and crafts, and more. Free entrance with proceeds from sales to support charities worldwide. www.apch.nl

Saturday, November 5
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Esther de Boer-van Rijklaan 20, Den Haag

11th Leiden Film Festival

The Leiden Film Festival (LIFF) showcases feature films that examine the border between art-house and mainstream cinema from all over the world. The American Indie Competition is LIFF's main event that focuses entirely on young American talents who are yet unknown to international audiences. The festival runs through November 8 in various locations in Leiden. www.leidenfilmfestival.nl

DFAS Art Lecture Botticelli's Florence

Botticelli (1445-1510) is one of the best-loved artists of the Florentine Renaissance. This lecture looks at his career and at the city that shaped his art, putting his paintings in their historical context, and showing how they reflect Botticelli's world. From *The Birth of Venus* and *Primavera*, painted during the golden age of the Medici, to the *Mystic Nativity*, reflecting the religious fervor of Savonarola, Botticelli's paintings are a stunning visual testimony to one of the most eventful periods in Florentine history. Lecturer Dr. Paula Nuttall gained her PhD from the Courtauld Institute, focusing on the reception of Netherlandish painting in 15th-century Florence. Non-DFAS member fee is € 12. www.dfas.nl

Tuesday, November 8

Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Lecture begins at 8 p.m.

Cultural Centrum Warenar
Kerkstraat 75, Wassenaar



"Who's the President?" Election Breakfast

The morning after the US Presidential election, OAR ~ Overseas Americans Remember in cooperation with the US Embassy of The Hague will host the 10th *Who's the President? Election Breakfast* at the Kurhaus in Scheveningen.

The organizers bring together the American, Dutch and international communities by providing a special gathering place to watch the results. Republicans and Democrats stand side by side and respond according to their preferences. The Kurzaal is transformed into an American election hall decorated with flags of the 50 states.

Wednesday, November 9
5 – 8:30 a.m.

Grand Hotel Amrath Kurhaus
Gevers Deynootplein 30, Den Haag
www.electionbreakfastkurhaus.nl



Benefit Theater Production

The AWC is invited to attend a special production of *Antigone* in aid of Bijlmer Bridge2Hope, one of the featured speakers at the recent FAWCO Symposium; all proceeds from tickets sales on this night only will go to the BB2H Project focusing on the freedom and safety of survivors of sexual exploitation. *Antigone*, a political thriller by Sophocles, remains relevant in our modern times as it challenges us to think about the position of the individual within society, the empowerment of women, loyalty and love. Performed by a cast of 30 Dutch and international artists, it is a multidisciplinary



production in English. www.compagnietheater.nl/voorstelling/bijlmer-bridge-2-hope

Friday, November 11

8:30 p.m.

Compagnietheater
Kloveniersburgwal 50, Amsterdam

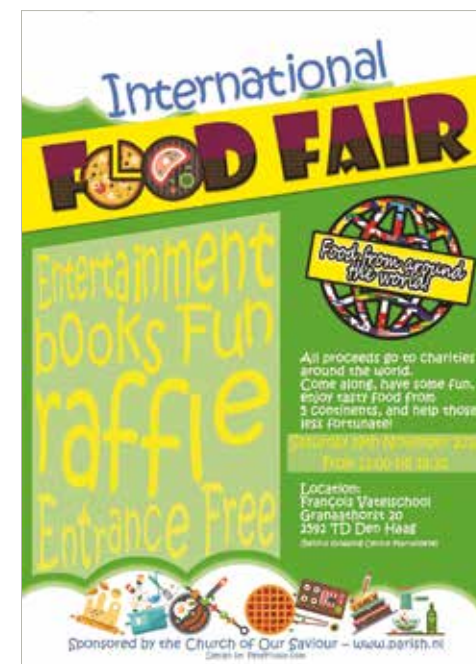
Sinterklaas Arrival

Sinterklaas arrives from Spain in the Netherlands every year on the 2nd or 3rd weekend in November, visiting different towns at various times. He will arrive aboard the SS Madrid in Scheveningen Harbor on Saturday, November 12. After his arrival at 11:30, he will make his way on his white horse, accompanied by a full parade of Zwarte Piets, through the streets of Scheveningen and the Statenkwartier into The Hague Centrum. Even if you don't have young children, this annual event is uniquely Dutch and is quite a wonderful sight. www.sinterklaasindenhaag.nl

International Food Fair

The Parish of the Church of Our Saviour sponsors this large-scale International Food Fair every November for charity. The diverse members of the parish community from

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Announcements (cont.)

Continued from page 41

more than 90 nations come together to provide entertainment and to prepare and sell their own national food specialties, wines and pastries. There are kids' activities, a raffle, used book sale and flea market. The proceeds are donated to charitable organizations for life-sustaining projects such as farming, carpentry, women's support, street children's education and rehabilitation for the homeless. In 2015, the fair raised € 40,000 with 100% of the funds dispersed to charities around the world. www.parish.nl

Saturday, November 19

Noon – 6:30 p.m.

Francois Vatel School

Granaathorst 20, Den Haag

Free entrance

Antique and Art Fair

PAN Amsterdam, the Netherlands' premier art and antiques fair, is renowned for its high-quality, international offerings by 125 galleries of paintings, furniture, maps, prints and sculptures from the 16th century to the present. The common denominator is that all the objects are vetted by a group of 70 experts for authenticity, artistic quality and condition. Prices range from € 500 to € 500,000. Over 45,000 visitors, from museum curators to private art enthusiasts, are attracted to this fair every year. www.pan.nl

Sunday, November 20 through Sunday, November 27

Amsterdam RAI Parkhal, Europaplein



Country & Christmas Fair

The Kasteel de Haar (near Utrecht) is the perfect setting for a Christmas Fair. More than 200 exhibitors in heated booths greet visitors in a magical environment full of lights, Christmas trees and beautiful decorations. Discounted tickets are available online.

Wednesday, November 23 –

Sunday, November 27

Kasteel de Haar

Kasteellaan 1, Haarzuilens

www.countrychristmasfair.nl

St. Andrew's Charity Ball

The St. Andrew's Society hosts a yearly charity ball in celebration of St. Andrew's Day (the feast day of St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland). A highlight will be Scottish dancing to live music for enthusiasts of all abilities. Bringing a dance partner is unnecessary. The € 99 ticket includes a Highland banquet, wine with dinner and dancing throughout the evening. Kilts are not obligatory. Tickets may be purchased from Marion at maria.janine@ziggo.nl. If you want to practice a few dances before the ball, you are welcome to join the Reel Club which meet on Fridays in the British School on Diamanthorst in The Hague from 8 – 10 p.m.

Saturday, November 26

6:30 p.m. – 1 a.m.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Den Haag

www.standrews.nl

Pickleball

After hosting three very energetic and successful pickleball clinics, AWC Member **Krishna Thakrar** is excited to announce that there is enough demand to organize weekly pickleball games at the courts at Sporthal Houtrust. She encourages AWC Members to join her for a few games to try this fast-growing sport. The fee is € 6.50 per session. Contact: Krishna at kthakrar2000@yahoo.com

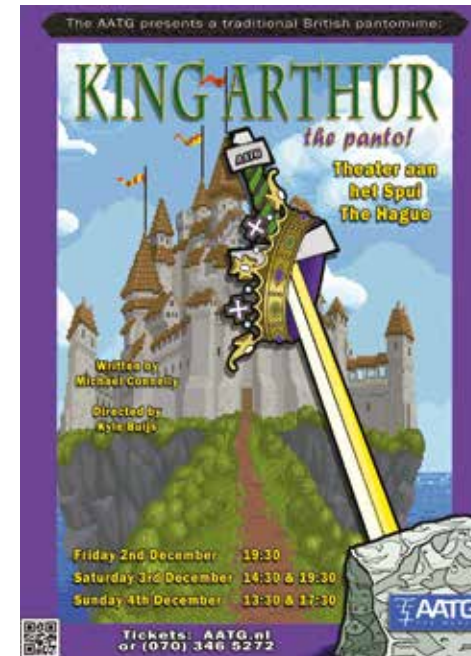
Fridays

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Laan van Poot 22, Den Haag

King Arthur, a Pantomime

Distinctively British, a panto is a popular form of family entertainment incorporating song, dance, slapstick comedy, cross-dressing and audience participation. This holiday season, the Anglo American Theatre Group (AATG) welcomes us to Camelot where Merlin the Wizard tries to keep things running smoothly, but Morgana has her eyes on the throne and will stop at nothing to claim it. Using her witchy powers, she plans to get rid of King Uther and his son Arthur. Will Morgana seize the throne of Camelot for her own cruel and selfish reign or will Arthur vanquish her evil and claim his rightful place



as King? As part of the audience, you can help the heroes save Camelot.

Friday, December 2 –

Sunday, December 4

Theatre aan het Spui

Spui 187, Den Haag

www.aatg.nl

Icons of National Geographic

In 1984, American Steve McCurry photographed an Afghan girl in the Nasir Bagh refugee camp in Pakistan. This beautiful

portrait became world famous. In 2002, he was able to find the woman again, and her name became known for the first time: Sharbat Gula. This picture can be seen along



with 65 works by 10 other photographers in this special exhibition at Museon through January 8, 2017. The emphasis is on nature photography in the context of culture and science. www.museon.nl

A Different Vision on Fashion Photography

German photographer Peter Lindbergh is regarded as one of the most influential fashion photographers of the past 40 years. For the first time in the Netherlands, an exhibit devoted to Lindbergh will be shown through February 17, 2017, at the Kunsthall in Rotterdam featuring more than 220 of his photographs. *The Rotterdam Gallery*, photographed for the October issue of *Dutch Vogue* especially for this exhibition, shows the results of Lindbergh's shoot at the Port of Rotterdam of Dutch top model Lara Stone and emerging talent Elisa Hupkes.

www.kunsthall.nl



© Peter Lindbergh

First Impressions Ten Years Later

by Dena Haggerty

Give me a good
old-fashioned bike
with an annoying
bell any day.

Like many who have traveled the world and spent years living abroad, I no longer call my country of birth home. Sorry, Mom! But what happens when you return to the place you do consider the closest thing you have to a home after a ten-year absence? Does it still feel like home?

In many ways, the Netherlands is exactly the same place we left a decade ago. The language is the same, there are still bikes everywhere, the streets are clean, the rules are clear and simple, and people are helpful and polite. However, there are also many changes—most of which I find confusing.



OV-chipkaarts

I admit to being completely stumped by the new method of payment for public transportation. I may have dropped the ball by not putting much time into researching the situation. I speak the language and have a Dutch passport—how hard could it be? Apparently € 80 is how hard. I signed up for the card online and got it in the mail. The top line of the accompanying letter said, “Your card is now ready to use.” I guess I should have read past that first line to the part where you have to actually activate your card at a machine in one of the train stations before you use it. Imagine my frustration when the conductor came by and it turned out I hadn’t checked in. I totally pulled the “dumb woman just arrived from an unsafe country” card. The conductor had to be the sweetest man working for the Dutch railroads. He gave me specific instructions on how to get out of paying the fine. Spoiler alert: it worked.

Eerily Quiet Cars

Yes, I’m talking about the vast number of electric cars that seem to have popped up out of nowhere. I’m all for a better environment. Hey, I recycle! But these electric cars



are driving me batty. It’s not enough that the owners get a tax break when they buy the car and then pay less road taxes, they also get the best parking spots! I literally can’t walk more than a block before I run into yet another re-charging station, complete with two prime parking spots. I’m pretty sure at least some electric car owners bought their car for the parking spots. On top of that, the cars are super quiet. It’s just not right that the tires make more noise traveling over the pavers than the engine does. As a woman with reduced sight who depends on her ears before crossing traffic, I am not impressed. Give me a good old-fashioned bike with an annoying bell any day.

Garbage

Many, many years ago, people put their garbage in big plastic bags (usually black), set them on the curb one day a week, and a garbage truck came by and picked them up. Easy peasy. Nowadays there are various garbage pick-ups, recycling bins, and garbage passes (*afvalpas*). Huh, what? I have no idea what’s going on. I consider myself green. I’ve deliberated voting GroenLinks and I’ve even picked up Femke Halsema’s autobiography at the bookstore. I didn’t buy it, but I sure thought about it. I immediately got myself an *afvalpas* to take the various boxes and packaging material associated with any move to the dump for recycling, but what the heck do I do with my everyday plastics? No idea. And what in the world is GFT anyway?

Welcome to the 20th Century!

When I arrived in the Netherlands in the 1990s, I was blown away by how difficult it was for a working woman to get any of those pesky errands done because absolutely everything was closed during the evenings

and weekends. People were still upset about *lange koopavond*. Wow, thanks. One evening a week when I can get my shopping done along with every other working woman and all the teenagers trying to be cool. A grocery store open on Sunday? Good luck with that if you were outside Amsterdam or Rotterdam. And all that fun stuff that needs to be arranged at the municipal offices? I could go on and on, but let’s just say that the Netherlands before the turn of the century wasn’t the easiest place for working people. Luckily, a new era has arrived! Stores seem to be open all the time. Yes! And you pretty much never have to go to the municipality anymore. Almost everything can be done online. As long as you have a DigiD, you’re set. You can even arrange the DigiD before you move back to the Netherlands.

Multilingual

This hasn’t changed at all. Nearly all Dutch speak English and most of the legalities can be handled in English as well. I just had to mention this because it makes me unbelievably happy. I may speak fluent Dutch and conduct all my business in Dutch, but I’m so proud of the Dutch for their ability to accommodate and be welcoming to foreigners. Unfortunately, the welcoming aspect is changing for the worse, but that’s a topic for another day.

In case it’s not perfectly obvious, I’m super-duper excited to be back in the Netherlands. I’m beyond thrilled to be able to talk to people in languages with which I’m completely comfortable. So much so that I actually started up random conversations with strangers all the time when I first arrived. There’s still one grocer at Albert Heijn who cringes when he sees me coming. Yeah, it was that bad.

AWC Newcomer Dena Haggerty is a novelist who writes under the name D.E. Haggerty. She was born and raised in the US, but considers herself a Dutchie and not only because it sounds way cooler. She fled the Netherlands ten years ago when she couldn’t stand the idea of being a lawyer anymore. Turns out bed & breakfast owner in Germany didn’t do it for her either. She’s now back in Holland after a three-year stint in Istanbul.



**AWC Fall
Kick Off**

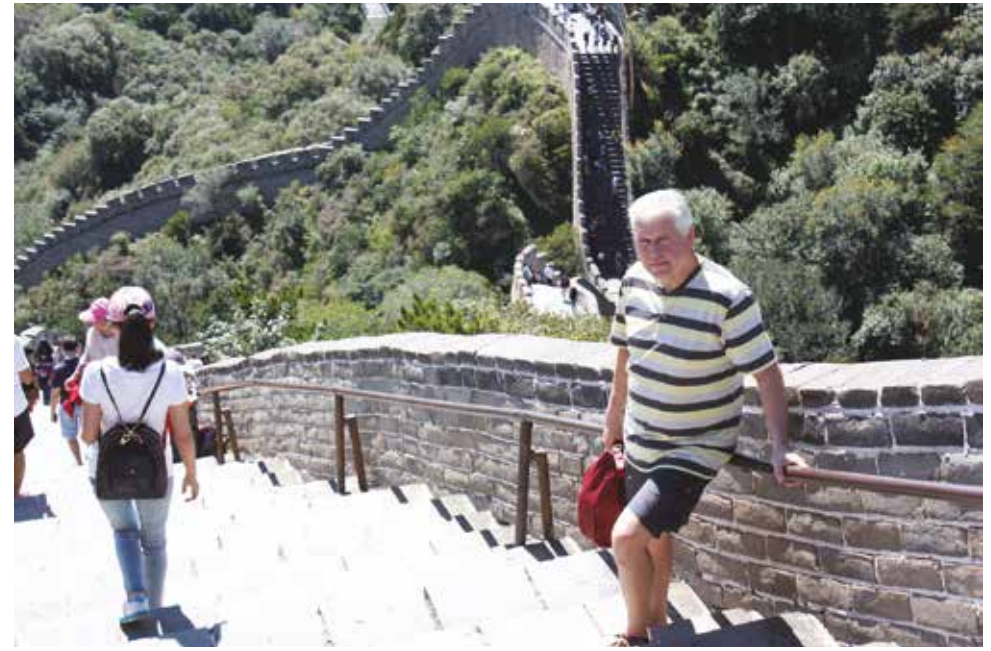


China: An Adventure

by Anne van Oorschot

I am fortunate that I am sometimes able to go along when my husband Hein has to travel for his work. When he came home with the news that he needed to go to China, I hoped this could be “that kind of a trip.” I had never been to the Far East, so I was thrilled to indeed be able to tag along. Hein needed to be in Hangzhou and Shanghai for five days with a delegation from the university where he works, and would join a delegation from the city of Breda in Yangzhou for the last four days. We decided to go four days early and spend a few days in Beijing seeing the standard tourist sights, so I started collecting a bit of information about China. While I knew that China’s population was the largest in the world, I did not know that 70% of that population still works in farming. And while I knew that Beijing was a big city (19.6 million inhabitants), I had no idea that Shanghai (24 million) was even bigger! I wondered what other surprises were in store for me ...

We departed on September 17, flying through the night to arrive in Beijing early the next morning. We collected our luggage and headed for the subway to make our way to our small hotel. Hein had reserved a room in the Dengcao Hutong, one of the ancient small alleys where Beijing residents used to live, and we found it without too much difficulty. There was a lovely small inner courtyard with



rooms arranged around; it really had the feel of a different way of life. After getting settled in, we set off on foot to wander in the area. All was crowded and busy, and there was much to see: neon signs mixed in with lacquer painted facades, people playing checkers at

little tables set up on the sidewalks, and a KFC next to a grocery store where we found Heinz ketchup with a Chinese label and an entire aisle of soy sauce varieties. Since no one seemed to speak anything besides Chinese/Mandarin, we settled on a small >> 50

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China (cont.)

Continued from page 49

restaurant with a “picture menu” and I ordered a chicken stir fry with different colored bell peppers. However, my first bite revealed that the chicken was accompanied not by bell peppers, but by three different varieties of HOT peppers! WOW ... fortunately I had a large beer as well and picked out the chicken for the remainder of the meal.

After a good night’s sleep, we headed out the following morning to see the Great Wall of China. While Hein had looked up how to get there by bus, it proved to be a challenge with no bus of the number we needed at the terminal and no one around who spoke English. We finally found someone to help us and boarded a bus which we *hoped* would take us to the Wall. Each row had five seats plus an aisle and was full of chattering Chinese of all ages and us ... what an adventure! We drove about 45 minutes, and it was thrilling to

catch a first glimpse of the Great Wall as we neared Badaling. The weather was beautiful and we made our way up to the Wall itself, then walked along an undulating section along with hundreds of others. Fortunately, most of the tourists peeled off after a while and we continued on along a much less traversed section. A low handrail has been added, which was very handy on one of the sections that was incredibly steep. I cannot imagine having to build the Wall—often with a steep terrain on one side—but neither can I imagine having to use the wall to get from A to B in certain sections. It is justifiably a “world wonder.”

Once back in Beijing, we sent out to visit the Temple of Heaven. Located in a park of the same name, the Temple of Heaven was built from 1406 to 1420 and was visited by emperors in the Ming and Qing dynasties to pray for a good harvest. We walked through the park and were amazed by how busy it was. Public spaces in Beijing are incredibly utilized by the citizens. We encountered a covered walkway where everyone was playing cards, another spot where a choir was practicing, a dance group was busy, and individuals were practicing their musical instruments. The buildings in the Temple of Heaven complex were stunning with beautiful symmetry of design and spectacular painted surfaces. The main building is circular and has a triple tiered roofline with beautifully decorated vertical panels between the roofs. The stairway leading up to the temple goes through three surrounding terraces, while



every surface of the interior of the temple roof is intricately decorated in red, green, cobalt blue, turquoise and gold. The overall effect is breathtaking—how could the “Gods” not be impressed?

After breakfast the next morning, we used the bicycles available at our hotel to go to the Forbidden City. I was surprised by the lack of bikes on the road—was China not a land of bicycles? Apparently as the income of the Chinese increases, the first thing to go is the bicycle, being replaced by an electric scooter—a sign of the affluence of the owner. Due to problems with the air quality in Beijing, gas powered scooters are forbidden; all scooters are electric ... and silent as they often surprised us from behind in smaller streets. Being used to biking in Holland, it was a pleasure to bike in the city and we went to Jingshan Park behind the Forbidden City first. A high point in the park afforded a spectacular view of the Forbidden City next door and we again enjoyed the many citizens who were using the park for exercise classes, music practice and recreation. The Forbidden City was huge and impressive—full of large and small palaces, halls, towers, pavilions and parks. A lot of splendor for one emperor and his following, but I imagine it could seem like a gilded cage.

After biking around Tiananmen Square, which was great fun, we visited the impressive Lama Buddhist Temple complex in Beijing. It was built as an Imperial Palace in 1694 and converted to a monastery in 1735. It is still very much a functioning temple with the scent of burning incense filling the air; the spaces were crowded with Chinese of all ages saying their prayers. Each of the temple build-



ings was beautifully and intricately decorated, with curving tiled roofs and countless smiling Buddha statues in the various buildings. Even here, some things are universal: the selfie.

After a delicious dinner—a more successful meal at a restaurant with a “picture menu”—we returned to our hotel, packed our suitcases and settled in for a good night’s sleep on our last night in Beijing. We had tickets for the following morning on the high speed train to Shanghai. Our adventure would continue ...



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