



May 2017
May / June

Going Dutch

In
this
issue

Here's Holland

On the Road in Morocco

Memorial Day at Margraten

American Women's Club of The Hague

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Going Dutch

May/June 2017



Between all of our tours of art exhibits at museums and art workshops, it's obvious that the AWC loves art



The Memorial Day Ceremony at the American Cemetery in Margraten is an event that you'll always remember!



Suzanne MacNeil takes us with her on the road in Morocco

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

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AWC Clubhouse

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

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goingdutchmag@gmail.com

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Editor
Melissa White

Design and Layout
Teresa Mahoney

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

Contributors
Mary Adams, Jane Choy, Trena Cormier,
Greetje Engelsman, Roberta Enschede,
Jan Essad, Becky Failor, Dena Haggerty,
Eileen Harloff, Suzanne MacNeil, Mary
Ann Nation-Greenwall, Georgia Regnault,
Anne van Oorschot

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2017-2018 AWC Officers

Honorary President Sabine Crowley

President Mary Ann Nation-Greenwall
awcthehague.president@gmail.com

Vice President Dena Haggerty
awcthehague.firstvp@gmail.com

Treasurer Melissa White
awcthehague.treasurer@gmail.com

Secretary Mallery Clarke
awcthehague.secretary@gmail.com

Club and Community Development
Laurie Brooks
awcthehague.community@gmail.com

Clubhouse Administrator
Dominique Duysens
awcthehague.clubhousemgr@gmail.com

Communications Teresa Mahoney
awcthehague.communications@gmail.com

Front Office

Trena Cormier, Siska Datema-Kool,
Dominique Duysens, Becky Failor, Amber
Gatewood, Paula Looijmans, Sue Merrick,
Shirley Newlin, Melissa Rider, Holly
Savoie, Pamela Schellekens, Krishna
Thakrar, Chelsea Wald

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Activities Open

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At Home in Holland Becky Failor

Board Advisor Jessie Rodell

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eNews Suzanne MacNeil

FAWCO Julie Mowat

Heart Pillow Jan de Vries

Holiday Bazaar Mary Ann Nation-Greenwall

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Kid's Club Open

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Newlin

Newcomer Activities Greetje Engelsman,
Holly Savoie

Parliamentarian Georgia Regnault

Programs Open

Public Relations Jan de Vries

Tennis Molly Boed

The Arts Jane Choy

Tours Open

Volunteer Coordinator Laurie
Martecchini

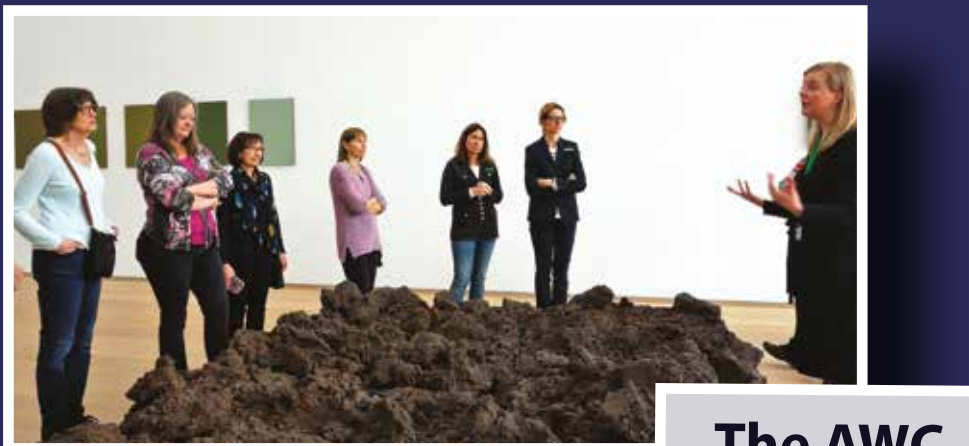
Webmaster Julie Otten

Website Assistant Open

Women with Dutch Partners Open

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 AWC
Loves Art!**



Messages from the Presidents

by Becky Failor,
AWC President, 2015-2017

My last President's message for Going Dutch! Last month we elected a new President, **Mary Ann Nation-Greenwall**, and six other Board Members. Now this month we will celebrate them at their Board Installation at the home of Honorary President **Sabine Crowley** (see next page for details).

I remember my first installation ceremony. I was scared and nervous as I stood before you accepting the gavel and hearing the Installation Poem, uncertain if I would make a good President. I'm sure many of you were probably feeling the same way. As time progressed, I became more comfortable in my role and received tremendous support from my Officers and the Members. Together we have ensured the AWC has not only survived, but thrived.

It has been an honor to be the President of one of the longest standing American Women's Clubs in the world! Two years ago we celebrated our 85th anniversary where **Roberta Enschede** and **Emily van Eerten** read a moving oral history of our Club (see page 53). A repeated message of our history is "We made a difference," and our Club continues to make a difference.



When a woman joins the AWC, we can make a difference in her life. We give her opportunities for fellowship, activities, learning, and laughter. We give her a place where her American accent is the norm and people

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by Mary Ann Nation-Greenwall,
AWC President, 2017-2018

On a cold and rainy winter night in 2016, I walked in the front door of the AWC Clubhouse and found a new family of wonderful women awaiting me. Excitement filled the room as the newcomers met the Members. That evening, I learned a brief history of the Club and quickly realized that I was not only joining a Club, but becoming a part of a legacy of women who help forge this community.

As I take this huge step into the role as your President, I must be honest that I am a little frightened of all the responsibility that waits, yet excited for the opportunity of being of service to each of you and the Club. I am delighted and comforted that **Becky Failor**, our former President, will remain an active Member of our Club. I am so grateful that she has offered her support and guidance. I am also comforted that strong and capable women are beside me on the new Executive Board.



Please welcome your new Board: Vice President **Dena Haggerty**, Treasurer **Melissa White**, Secretary **Mallery Clarke**, Club & Community Development **Laurie Brooks**, Communications Officer **Teresa Mahoney** and Clubhouse Administrator **Dominique Duysens**. We would like to continue the legacy of providing programs at the AWC which matter to you. Programs and activities that enrich your life are key. Tell us if you want something different or more of something we are already doing.



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Installation of Officers

by Becky Failor

Please join us for the Installation of Officers for the 2017-2018 AWC Board. **Sabine Crowley**, AWC Honorary President and wife of Shawn Crowley (Chargé d'Affaires of the American Embassy in The Hague), has graciously offered her beautiful residence for this morning reception and ceremony followed by a luncheon.

Space is limited and only those registered will be allowed entrance. The address and any special security requirements will be provided to those registered.

**Thursday, May 11
10:30 a.m.**

RSVP deadline: Monday, May 8
www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1114624



Volunteer Appreciation & Honorary Member Luncheon

by Becky Failor

The AWC Board invites all Members to our Volunteer Appreciation and Honorary Member Luncheon to thank the volunteers and longtime Members who make our Club so successful.

**Thursday, June 8
11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

AWC Clubhouse
RSVP deadline: Monday, June 5
www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1114319

Ramblings from the Editor

by Melissa White

Strangely enough, as I was contemplating what to write about for this final “Ramblings...”, I came across a very short-lived journal I started when we first moved to the Netherlands. Here was my December 1, 2005 entry: *There’s a saying: Today is the First Day of the Rest of Your Life. While we probably won’t live in the Netherlands for the rest of our lives, today was definitely the first day of my life here. Today was the first day I was on my own.... Afterwards I made my way to the American Women’s Club. It was lunchtime and I didn’t like the menu, so I just found out about a few activities and saw the library. Not sure if I’ll fit in, but I’ll join for the chance to meet some ladies and the hope to do some fun stuff.*

Today is the First Day of the Rest of Your Life. ~ Abbie Hoffman

Little did I know on that cold winter’s day just how much “fun stuff” I would do with the AWC and what an impact the Club would have on my life. I never would have guessed that this Club would help foster my interest in writing, which I was just starting to explore when we arrived here. Although I often struggled to come up with a new topic for each of the 64 “Ramblings” that I wrote, I’ve thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to find my voice. Thanks to everyone who laughed along with me as I’ve overshared about my family. Perhaps because it’s rare to receive feedback, I especially appreciate the ladies who reached out to me to express that they saw eye-to-eye with me on a particular topic.

Thanks to all who have submitted articles over the years. Thanks also to the wonderful team of ladies who have provided a second or third set of eyes to help with proofreading. You might be surprised to learn that after eight years of assisting me, I have yet to meet **Diane Schaap**. Let this article serve as an official invitation for her to join me for lunch sometime this summer.

Thank you, **Teresa Mahoney**, for putting up with me for eight years. I am very proud to have been “attached at the hip” to you for so many years. What began as a whim transformed into a well-oiled machine. We took a black and white glorified newsletter and transformed it into a beautiful colorful magazine eagerly read by AWC Members and our local expat community.

Although I am relinquishing the role of Editor, I can’t entirely kiss *Going Dutch* goodbye. My husband has offered to continue designing the cover (and occasionally hiding something on it), and I will continue writing “Announcements” and taking photos of AWC activities.

While it will be difficult when I receive the September issue, I am not worried because I’m thrilled to be passing the torch to **Suzanne MacNeil**. Thanks, Suzanne, for stepping up to take over this worthy project. If anyone says you have big shoes to fill, feel free to smile and say, “It’s true. Compared to me, Melissa has huge feet!” I have full faith that she’ll put her own stamp on the magazine, and it will thrive (go to page 46 to read her first travel article).

Just in case you’re curious, I managed to write this final Editor’s article without shedding a single tear. Clearly this is a sign that it’s time for me to move on. Now I need to prepare to step back in time as I dust off my accounting skills while I transition into my new position as the AWC Treasurer (please don’t forget to pay your dues on time—see page 12 for more details).

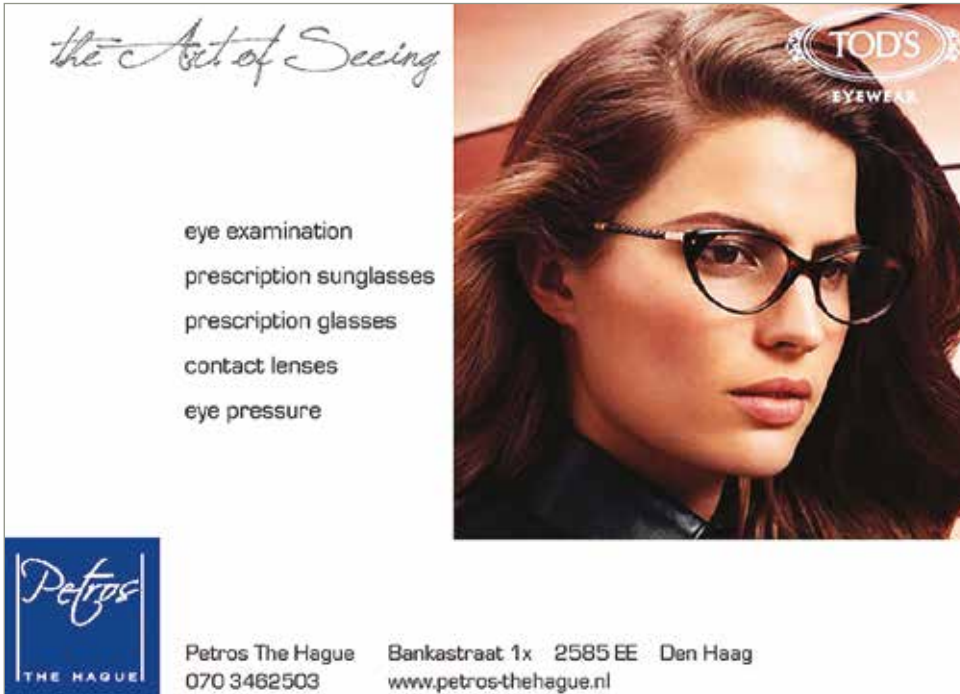
Please wish me, Suzanne and Teresa the best as our volunteer positions within the AWC continue to change over the next year. Thanks for your support!



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Membership

by Shirley Newlin

Membership Renewals

AWC Membership Dues for the 2017-2018 Club Year are payable September 1 and will be effective until August 31, 2018. 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, 2017. 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 Member!

Monique Althuis

Going Dutch is Available Online

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

*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

Glenda Ohr	May 3	Sukai Ceesay	July 12
Sheyla Karman	May 6	Sue Merrick	July 14
Julie Mowat	May 8	Allison Hagen	July 16
Julie van der Wolf	May 8	Jan de Vries	July 18
Francesca van Duren	May 25	Dena Haggerty	July 21
Lauren Mescon	May 26	Amy van der Drift	July 21
Sonja Kelle	June 1	Christine Jackson	July 27
Ellen Bolick	June 5	Kimberly Vered	July 27
Gena Shikles	June 9	Chelsea Wald	July 31
Susan Yates-Brown	June 17	Virginia Rempt	August 7
Barbara Fasting	June 18	Roberta Enschede	August 8
Melissa Rider	June 19	Melissa White	August 15
Julie Schipper	June 20	Dominique Duysens	August 18
Holly Savoie	June 21	Shirley Newlin	August 24
Elizabeth Kennedy	June 25	Johanna Dishongh	August 26
Janet van der Laan	June 28	Sherri Hammond	August 27
Kimberly Carlton	July 5	Karla Kahn	August 30
Siska Datema-Kool	July 8	Rebecca Fry	August 31
Audra White-van Mierlo	July 8		

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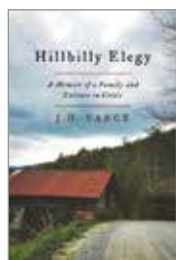
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Ongoing Activities

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 May Daytime Book Club selection is *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J. D. Vance:



Although the author went on to serve as a US Marine and graduated from Yale Law School, this memoir is an insider's look at the struggles of America's white working class. Since his mother was unstable from drug addiction, he was raised in Ohio by his grandparents who were from Kentucky's Appalachia region, hillbilly country. He examines a family tradition of poverty and low-paying, physical jobs while raising questions such as the responsibility of his family for their own misfortune.

Thursday, May 18 NEW DATE

10 a.m.

**AWC Clubhouse
FREE**

The June Daytime Book Club selection is *Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders:



If you read *Tenth of December*, a collection of short stories that our group loved in 2013, perhaps you won't be surprised to learn that the same author's debut novel is not traditional historical fiction. Starting with the real-life death of President Lincoln's beloved 11-year-old son, George Saunders spins an unforgettable story of familial love and loss that breaks free of realism, entering a thrilling, supernatural domain both

hilarious and terrifying while posing a timeless question: how do we live and love when we know that everything we hold dear must end?

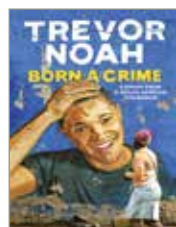
Thursday, June 22

10 a.m.

**AWC Clubhouse
FREE**

The July Daytime Book Club selection is *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah:

This is not the traditional memoir written by



by a comedian. In fact, *The Daily Show* comedian was born into a world in which he was never supposed to exist with a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time in South Africa when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. He grew into a restless young man as he struggled to find himself during the twilight of apartheid, while his mother was determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse. His stories weave together to form a moving and funny portrait of a boy making his way through a damaged world in a dangerous time, armed only with a keen sense of humor and a mother's unconditional love.

Thursday, July 27

10 a.m.

**AWC Clubhouse
FREE**

The August Daytime Book Club selection is *Moonglow* by Michael Chabon:



This autobiographical "work of fictional non-fiction" was mined from conversations this Pulitzer Prize-winning author had with his dying grandfather whose remarkable stories were full of secrets, love, pain, sex, and regret. From the Jewish slums of pre-war Philadelphia to the invasion of Germany, and from the heyday of the space program to

the twilight of the "American Century," the novel revisits an entire era through a single life and collapses a lifetime into a single week.

Thursday, August 24

10 a.m.

**AWC Clubhouse
FREE**

Recap of the February – March Discussions

Stoner: First published in 1965, this novel was well reviewed but not a bestseller. It was reissued in 2003 to modest sales. Surprisingly, it started to sell like hotcakes in 2011, first in France and then all over Europe. Over 200,000 copies were sold in Holland alone. So, what is it about *Stoner* that has been speaking to readers in this decade? It is a quiet book that tells the story of William Stoner, who was born on a Missouri farm, enrolled in the local university in 1910, and stayed there until his death in 1956. He only reaches the level of Assistant Professor, his colleagues hold him in no particular esteem, and few will remember him. The book then is about a life of little significance. And yet, there was much of value in the telling of Stoner's story and there was much for us to discuss. Stoner is a character from another time and his acceptance of the slings and arrows his wife and colleagues aimed in his direction was frustrating for some, but his dedication and quiet strength was a source of admiration,

Daytime Book Club Planning Ahead:

Thursday, September 28:

Commonwealth by Ann Patchett

too. He finds passion in his profession and briefly experiences love, but it all amounts to nought. The writing is unadorned and lucid, and brings this examination of a life into sharp focus. For a minority in our group, Stoner's life remained uninteresting in both the living and the telling; for the majority, it was an inspiration for reflection and deeper thought. Overall, our group recommends this book.

A Man Called Ove: We were unanimously enthusiastic about this debut novel, an extended character study which is revealed slowly by short anecdotal chapters. Ove is a mere 59 years of age, but has the grumpiness associated with a much older person, most likely due to a series of great losses in his life. He has problems with authority, the changes in life brought about by compulsory retirement, new neighbors, random violence, and stray cats. As the novel progresses, we see different aspects of Ove's character, and he becomes very human and recognizable. Many found the book to be delightful, funny, sad, cathartic, and an easy read. Others felt it lacked depth and read more as a screenplay, but enjoyed it nonetheless. An all-round winner.

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Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 15

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 May Evening Book Club selection is *One in a Billion: The Story of Nic Volker and the Dawn of Genomic Medicine* by Mark Johnson and Kathleen Gallagher.



Two Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists chronicle the story of Nic Volker, a Wisconsin toddler with a mysterious disease eating away at his gut, at the center of a daring breakthrough in medicine: a complete gene sequencing to discover the cure for an otherwise unknown illness. This page turner is half who-dunit and half science written for the layman.

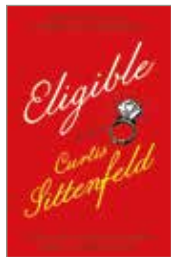
Wednesday, May 17

7:30 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

The June Evening Book Club selection is *Eligible* by Curtis Sittenfeld.



The author humorously tackles gender, class, courtship and family in this entertaining update of *Pride and Prejudice*, the fourth in the Austen Project to bring Jane Austen's classic novels into the 21st century.

Wednesday, June 14

7:30 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

Evening Book Club Planning Ahead:

September: *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett

October: *The North Water* by Ian McGuire

November: *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles

December: *The Year of the Runaways* by Sunjeev Sahota

Recap of the March Discussion

The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu: Despite its scintillating title, this nonfiction book proved something of a let-down. Though it promised to be about saving precious, ancient manuscripts from Islamic jihadi destruction, the actual manuscripts and the “librarians” who preserve them are given short shrift. Instead, this journalist piece is really focused on the political situation in Mali, which is of interest in its own right and provides plenty of material for a lively and educational discussion. We think it worth a read, but don’t be misled by the title. You’ll have to look elsewhere for a bad-ass librarian, of whom we are sure there are many.

Chat, Crafts & Cake

Let’s get creative! The AWC is open to all crafters. If you’ve been looking for an open space large enough to lay out that king-size quilt, or need more table space to organize your photo albums or scrapbooks, or just need an excuse to stitch, pack up your supplies and bring them to the Clubhouse so you can chat with fellow AWC Members while you work. You might even be able to pick up some suggestions from a fresh pair of eyes. Each week, a different Member will bring a cake made from a never-before-tried recipe for tasting and critiquing. We’re sorry, but babysitting is not available and thus we can’t accommodate children. Questions? Contact: **Suzanne Dundas** at awcthehague.crafts@gmail.com

Tuesdays

10 a.m. – Noon

AWC Clubhouse

FREE



Dinner Club

Keep an eye on eNews to see if there will be any Dinner Club gatherings in May or June. Please contact **Krishna Thakrar** at kthakrar2000@gmail.com if you have any suggestions.

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. >> 18

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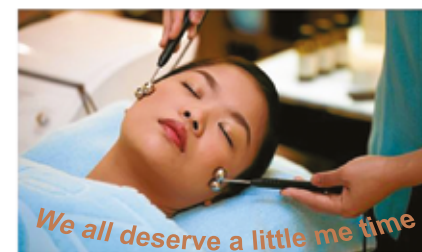
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Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 17

Tuesdays, May 23 and June 13

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.

Monday, May 1

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 **Greetje Engelsman** at greetje.engelsman@gmail.com.

This month please join us for some authentic Peruvian food at Somos Perú (www.somos-peru.nl), founded in 2015 by a Peruvian family. Peruvian cuisine is known for its colors,



aromas and delicate spicy flavors. They also serve delicious Peruvian coffee, wine and drinks, such as the famous Pisco Sour. For more information contact **Sue Merrick** at suehou714@yahoo.com.

Tuesday, May 23

12:30 p.m.

Somos Peru

Javastraat 13, Den Haag

RSVP deadline: Friday, May 19

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1112695

In June please join us at Brasserie Zinq, one of the two restaurants of the Hotel School of Scheveningen, which offers a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in International Hospitality Management. The students gain practical experience to fully develop their hands-on approach and management skills in one of the restaurants as well as in the hotel. The Brasserie is run by students and supervised by teachers. For more information, contact **Greetje Engelsman** at greetje.engelsman@gmail.com.

Wednesday, June 7

12:30 p.m.

Brasserie Zinq (Hotel School Scheveningen)

Brusselselaan 2, 2587 AH Den Haag

RSVP deadline: Monday, June 5

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1112879

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.

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

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Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 19

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](mailto:Emily.van.Eerten@vaneerten@gmail.com) 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, May 4
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
FREE



Cancellation Policy

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

One-of-a-Kind Activities

by **Trena Cormier**

RSVP directly on 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.

Zaanse Schans Day Trip

With its traditional green painted houses, warehouses and windmills, Zaanse Schans (www.dezaanseschans.nl) gives the feeling of having stepped back into the 18th and 19th centuries. This is not a traditional open air museum, but rather a colorful living and working neighborhood. International tourists have flocked to the Zaanse Schans for generations, and it still attracts nearly a million visitors per year. There is no entrance fee to visit the outdoor portions, but entrance fees vary at museums, workshops and windmills. You can visit the Albert Heijn Museum Shop, a cheese farm, a clog workshop and a pewter foundry. If you're interested in visiting the Zaans Museum, which houses the Verkade Experience bringing the history of the Dutch cookie and chocolate company to life, or the Museum of the Dutch Clock, bring along your *Museumkaart* for free admission. If you don't have a *Museumkaart*, you may consider purchasing a Zaanse Schans Card for € 15 which includes free and discounted museum entrances.

We will travel there together, but feel free to explore at your own pace. We can buddy up to take advantage of NS discount cards. Meet at Starbucks at Den Haag Centraal (DHCS) at 9

a.m. to catch the train, which will take a little more than 1.5 hours with at least one transfer. We will gather at a meeting place to exit at 3:30 p.m. in order to arrive back at DHCS around 5:30 p.m. Bring your *OV-chipkaart* and money for lunch and attractions.

Tuesday, May 9
Meet at Starbucks at DHCS at 9 a. m.
FREE
www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1106170

Special Walkie Talkies: Outing to Woerden-Oudewater

The Walkie Talkies are going on an adventure and everyone is invited! We will take the train to Woerden where we will join up with a section of the Floris V Long Distance Walking Route, which connects Amsterdam to Bergen op Zoom covering over 150 miles (245 km). We will head out of this medieval fortified town to walk along the beautiful Linschoten River and through one of the largest estates in the Green Heart of the Netherlands to Oudewater. This tributary of the Old Rhine was a thriving commercial route in the 14th century, but now is a quiet nature area lined with knot willows and with views of charming thatched farms and the Linschoten House from 1637. Oudewater is also a delightful village with a rich history and the perfect place for lunch (at own expense). Those who are interested can stop by the Heksenwaag Museum (www.heksenwaag.nl), the Witches Weighhouse. With its scales dating from 1482, this was the only place in Europe in the 16th to 18th centuries where a person accused of witchcraft could be absolved. Do you dare step on the scales yourself? Don't forget to bring your *Museumkaart* along for free entrance.

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

Continued from page 21



Our walk will be approximately 8 miles (13 km) and will take around 2.5 hours at a moderate pace. For a point of reference, the round-trip from the AWC Clubhouse to the Japanese Garden in Clingendael is 7 miles (11 km) and to Kijkduin is 8 miles (13 km). In addition to city streets, our route will be along a river path and across farmland. Plan on uneven and possibly muddy surfaces, so please wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots.

Meet at Starbucks at DHCS at 9 a.m. to catch the 9:11 a.m. train, which will take 45 minutes to Woerden. We can buddy up to take advantage of NS discount cards. Our return journey will take approximately one hour, first taking a bus from Oudewater to Gouda and then a train to The Hague. Bring your OV-chipkaart and money for lunch.

Wednesday, May 10

Rain date: May 17

Meet at Starbucks at DHCS at 9 a.m.

FREE

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1110265

Painting Workshop

Art Together Rotterdam works in a relaxed atmosphere with amateurs to develop their artistry. Let them help you find your hidden artist at a five-hour painting workshop in their old carpentry shop in Rotterdam. You will create a 24" x 35" (60 x 90 cm) canvas painting of cheerful, happy women with coffee, cake or whatever you like. For examples,



see their website at www.bit.ly/2nv17ZU. The fee includes coffee / tea, cake, lunch and all materials. We hope to organize carpools from the AWC. Contact **Cynthia Lardner** with questions at cynthiamlardner@gmail.com.

Wednesday, May 17

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Art Together Rotterdam

Veldkersweg 39, Rotterdam

€ 45 Members (€ 50 nonmembers)

Minimum 4 / Maximum 10

Cancellation deadline: May 10

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1112952

Humane Farm Tour

It's the stuff of a children's book: a hen is happier living with the pigs because the other hens are mean to her. The manager of a factory farm wouldn't notice and might not care, but the farmers care at Op Hodenpijl (www.ophodenpijl.nl). They'll happily let a unique chicken hang out in the pig stall or join the



pigs when they go swimming. Op Hodenpijl is a vibrant country estate just down the A-4 from Delft. It used to be a church and parsonage. Now it's an airy art gallery, concert hall, holistic business center, organic restaurant, and a humane farm that sells its own seasonal produce and local artisanal organic food. Join us for a one-hour tour of the farm and herb

gardens followed by an optional lunch at De Herdershof, the light-filled restaurant featuring produce from its own gardens and greenhouse. Ingredients that they can't grow themselves are supplied by local vendors who work with respect for nature, animals and humans. You'll choose your lunch, vegetarian or not, from the menu before the tour. We'll carpool from the Clubhouse and/or from Wassenaar and meet at 11 a.m. at the door of the restaurant.

Friday, May 19

11 a.m.

Op Hodenpijl

Rijksstraatweg 20, Schipluiden

Tour: € 7 Members (€ 12 Members)

Lunch: At own expense

Minimum 6 / Maximum 12

Cancellation deadline: May 14

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1100057

Dutch Cheese and Wine Tasting

The Dutch produce 1,425 million pounds (650 million kilos) of cheese every year. Two-thirds of this is exported, making Holland the largest cheese exporter in the world. On average, each Dutch citizen eats 30 pounds (14.3 kilos) of cheese per year. You might have already known that Holland is a real cheese country, but did you know that the Dutch also grow grapes and make wine? Not only are wines made in the hilly southern parts of the country, but also in the east and north. Surprised? Come learn more and taste many yummy Dutch cheeses and quite a few lovely Dutch wines with **Greetje Engelsman** and her husband Eddy. We will gather at lunchtime, so we'll have plenty of time to taste different cheeses and wines. For more information,



contact Greetje at greetje.engelsman@gmail.com. Rather than paying in advance by bank transfer, please bring cash to the tasting.

Thursday, June 1

Noon – 2:30

AWC Clubhouse

€ 15 Members

Maximum 15

Registration deadline: May 29

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1112895

Welcome to St James Voorschoten!

We are a vibrant international English-speaking Anglican church serving the Leiden area, offering a spiritual home to people of all ages and from all over the world.

Our main Sunday service is usually held at 10.30am at the BSN Senior School in Voorschoten - check the website for up-to-date information.

St James Voorschoten

Contact:

Revd Ruan Crew (Chaplain)

ruan@stjames.nl

071-561 3020

www.stjames.nl

www.facebook.com/stjames.nl

A Night Out for Local Charities

by **RWB Committee**

On Mother's Day weekend, the AWC will host an elegant evening in support of local charities that benefit cancer treatment in The Hague, sexually abused girls in the Philippines, and exploited children in Kenya.

The AWC, an all-volunteer organization, has been fundraising for Dutch and international charities since our founding in 1930. This year, the AWC is spearheading an effort to raise € 50,000 in startup costs to enable Medische Centrum Haaglanden of The Hague to join the cutting-edge Center for Personalized Cancer Treatment network. Cancers are as individual as the people who suffer from them. Membership in the CPCT network will allow Medische Centrum Haaglanden to use DNA analysis to choose the best treatment for each individual patient. Similar centers exist in Leiden, Utrecht and Rotterdam; this new center will benefit residents of The Hague, improving the odds in their battle with cancer.



The Gala will also benefit Stichting SPOSA Child (Save and Protect our Sexually Abused Child). Based in the Netherlands, this small independent foundation's mission is rehabilitation and healing of sexually and physically abused children on the island of Negros in the Philippines. The Gala will support the SPOSA Child Educational Scholarship Fund, which covers costs such as uniforms, school materials, physical education, transport to and from school, meals, and reintegration counseling. AWC Member **Marilyn Tinsay** serves as Chairperson of SPOSA Child.



The third beneficiary is Stahili Foundation, which uses education as a tool to end exploitation, keep families together, and break the cycle of poverty. While many of the children that Stahili supports have endured years of abuse and exploitation in orphanages in Kenya, they have loving relatives or members of the community who want to care for them but cannot due to severe poverty. Stahili empowers the children's guardians to give the children a life they deserve, including a safe environment, education, medical care, food, clothing, shelter, and mentorship. **Michelle Oriel**, another AWC Member, is Co-Founder of the Stahili Foundation.



An Elegant Evening

Since 2002, AWC Galas have raised € 1.5 million for charities, most notably breast cancer and autism. This year, the Red, White & Blue Gala will take place at the Hilton The Hague on Saturday, May 13. Tickets, which are € 95 for AWC Members or partners and € 125 for nonmembers, include a welcome reception with Prosecco and canapés, a gourmet three-course dinner prepared by Hilton's Executive Chef Ruud Visser, and music perfect for dancing by the legendary van Hoytema Band. A live auction conducted by auctioneer Jan-Wolter van den Berg, as well as a silent auction, will offer one-of-a-kind goodies and experiences, with all proceeds going to the charities.

www.redwhiteandbluegala.com

Red White & Blue

GALA

Sponsored by AWC The Hague

HILTON THE HAGUE
Zeestraat 35, 2518 AA Den Haag

Saturday, 13th May 2017
18:30 - 1:00

Black Tie
RED CARPET

Message from the Presidents (cont.)

Continued from page 8

by **Becky Failor, AWC President, 2015-2017**

understand her jokes. We teach her about Dutch products, Dutch etiquette, Dutch art, and Dutch cities. We sit with her to celebrate Thanksgiving at the Pieterskerk in Leiden and introduce her to the pomp and circumstance at Prinsjesdag. We offer her a place where she can give back to the community, if she chooses. We help her bloom where she has been planted, here in The Hague. And when we make a difference in her life, we make a difference in the life of her family. This is what the AWC has done for me and it has made all the difference in how comfortable I have been in my everyday life over the past seven years. My husband, Hugh, has been most grateful for the difference the AWC has made in our lives.

We make a difference in our community. Over the past two years, **Pamela Pruijs-Bott** has lead our community service efforts. She has led drives to collect toiletries and toys that we donate during Sinterklaas. The children's wards and senior centers loved to receive the gingerbread houses that our Members made at Christmas. She created the TLC Dinner where our Members give an evening of "tender, loving care" to women who have had a personal struggle. Our Clubhouse is softly lit with candles while music plays in the background, and each woman is welcomed and told she is special. A delicious meal is served and each woman receives a gift bag full of items that say "We care about you."

We made a difference when our Members built the case for **Georgia Regnault** to be awarded the Knighthood of the Order of Oranje-Nassau. She received this honor because she has made a difference in the lives of expats in The Hague and helped them "bloom where they were planted."

We make a difference when our Club supports FAWCO. We were one of the top three fundraisers for the Free the Girls Target Program. Our Members helped FAWCO hold their Stand Up Against Human Trafficking

Symposium. Members of our Club serve as past and current members of the FAWCO and FAWCO Foundation Executive Boards. And the FAWCO Interim Meeting, to be held March 23 – 25, 2018, will take place here in The Hague, and I am certain our Club Members will make a difference in this event, too.

We make a difference in the charities we support with our charity fundraising galas. Our four Pink Galas raised awareness and over ONE MILLION EUROS for breast cancer awareness and research! Since then we have supported programs for children with autism and the Lighthouse School continues to benefit from what we started for them. We raised enough money for a therapy dog named Yankee to become part of the HulpHond "pack" of helper dogs. We raised enough money for the Look Good, Feel Better program at Antonioushove Ziekenhuis to thrive.

On May 13, our Red, White & Blue Gala will once again raise funds for three worthy charities (see page 24). I look forward to partying with you at the Gala. By the time you are reading this article, there will only be a few days left to buy your tickets. Go to www.redwhiteandbluegala.com.

You make a difference. When you come to any activity and give a friendly smile and warm conversation to another Member, you make her day better. When you volunteer for an event, you make that event possible and successful. No action you take at our Club is too small to make a difference. So keep blooming where you are planted, and your blooms will make a difference.

With gratitude and appreciation for all your support,

Becky

Message from the Presidents (cont.)

Continued from page 8

by **Mary Ann Nation-Greenwall, AWC President, 2017-2018**

Also, you are welcome and encouraged to work with us to brainstorm as well as lead activities.

I am thankful to have had the opportunity to work as Club & Community Development Officer this past Club Year and would like to give a special thanks to the women who led four initiatives. Thanks to **Julie Mowat** for being our FAWCO Rep and for representing us at the FAWCO Conference in Mumbai. Thanks to **Jan de Vries** for being the lead for the Heart Pillow Project and the RWB Gala Chair. And a huge thanks to **Pamela Pruijs-Bott** for all her work with the philanthropic events. I would also like to thank all the Members who assisted with the Holiday Bazaar. This event would not have been a success without you.

My heart fills with joy and pride, reading the history of the Club in *Growing Dutch*. Seeing firsthand all the amazing work our Members have done and are still doing is uplifting. As Becky said, "It is amazing that for 87 years the AWC has been a group that thousands of women have counted on to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others." In the year ahead of us, I hope we may include more women and continue to be theirs and your "Home Away from Home."

Tot ziens,

Mary Ann

The Hague Greeters

by **Nicole Morskate**

A Nice Way to Discover Your (New) Hometown

Life as an expat often means moving around. After all the buzz of moving to a new country has settled down, it is time to explore your new surroundings. What better way to do this than with a local? In The Hague this is possible with a The Hague Greeter. Taking a guided walking tour with a The Hague Greeter is also fun regardless how long you have lived here. The Hague offers so much history, treasures and even hidden places, there is always something new to learn and discover.



What a great way to share

your adopted city with visiting family and friends. Booking them a greeter tour gives them a fun trip out. If you are unable to join them, they might even be able to tell you things you didn't know yourself.

All The Hague Greeters are volunteers who hold the city dear and are more than willing to guide you through all the well-known and hidden treasures that The Hague has to offer. Each greeter has his or her own knowledge of The Hague and a tour can always be adjusted to your personal interests. In just a few hours, you will learn a lot about the social and cultural history of the city.

Book a tour online for up to 6 people at least 14 days in advance so we have time to find a match with our greeters. It's free and it's fun! www.denhaag.greeters.info

The Silence of Margraten Speaks

by Roberta Enschede

**Memorial Day Ceremony
Sunday, May 28 at 3 p.m.
American War Cemetery, Margraten**

On November 10, 1944, John David Singer, 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 until the 30th day of March 1946, 17,738 Americans would be brought there to rest. Until the spring of 1945, sometimes 500 dead would be brought each day. There were so many, the mayor of Margraten had to go door-to-door to ask villagers to help the US military dig the graves.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Margraten speaks. The Silence of Margraten speaks! As you walk among the

crosses and stars, you find yourself stopping, reading a name, state and 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 hearing the word "Daddy," or becoming a doctor, fireman, teacher, auto mechanic or maybe even a Major League baseball player!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It's about Private Dellapenta, 101st Airborne, the Screaming Eagles, who was a sophomore at Cornell University when he

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

An Israeli poet wrote: *Each man has a name given him by God and given him by his father and mother. Each man has a name given him by the sea and given him by his Death.*

The Silence of Margraten speaks! The 10,071 men and 4 women speak to us, telling us who they were and why they died. The silence of 1,722 men immortalized on the Wall of the Missing speak. The silence of the green land is home to young Americans who never went home.

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 May 29, 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 72nd Memorial Day at Margraten. Come. Bring your friends and children. You will never forget the rolling land of Limburg, the white marble crosses interspersed with Stars of David, the rhododendrons red with life, the F-16s that streak over the Memorial and the lone plane that breaks away and disappears beyond the horizon, beyond where we can see for the Missing Man Formation. What more fitting tribute.

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



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 me at roberta@robertaenschede.com.

MAY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m. Ladies' Night at the Movies 7 p.m.	2 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. AWC Joint Board Meeting 10:30 a.m.	3 100 Years of De Stijl at Gemeente Museum 10:15 a.m. Pilates 10:15 a.m.	4 Wassenaar Coffee and Chat 9 a.m. Dutch Remembrance Day	5 Dutch Liberation Day Cinco de Mayo	6
7	8 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	9 Zaanse Schans Tour 9 a.m. Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m.	10 "Station to Station" Walkie Talks Special Outing 9 a.m. Pilates 10:15 a.m.	11 Installation of Officers 10:30 a.m.	12	13  AWC Charity Gala 6:30 p.m.
14 Mother's Day	15 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	16 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m.	17 Pilates 10:15 a.m. Art Together Workshop 11 a.m. Evening Book Club 7:30 p.m.	18 Daytime Book Club 10 a.m.	19 Humane Farm Tour 11 a.m.	20
21	22 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	23 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. Heart Pillow Workshop Noon Out to Lunch Bunch 12:30 p.m.	24 Pilates 10:15 a.m.	25 Ascension Day	26	27
28 Margraten Memorial Day Ceremony 3 p.m.	29 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m. Memorial Day	30 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m.	31 Pilates 10:15 a.m.			

JUNE 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Upcoming Fall Events: September 13/14: Kick Off Evening / Daytime September 19: Prinsjesdag Luncheon October 12: Handbag Auction November 11-12: Holiday Bazaar	1 AWC Board Meeting 10 a.m. Dutch Cheese and Wine Tasting Noon	2	3	
4 Whit Sunday	5 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m. Whit Monday	6 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m.	7 Pilates 10:15 a.m. Out to Lunch Bunch 12:30 p.m.	8 Volunteer and Honorary Member Luncheon 11 a.m.	9	10
11	12 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	13 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. Heart Pillow Workshop Noon	14 Pilates 10:15 a.m. Evening Book Club 7:30 p.m.	15	16	17
18 Father's Day	19 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	20 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m.	21 Pilates 10:15 a.m.	22 Daytime Book Club 10 a.m.	23	24
25	26 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	27 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m.	28 Pilates 10:15 a.m.	29	30	



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MAY/JUNE 2017 33

The Dutch Daily

by Eileen Harloff

The Hague's New Mayor

On March 17, Pauline Krikke was installed as the Burgemeester (Mayor) of The Hague. This was an historical occasion as she is the first female to be appointed to this prestigious post. Mrs. Krikke has been active in local and national politics as a member of



Photo by ANP

the VVD political party since the 1990s. A native of Friesland, she did graduate studies in Amsterdam at the Frederik Muller Academy for Libraries and Documentation. She then began, but did not complete, the study of law at the University of Amsterdam. In 1994, she became a member of the Amsterdam City Council and later was appointed Alderman for Economic Affairs. She was also a member of the First Chamber of Parliament, and in 2001 – 2003 served as Burgemeester of Arnhem. In addition, she served as Director of the Maritime Museum in Amsterdam.

Following Mrs. Krikke's first City Council meeting, the general opinion was that she was charming, approachable and cheerful, and that she chaired the meeting briskly and with a reasonably firm hand. Mrs. Krikke is in her mid-fifties, and is married to publicist Ron Miltenburg. They are currently searching for a home as they settle into life in their "new city." Welcome, Madam Mayor, to your new post!

The Bad and the Beautiful

For many years, a lucrative drug line between the Netherlands and Italy has operated through Royal Flora Holland in Aalsmeer, the country's largest flower auction. From here, a flower export company run for about 20 years by two brothers, Vincenzo and Giuseppe Cripì, sent trucks carrying crates of bulbs which had packages of cocaine and other drugs hidden amongst them, to Italy, where they were picked up by the Calabrie Mafia, 'Ndrangheta. Following an extensive investigation a few years ago, the two brothers were arrested and sent to Italy for trial. They were also banned for life from ever again stepping onto the territory of the Aalsmeer Flower Auction. However, some former employees of the Cripì brothers are still working at the auction, and the son-in-law of one of the brothers has opened a flower store in Siderno, Calabrie, and gets his flowers from Aalsmeer. Moreover, some of the old practices of the brothers are still cropping up, such as moderate amounts of flowers being ordered and promptly paid for, followed by a large order around special holidays and "forgetting" to pay the bill. Needless to say, the Flower Auction is closely monitoring the situation and measures are being taken to defend the ornamental flower sector from financial-economic fraud, working in cooperation with the Public Prosecutor and the National Police.

Ten Thousand Wasps

Without their knowledge, a couple from the town of Holten had an enormous wasp-nest in their attic. During a clean-up, a large "thing" of approximately 20" x 12" (50cm x 30cm) was seen hanging under the roof tiles. They researched how to remove this growth via the Internet, and learned that wasps never stay twice in the same nest and that they die before winter comes. Armed with this knowledge, the removal commenced of the fragile nest composed of layers of very thin, finely chewed wood, enclosing

a honeycomb-like chamber in which the larvae are brought up.

The local Natural History Museum in Holterberg was delighted with such a large nest and put it on display for an interested public. Ten thousand wasps had lived and died in this nest, as compared with 5,000 wasps in a normal sized nest. The nest was



home to a queen, whose only task was to produce eggs, and worker wasps, whose tasks were to feed the eggs with sweets, plants and flies and to enlarge the nest as its population grew. What could have been a disaster had the nest been populated at the time of discovery, turned out to be a learning experience for the community.

Going Up and Up

It has been announced that two residential towers, each more than 330 feet (100 meters) high, are to be built on the Grotiusplaats near Den Haag Centraal Station. The towers will comprise of 500 apartments, including 120 rentals for low-income tenants. The façade of



the towers will be of stone and wood, and both will have an underground parking garage. Completion of the towers is expected in 2020. In addition, the surrounding area will be given a complete make-over, which will include a partial covering of the Utrechtsebaan and a lengthening of the sidewalk in the direction of Bezuidenhout.

Dangerous Benches



Increasingly, young children are getting their fingers stuck in the tiny holes of the benches located at tram and bus stops. When this happens, the fire department or ambulance are called to solve the dilemma by cutting out a piece of the steel bench to free the little finger. Plans have been made to replace the 1,100 benches in the Rotterdam and Hague region, although there is no timeframe for replacement nor has a decision been made as to who will pay for the work.

Giga Computer

The Netherlands will be working with six other EU countries to develop two European supercomputers that will help bridge the technological gap with China, Japan and the US. The joint vision is for a hi-tech infrastructure that can process more than a thousand calculations per second. The new computer will be 100 times faster than the fastest computers that are now in use in Europe, and will be available for use by scientists, businesses and governments throughout the EU. The new infrastructure will also help create a European Science Cloud, comprising of a large network of 1.7 million European researchers and 70 million professionals. The current estimation for completion is 2022.

FAWCO Corner

by Julie Mowat

FAWCO Target Project Hope Beyond Displacement: Helping Refugees in Jordan

The FAWCO Target Project is a sustainable investment by FAWCO Clubs around the world to empower women and girls. Over the next two years (2017 – 2019), FAWCO will employ the energy and generosity of its Members to raise awareness and promote education to “Empower Women and Girls Through Knowledge and Skills” as well as to raise funds for the specific philanthropy chosen by FAWCO Member Clubs which was announced during the FAWCO Biennial Conference in Mumbai. While it is disappointing that Stahili (the proposal submitted by AWC Member **Michelle Oliel**) was not chosen, the AWC will continue to support Stahili in various ways, such as with the upcoming Red, White & Blue Gala. The winning project is Hope Beyond Displacement, an initiative from the Collateral Repair Project (CRP) in Amman, Jordan.

Displacement, loss of status and control over life choices, and the fact that most refugees are forbidden from working, all contribute to a sense of hopelessness and lack of empowerment, particularly for women. While displacement forces them to negotiate new and difficult roles, they are often hindered by their lack of confidence in their ability to affect change and commonly face increased risks due to harmful coping strategies they or their spouses may adopt which often contribute to family violence. Hope Beyond Displacement seeks to address four pressing issues identified in close consultation with the women CRP serves: 1) ensuring better educational support for their children; 2) accessing sources of income; 3) better managing the threat of violence in their families; and 4) learning and developing leadership and advocacy skills.

Through the combined efforts of FAWCO Clubs’ fundraising efforts worldwide, our donations will fund: girls’ education with the enrollment of 100 girls in school each year;



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

women’s vocational training with 180 women learning income generating skills; and women leadership programs including women’s empowerment and men/youth gender based violence training.

Our AWC will hold a Handbag Auction to support Hope Beyond Displacement on Thursday, October 12. We also hope to do more things to support the Target Project. I am on the Target Project Team, so please do not hesitate to give any suggestions or ask any questions!

Award-Winning AWC Members

Congratulations to **Mary Adams** and **Johanna Dishongh** for receiving the Caroline Curtis Brown Spirit Award (named in honor of the founder of FAWCO) at the FAWCO Conference for their work on the STAND UP Against Human Trafficking Symposium. They both stepped down from the FAWCO and FAWCO Foundation Boards, while our own **Laurie Brooks** was voted in as FAWCO 1st VP for Communications.

Big News

The Hague was selected to host the FAWCO Interim Meeting on March 23 – 25, 2018. The IM meetings are designed to be mainly business meetings which are shorter and less expensive for delegates to attend. This will be an excellent way for AWC Members to be involved and see what FAWCO is about. More details to follow!

Save the Dates

Regional Meeting: September 22 – 24 in Antwerp
AWC Handbag Auction: October 12
Interim Meeting: March 23 – 25, 2018 in The Hague

New FAWCO Magazine

Inspiring Women is a new online magazine celebrating the lives of members of FAWCO Clubs throughout the world who have used their skills, talents and passions to make an impact in the global community. Each issue has a theme and includes interviews with club members suggested by club presidents and FAWCO or by members like you! Please let me know about the interesting women in the AWC. To view the first issue or register to receive future issues, visit www.fawco.org/about/publications/inspiring-women.

Americans Abroad Caucus Needs You!

The Americans Abroad Caucus, a group of US Congressional Representatives with a special interest in the concerns of US citizens living overseas, needs to be re-registered in the new

Congress, but it needs a Republican Co-Chair for that to happen. FAWCO encourages members to contact their own Congressional representatives urging them to join the Caucus. If your legislator is a Republican (Democrats are also welcome, but Republicans are lacking in the current membership), please write to him/her and explain why a caucus representing Americans living and working abroad is important to you and the US economy. Since it was founded, several members of the Caucus (including mine!) have joined at the request of just one constituent. Interested Representatives can contact the office of Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney through her appropriate staffer (max.whitcomb@mail.house.gov). FAWCO was behind the creation of the Americans Abroad Caucus in 2007. Let’s make sure in 2017 that it continues to thrive!

Heart Pillow Project

by Helen Kirkwood, BSN Community Coordinator

Since September, a new group of dedicated Year 12 students (juniors) at the British School of the Netherlands (BSN) in Voorschoten have met on Mondays at lunchtime, learning how to create sets of Heart Pillows. By working together in what resembles a production line – cutting, sewing, clipping, ironing, stuffing and packaging – they have produced 65 Heart Pillow sets. These pillows were dropped off with the AWC for distribution to four local hospitals, to be given to breast cancer patients who are about to have surgery. One patient sent an email: “I want to say a heartfelt thank you for the pillows I received at the Medisch Centrum

Haaglanden when I was diagnosed with breast cancer last month and was preparing for my operation. I salute the lady in Denmark who came up with this idea.”

The AWC is, of course, grateful for the help of the BSN staff who make this activity possible.



Here's Holland: *Its Own Story*

by Sheila Gazaleh-Weevers

The title *Here's Holland* may sound familiar to you. It would surprise me if one of its editions had not found its way onto the bookshelves of quite a few fellow AWC Members. However, it is unlikely you are familiar with its unique beginnings, the changes it has undergone, and how it achieved not one, but two goals in the 40+ years it has been published. Created by women recognizing the needs of families new to the Netherlands, the sale of this guidebook has not only helped countless families settle, feel more at home and enjoy being in Holland, but also established and maintained a scholarship fund for bright students who might otherwise not be able to afford to attend the American International School of Rotterdam.

Before embarking on my story, I should point out that life for expat families was quite different in those days. It was a challenge to find one's way or to know what was going on. Very little information was available in English, even from tourist offices or city halls. Far fewer Dutch citizens spoke English in the shops or on the streets, and there were only three Dutch TV stations. On the other hand, you could leave your house or car unlocked without being concerned. In order to allow family members to enter when no one was home, a cord was conveniently fixed to the inside handle of front doors and passed through the letter slot so that one had only to pull on it for the door to open. Carefree days! Not many women worked. Young Dutch mothers found it quite acceptable to stay home to care for their families, and it wasn't legal for accompanying expatriate spouses, with or without children, to take a job even if they found one. Thus, international clubs like the AWC provided an important lifeline and flourished with a large and active membership.

Now let's get back to *Here's Holland*. It all began in the city of Rotterdam. Along with me, the major characters involved were Pat Erickson, wife of the American Consul General; Tony Vadala, Director of the American International School of Rotterdam (AISR); and Andre van der Louw, Mayor of Rotterdam. The Ericksons' son, like ours, attended AISR, then a small community school of under 130 students. (On a side note: the two kids of fellow AWC Member **Jessie Rodell** were there also.) Due to its small size, many parents got to know one another and assisted in various weekend school improvement projects. Through these contacts we became aware that it was not uncommon for isolated mothers to become homesick and depressed. This, of course, could influence the whole family, their work and their feelings about being in a country where grey skies and the climate could often be so different from what they were used to. The answer was to set up a PTA to organize social activities promoting involvement in the school and stimulating families to get out and about.

Pat instigated another project in which a few other mothers and I were involved by organizing fact-finding trips: researching, discovering and writing our impressions of special venues of family interest in our area. Consequently, each Friday the kids would take home their mimeographed "news" with upcoming school activities as well as our practical day-to-day tips and suggestions for excursions. Just as for those families, this was an eye-opening introduction to me of what Holland had to offer as well as the start of bigger things to come. As you will see, there is no telling where volunteering can lead.

As you can imagine, we ended up with such a valuable but unmanageable collection of information that Pat decided to edit and work it into a guidebook: *Roaming 'round Rotterdam*. Mayor Van der Louw could not have been more enthusiastic or generous. Printing, promotion and distribution to international corporations were to be handled by the City Information Department—an investment, he hoped, that would encourage international companies in

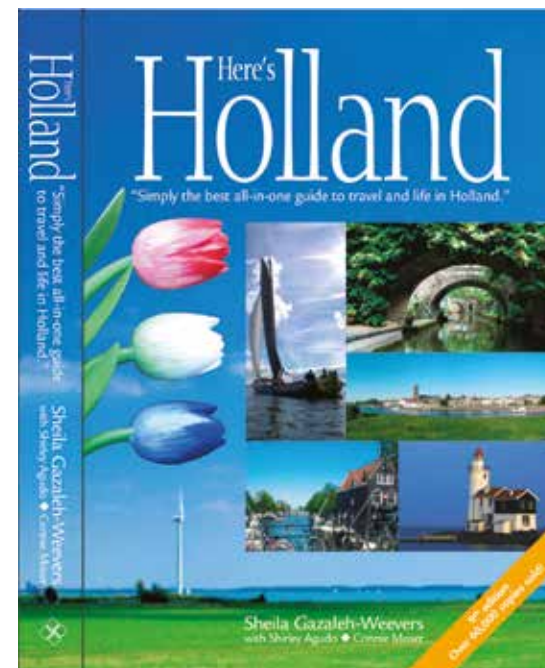
Rotterdam to settle their new families in or around this harbor city.

The Ericksons were then due to leave for their next diplomatic assignment. Thanks to the city's generosity, the first proceeds of the book allowed Pat to set up, in the name of her father, the William K. Gordon Scholarship Fund Foundation. The Fund also received donations from the international business community and still continues to assist deserving students who would otherwise not be able to get an English-language education at AISR. I have chaired the Board of that foundation since its inception in 1973, and am particularly proud to say that our most recent award was to the gifted son—now happily settled into the school—of a recently arrived Syrian refugee family (see related article in the spring issue of *XPat Journal*).

Having "earned my colors" working with Pat, it seemed a waste not to continue building on that experience, especially as the feedback had been so positive from within the international community. I must admit, however, that it was with some trepidation that, still wet behind the ears, I took up the challenge of seriously broadening the scope of that title, from just roaming around the Rotterdam area to "roaming" through all twelve provinces in my little Mini. The result was *Roaming 'round Holland*, which miraculously came to life on my basic little typewriter (no computers back then), with Pat on the other side of the world and, as a consequence of the new title, no further assistance from the City. I will not pretend that it was easy or even fun—oh, to have had a computer in those days. The result was positive and encouraging, as were the changes we were witnessing generally in our lives.

The Netherlands was developing into the modern, progressive and tolerant country we know today. It is now rare to find anyone who does not speak English, foreigners have the luxury of watching TV and movies in their own language, and the Dutch have just risen to sixth place in the World Happiness Index. Admired for its typical Dutch as well as modern architecture, infrastructure, attractive town planning, safe bike paths, canals, bulb fields and more—it's a good place to live. Add to that the many interesting events taking place in its historic towns and cities, its folklore and scenic villages, its varied Disney-challenging attractions, and world class museums. It was hard to turn my back on what was happening and not continue to share it with the constant flow of newcomers. Whenever decision time came around again, there seemed to be but one way to go, and several editions of *Here's Holland* were the result. The information content may have evolved and there have been many changes, but the book's purpose has remained constant: to assist newcomers to settle into the country they will call home for a while and to introduce them generously to the rich variety of interesting experiences the Netherlands has to offer them and their families.

www.heresholland.com



John Proctor: Artist & AWC Friend

by Jan Essad

I hope that you have noticed the beautiful impressionist paintings currently gracing the walls of the AWC Clubhouse. These are 12 works by longtime artist, friend and supporter of the AWC, John Proctor.

I first met John three years ago, while acquiring donations for our Hearts & Minds Gala to support children in need. John enthusiastically agreed to donate (as always!), and quickly made a date to meet me here in The Hague, deliver a painting and have coffee. I should have surmised then how colorful and full of inspirational stories and philosophies he would be. Such a kind man is a rare find.



For gold and silver, I have none. What I do have are my paints, brushes and the spirit of JP-Art, that will always be at the service of the AWC.
~ John Proctor



John was born in North Carolina and joined the US Air Force in 1972. Fortunately for us, one of his European assignments during his 20-year military career was here in the Netherlands. It was here that he met Gerda, the love of his life. As they say, the rest is history. They have now celebrated 38 years of marriage, and the AWC has been fortunate enough to know him for 13 of those years.

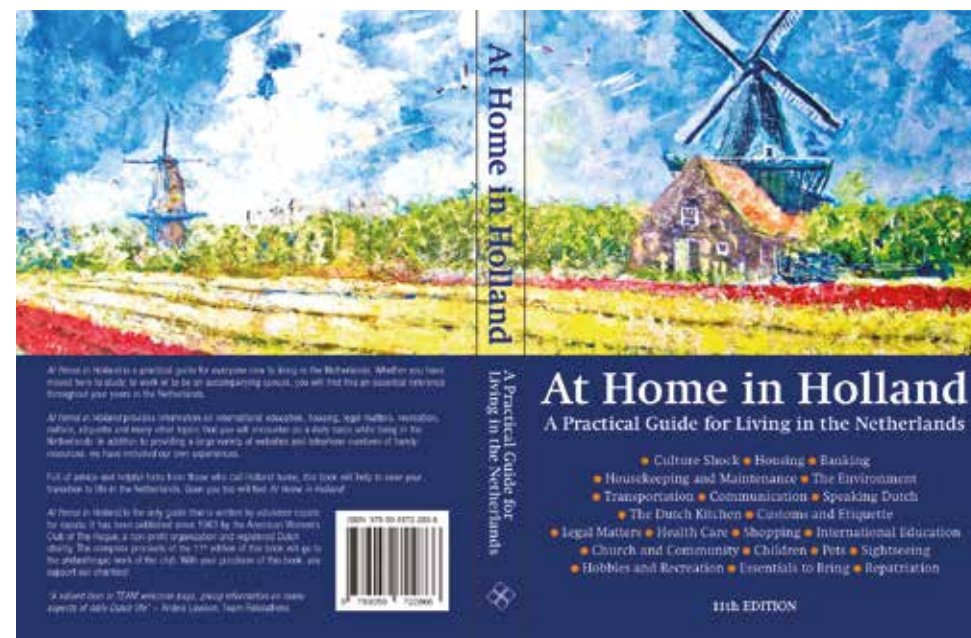
John's lifelong dream was to be a painter, a dream realized only after his military retirement in 1992, when he began art courses with "the Maestro," Michael van Doorn. With deep affection in his voice, John will tell you, "The Maestro taught me more about myself than he did about art: how to look within myself for 'my art' and how to really experiment as an artist." The Maestro's philosophy—"Your art starts with you and it ends with you"—helped John learn how to truly search within himself for his own art expression. This philosophy is represented by the Greek alpha and omega symbols of John's logo.



When you see a John Proctor painting, you readily recognize his admiration of the impressionist movement of the late 1800s, namely of Monet and Vincent van Gogh. "Those artists chose to move in a direction not commonly accepted at the time," John says. Although he has used the landscapes and nature of Germany, France and Belgium for his paintings, he has a true affinity for the Ardennes of Belgium (not to mention a profound and reverent appreciation for the WWII history of this region) and has painted there extensively. One of his favorite locations, for its beauty and peacefulness, is Vresse-sur-Semois, Belgium.

John's association with the AWC began in 2004 when he donated a painting for our Pink Ribbon Gala to raise funds for breast cancer awareness and research. Since then, John has supported our fundraising with countless donations. We are very proud to have one of his paintings grace the cover of *At Home in Holland*, published by our very own AWC Members in 2009. His generosity is widespread, supporting not only the AWC but also the American Women's Club of Brussels, International Rotary Clubs of The Hague and Amsterdam as well as Webster University.

We are so very grateful to John: first and foremost as an American veteran who proudly served our country for 20 years, and secondly for his unwavering support and generosity >> 55



Announcements

Dutch Remembrance Evening (Herdenking)



Two minutes of silence are observed at 8 p.m. on May 4 of 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.erpeloton.nl

Jewish Music Festival & Competition

Watch high quality artists and musicians from all corners of the world compete from May 4 – 8 in Amsterdam. Preliminary rounds and semi-finals will be held in the redesigned Uilenburger Synagogue with the grand finale taking place at the spectacular DeLaMar Theater. There will be a special Holocaust Remembrance Concert on May 4. www.ijmf.org

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 72 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

DFAS Art Lecture Artists in Venice 1815 - 1914



Art historian Julian Halsby’s lecture is about British and American artists who discovered Venice in the early 19th century starting with Turner and progressing through Prout, Ruskin, Whistler and Sargent. Ruskin’s *Stones of Venice* was the first guide book to Venice after the arrival of the railway brought tourism and money to what was a very poor city. Non-DFAS member fee is € 12. www.dfas.nl

Tuesday, May 9

8 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.)

**Cultural Centrum Warenar
Kerkstraat 75, Wassenaar**

Dutch Beer Tasting Festival

The Grote Kerk in The Hague provides a unique setting for 43 Dutch breweries to showcase their best beers on May 11 – 13. www.weekvanhetnederlandsebieer.nl

National Windmill Days



National Windmill Days will be held on Saturday, May 13 and Sunday, May 14. Over 900 mills will be open to the public. It is an ideal opportunity for young and old to experience these historical works that have played such an important role in the development of the Netherlands. Participating mills are identified by the blue flag, spinning blades or festive flags. www.molens.nl

Opera Days in Rotterdam

Operadagen (Opera Days) Rotterdam is an opera and music theater festival at various venues around Rotterdam from May 12 – 21. www.operadagenrotterdam.nl

Day of Architecture

Every year, cities around the country allow the public a chance to look inside some of their special buildings. On Saturday, May 20, you can 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 buildings. www.dvda-denhaag.nl

Tong Tong Fair

The world’s largest Eurasian Festival is held annually at the Malieveld in The Hague. Many of the exhibitors come from Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia just for this event. From May 25 – June 5, there will be cultural events, an East-West fair, food fest and street vendors. www.tongtongfair.nl

Delta Lloyd North Sea Regatta

The largest Dutch sailing event starts on May 27 with the 110-mile Fire Ships (*Vuurschepen*) Race from Scheveningen to Harwich, England. The Regatta is held from June 2 – 4 with over 500 boats of 25 different classes, including yachts and catamarans, competing in races starting from Scheveningen Harbor. www.nsr.nl

Day of the Castle

Here is your chance to learn all about Dutch castles and country estates. On Monday, June 5, these cultural heritage sites, many of which are not generally accessible, open their gates to the public. www.kastelen.nl

Sushi Festival



From June 9 – 11, Westbroekpark in The Hague will be transformed into a vibrant Asian food market full of sushi and popular street foods such as dim sum, sukiyaki, noodle bowls and tempura. There will also be karaoke, games for young and old, and sushi workshops. Entrance is free. www.festival-joy.nl

Hague Bunker Day

More than 50 giant concrete bunkers built during WWII as part of the Atlantic Wall still dot the Dutch coastline. Normally closed to the public, they are opened annually for Bunker Day. On Saturday, June 10, in various locations within the dunes at Scheveningen and Kijkduin, there are bunker tours, walks and re-enactments with historical vehicles and actors. Proceeds from tickets help maintain the bunkers and can be purchased at www.bunkerdag.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 >> 44

Announcements (cont.)

Continued from page 43

visit these gardens, which are open daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. through June 11.

Open Garden Days

Each year, several Amsterdam Canal Museums organize Open Garden Days. On June 16 – 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., you will be allowed a rare glimpse into 30 canal gardens. Tickets can be purchased at the sponsoring museums: www.opentuinendagen.nl

Flag Day (Vlaggetjesdag)

On Saturday, June 17 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

Leiden Culinary Festival and Boat Parade

On Thursday, June 22, Leiden launches its Culinary Festival, which runs through Sunday, June 25; 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 way through the



city's lovely canals. www.leidenculinaire.nl and www.lakenfeesten.nl

Dutch Veterans Day

On Saturday, June 24, 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 the 117,000 veterans who have been deployed in the service of peace, now and in the past. There will be festivities at Malieveld including a parade and flyovers of many kinds of jets, airplanes and helicopters over the Hofvijver. www.veteranendag.nl

4th of July Picnic

Come celebrate America's birthday with an old-fashioned picnic. Bring a blanket, chairs



and a picnic or enjoy some hot dogs and hamburgers off the grill; drinks and ice cream will also be for sale. There will be a bouncy castle and games for the kids and, of course, baseball. For information, contact **Georgia Regnault** at regnaultgeorgia@gmail.com or **Roberta Enschede** at robertaenschede@yahoo.com.

Sunday, July 2

2 – 6 p.m.

**ABF Clubhouse adjacent to ASH
Ammonslaantje 1, Wassenaar**

North Sea Jazz Festival

The world's largest indoor jazz festival will be held at Ahoy in Rotterdam on July 7 – 9. Groove and move to the beat of swing, bop,

electronic jazz, blues, gospel, funk, soul, hip hop and Latin. Early confirmed artists include Steve Winwood, Herbie Hancock and Norah Jones. www.northseajazz.com

Rotterdam Summer Carnival

Rotterdam celebrates cultural diversity during the Rotterdam Unlimited Festival which will immerse the city in music, dance and carnival from July 25 – 29. The Summer Carnival Street Parade features amazing costumes on over 2,500 energetic dancers and 30 floats on Saturday, July 29 at 1 p.m. www.rotterdamunlimited.nl

Amsterdam Gay Pride

For 22 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 5 at 1:30 p.m. is definitely the highlight! www.amsterdamgaypride.nl



Shakespeare in the Park

Grab a picnic dinner and head to Wassenaar for an open-air performance by award-winning UK touring theatre company Illyria of William Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors*. Shakespeare's shortest, funniest and most riotous comedy tells the tale of two sets of identical twins, separated at birth, who are unknowingly reunited while more and more people are sucked into a vortex of mistaken identity. www.theenglishtheatre.nl

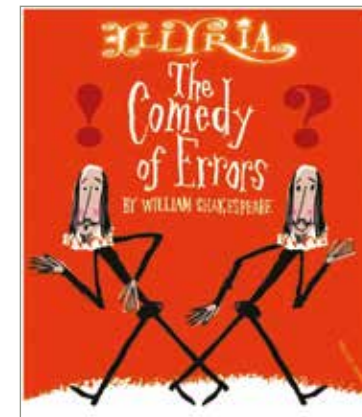
Thursday, August 31 –

Friday, September 1

7:30 p.m.

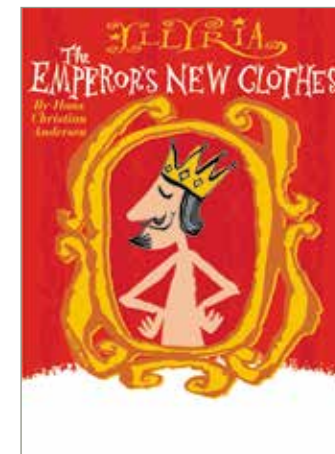
Raadhuis De Paauw

Raadhuislaan 22, Wassenaar



Theatre for Children

The Emperor is a lovely man, but he is surrounded by idiots. He is kept sane by the monthly Grand Parade at which he wears his newest outfit. Comedy ensues when two swin-



dlers offer him a way to identify who is competent by making him a suit of clothes which can only be seen by the wise. *The Emperor's New Clothes* by Hans Christian Andersen might be Illyria's cheekiest show ever, but no need to worry as there is no nudity in this production. Don't forget to pack a picnic and a blanket for this lawn seating performance. www.theenglishtheatre.nl

Saturday, September 2 at 3 p.m.

Sunday, September 3 at 2 p.m.

Raadhuis De Paauw

Raadhuislaan 22, Wassenaar



On the Road in Morocco

by Suzanne MacNeil

Several milestones happened in 2016, including the big 6-0 for my husband and me and our fourth anniversary. To celebrate, we wanted to travel. Our first plan was to veg in Croatia and Montenegro, but lying on the beach and hiking weren't enough for Tim. Instead he declared we were going to Morocco for a major vacation and quasi-honeymoon. A day later, he had the vacation planned, *riads* (hotels) booked and guides in place.

We went to Istanbul a few years ago and I thought it was the most exotic city I had ever visited. Then we landed in Marrakesh and Istanbul no longer held the number one exotic spot. As our taxi inched through traffic to our *riad* in the *medina* (fortified and walled city) and as cyclists and scooter kamikazes rode within millimeters of one another and us, I was overtaken by the swirl of dust, bustling streets

and magic of what awaited us.

Our taxi stopped on a side street so I thought we had reached our *riad*, but it was just a transfer because the walkways in the *medina* are too narrow for cars. A young Moroccan man loaded our luggage onto a cart. We fol-



lowed him through a maze of passageways in the bamboo-roofed *souk* (shopping area) filled with vendors selling everything from brass light fixtures to spices of all colors piled high in containers, food stalls, and leather goods; throngs of people easily maneuvered their way and went about their shopping. It was sensory overload. We continued following our luggage and our "bellhop" as he negotiated the turns with ease while I thought we'd never find our way out. We finally stopped at a non-descript door; when it opened, we stepped into a lush, sun-filled open space as if into an alternative universe and my reservations about staying in a *riad* were put to rest. This was an oasis in the chaos. I can only imagine how lovely the living spaces are in the *medina* behind all those non-descript doors.

Since it's Morocco, our host at the *riad* offered us a traditional glass of tea, something Tim enjoys, but is way too sweet for me. The tea tradition continued throughout our eight days in the country at shops, restaurants and stops along the road. Our Marrakesh guide, Mustafa, met us at the *riad* to begin our first day of exploring. Built by the Berbers, Marrakesh is the fourth largest city in Morocco with its history dating back to the 11th century. The Berbers, both Muslim and Jewish, built the Moorish empire and the influence of the Berbers can be seen throughout Morocco. You might picture the Berbers as nomads riding camels across the Sahara, but many are now



farmers or tradespeople. We met many proud Berbers in our travels.

Our first order of business in Marrakesh was rug shopping. All prices are negotiable in Morocco, but settling on a price for even the smallest item can be a long process so I turned the complex dance of negotiations to Tim since he's a master at the game. If you haven't been carpet shopping in the Middle East or Africa, be prepared to set aside at least an hour. We were greeted by the owner/manager and served tea. Once we finished with the small talk, the attendants started rolling out carpets based first on the colors then the size, provenance and fabric we wanted. I walked barefoot over the rugs, sometimes getting on the ground to feel them, thinking about the pattern and how it would fit with our style. We chose two room-sized rugs and four small ones, including a >> 48

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On the Road in Morocco (cont.)

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silk rug, all produced by Jewish Berbers. It was a 90-minute event that included us walking out of the store when we didn't like the price, being brought back into the shop, more negotiating, and finally settling on a price.

Shopping-induced hunger overtook us and Mustafa took us to a traditional Moroccan restaurant where we had the first of many tagine meals, which is a North African Berber-style of cooking food in an earthenware pot with a lid that looks like a cone. It's a long cooking process but the result is meat that melts in your mouth with the aroma of Moroccan spices and complex tastes.

Our first afternoon in Marrakesh included a visit to the Bahia Palace, which was built in the 19th century. It is adorned with mosaics, tiles and intricate carvings, patterns we saw

repeated throughout Morocco. This country is eye candy for anyone who loves mosaics and appreciates the art and craftsmanship needed to create such enduring masterpieces. We also stopped in a spice shop and bought seasonings I had never used, including saffron; they've since become kitchen staples.



(10 meters) wide but the sheer walls reach 525 feet (160 meters) high. It's easy to walk along the stream, even wade in the water. It's Mother Nature at her finest!

The other is the UNESCO World Heritage site: Ksar of Ait-Ben-Haddou, a collective grouping of dwellings made of clay bricks likely built sometime in the 17th century. It was one of many trading posts along the once busy route between

the Sahara and Marrakesh. The walls are high and quite thick with intimidating corner towers for defensive protection.

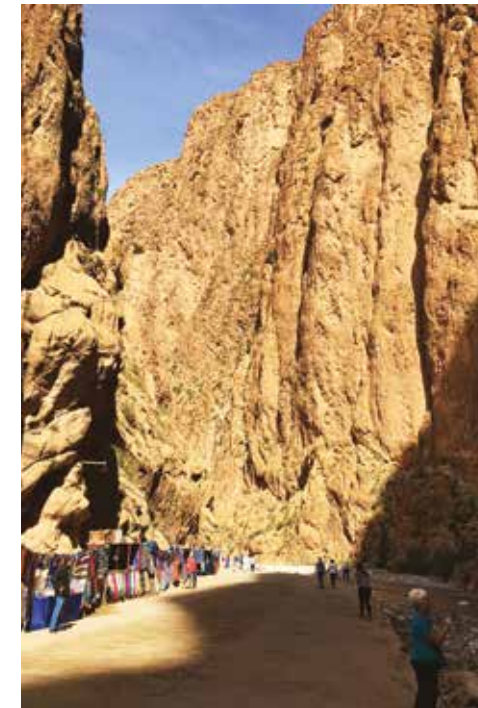
After our second day of driving, we finally reached the western edge of the Sahara to an area called Erg (Arabic for desert) Chebbi, with Algeria on the

After Marrakesh, we met our next guide, Abdul, and a driver who took us on a three-day trip to the Sahara by way of an oasis *riad* in Skoura and then on to Fes. The road trip took us through cities and towns, past wandering camels and views of the High Atlas Mountains covered with snow. Unprompted, Abdul told us about the Jewish cemetery in Zaout Bir el Dades, which dates to 1492. He didn't know that I'm Jewish and it was a treat to discover places that aren't on Trip Advisor. We drove through the Valley of Roses, an oasis of green but not the right time of year for flowers. We stopped in the Moroccan version of Hollywood, Ouarzazate (pronounced as Warzazat) south of the mountains. *Lawrence of Arabia*, *The Mummy*, *Gladiator* and many other films were shot in the studio there.

We stopped at a nomadic encampment on the side of the road. For a few *dirhams*, the family allowed us to step into their tent, play with their children and exchange smiles. Inside the tent was a rug half completed on a loom.

Each stop along the stretch from Marrakesh to the Sahara and Fes was interesting and a new discovery, but two stand out as favorites.

The first is Todgha Gorge, a canyon carved out by the Todgha and Dades Rivers; the water is cool and crystal clear. The canyon narrows at one point to less than 33 feet



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other side of the dunes. We met our next guide, Mustafa, and hopped on camels. Tim's was friendly and mine was annoyed but not as mean and ornery as I expected. As we left civilization, with Mustafa leading the way on foot, it was a *Lawrence of Arabia* moment. It was windy and the sand was blowing, thus the need for head wraps. The camels walked along the steep sand dunes and there were a few times I thought we'd go rolling down, but they know the path like horses on a trail ride. It took a little more than an hour to get to a camp in the desert where we met with other intrepid camel riders and their Berber guides. There were tents pitched throughout our little oasis, where there were a few trees and a well, but no electricity or bathrooms.



Mustafa showed us our tent for the night, our communal dinner tent and the kitchen. It was just the three of us in our section of the oasis. He cooked dinner, a tagine of chicken with potatoes, over a portable gas stove. It was

my first tagine cooking lesson and I've used some of his advice as I continue to master my tagine skills.

There wasn't a star in the sky and we used our phones to light the way to a campfire where the other guests had gathered. It was a musical Berber revue with tired campers clapping or dancing to the songs of the desert. Drums were passed to the guests and while some got the hang of it, including Tim, my drum skills were best left in the desert.

Our sleeping tent was large with Berber rugs hung for the walls, to create a roof and on the ground. Although it was chilly outside, the interior was warm and cozy. While there wasn't electricity, our phones were fully charged and we set an early alarm so we could see the sun rise over the Sahara. Mustafa and our camels were waiting for us as our very tired selves hopped on and rode east. Morning isn't my favorite time of day, but it was worth every moment of lost sleep for this once-in-a-lifetime hour. As the sun rose we saw paw prints, snake-like swirls in the sand and other evidence that we were definitely not alone during the night. By the time we reached our meeting point where our car was waiting, breakfast and showers were available and we took advantage of both.

By the time we reached Fes, we had traveled more than 550 miles (885 kilometers) in three days. That might not seem like much, but we weren't driving on freeways. Much of those miles were mud roads, sharp turns through the Middle Atlas Mountains and two-lane roads that keep the pace much slower than the average US side street. When we got to Fes, our driver took us to the entrance of the *medina* and our *riad* was nearby.



The Fes *riad* was spectacular. When the non-descript door was opened, we were stunned by trees, mosaics, secluded seating in alcoves, pools, and so much beauty. We were the only guests our two evenings there and had star treatment. Our room was all mosaics, the floor, ceiling, walls, everything. If only I could create such amazing art!

Our final day of Moroccan exploration was hosted by our last guide of the trip, Abdullah. I asked to see what had been the Jewish Quarter, so we went to the Ibn Danan Synagogue dating from the 17th century but is no longer used for services. He took us to his mosque in the *souk* as the call to prayer echoed through the busy shopping area. Although we couldn't go in, we peeked in the plaza where the congregants were washing their hands.

After seeing mosaics throughout our trip, Abdullah took us to a pottery factory where we watched clay being thrown, painted, decorated, tiles cemented to a table and every step needed to create Moroccan pottery. It was a bit like a trip to Nijkerk's Polish Pottery warehouse on steroids. As with any shopping in Morocco, prices were negotiable and I again left the dirty work to Tim. We chose decorative plates, gifts, and two tagines, which have been used often since our return home. The spices and meat simmer for about 1.5 hours before I add the vegetables. The melding of the flavors make for a true dining experience.

Our last stop in Fes was a tannery. As we entered, we were handed a handful of fresh mint. No reason to ask why as we stood overlooking the workers stripping the skins, moving the leather from one color bath to another and watching them walk along narrow



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pathways around the tanks. Holding the mint leaves under my nose was the only way I could stomach the smell. The process was fascinating, but now when I smell mint I think of the tannery.

If you're thinking of visiting Morocco, do it! It is a special country and we enjoyed every bit of every leg of the trip. If you're waffling, here are my pros and cons.

PRO

It's Morocco! The sights, aromas, people, hospitality—all positive.

The food. More than just delicious. It's authentic and part of the spirit of the country.

Safety. I never felt uncomfortable as a woman in this Muslim country. I appreciate that all religions, at least from my experience speaking with Moroccans, are welcome.

Traveling with guides. It's the best way to see a country as diverse as Morocco. The guides are proud of their country and learning inside stories and seeing out-of-the-way sights are well worth the cost.

Cost. Fair! Our driver and guide for our three-day trek from Marrakesh to Skoura to the Sahara to Fes was € 800, including the *riad* and overnight in the desert. Well worth the money.

CON

Just say “no,” when shopping because the vendors are aggressive! If you even glance inside a stall, the salesperson will hound you, trying to break you, dropping the price no matter how much you say, “I’m not interested,” and no matter how fast you’re walking away.

We got sick. Very sick. We only drank bottled water, ate at high volume restaurants and didn't eat any uncooked fruit or vegetables. Based on the doctor saying it takes three to five days for our strain to incubate, we think we got the bug during our time in the Sahara perhaps because the utensils and plates we used at dinner were washed by hand by our guide using well water without soap.

Advice

Always drink bottled water and carry hand sanitizer and wipes. I even brought my own bar of soap. We brushed our teeth only using bottled water and washed our hands using the soap and bottled water. If you go to Morocco and take a camel tour and stay overnight, bring your own cutlery and paper plates.

Go to Morocco!



85 and Counting

by Emily van Eerten and Roberta Enschede

Emily: 85 and Counting!

Roberta: Bloom where you are planted!

Emily: 85 years ago, 4 American ladies who were “planted” here got together on a late summer day at the home of Mrs. Jesse van Wickel.

Roberta: The year was 1930. 11 months after the Stock Market crashed and the Great Depression strangled the carefree spirit, the “Anything Goes” of the 1920s.

Emily: The Roaring Twenties were over. Flappers, Charleston dancing, the shimmy and the Black bottom were no longer. Shocking!

Roberta: A new decade, an ominous decade was looming. They were writing songs with words like: “Once I lived a life of a millionaire, but nobody knows you when you’re down and out.” It was at such a time, the AWC began.

Emily: It was at such an uncertain time that four American ladies met at Mrs. Van Wickel’s home and chose to “bloom where they were planted.” They sent out invitations to other ladies.

Roberta: “Join us at a luncheon to start an American Women’s Club.”

Emily: Practically everyone invited came. And on an August afternoon, 85 years ago, at the Hotel Du Vieux Doelen on the leafy Tournooiveld, where the American Embassy now stands, 55 charter members...

Roberta: ...American ladies with hats and gloves...

Emily: ...started the AWC. 85 and Counting.

Roberta: 85 and blooming.

Emily: 85 and still making a difference!

Roberta: In 1930, we immediately made a difference! We started an English library and a few books grew to a library of thousands.

Emily: In 1932, we made a difference for mothers and babies. Our first Bazaar was a Benefit for a Maternity Hospital.

Roberta: In 1940, we made a difference. When some did not think it was necessary, we destroyed our records to protect our Jewish Members, to protect all our Members who could not leave.

Emily: It was the beginning of WWII and the Occupation. German police were searching homes, an omen of what would come!

Roberta: History tells us, it was necessary to destroy our records.

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85 and Counting (cont.)

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Emily: History tells us, we were right!

Roberta: In 1946, we made a difference. We wrote to businesses in the United States and asked them to donate their surplus stock. We convinced the Dutch Red Cross to distribute it duty free. The War and the Hunger Winter were over, but Holland was devastated, hungry, exhausted. We did what we could to help it bloom again.

Emily: In 1949, we made a difference. We raised money to help rebuild the Anglo-American Church, destroyed by the wartime bombing. We held Bazaars with luxuries like coffee, tea, oranges, and even bananas.

Roberta: In 1953, we made a difference. On the 31st of January, the dikes broke in Zeeland. Eighteen hundred people drowned in one night, 300 from Stavenisse! We bought presents for 70 little children from that Zeeland village, and wrapped them and put their names on them. We did what we could do!

Emily: In 1958, we made a difference for newborn babies. We gave two incubators to the Juliana Kinderziekenhuis (children's hospital).

Roberta: In the 1960s, we made a difference. We helped underprivileged kids in the Schilderswijk—the poorest part of The Hague—and supported “Sports for the Handicapped.”

Emily: In the 1970s, we made a difference. We supported “Teen Challenge” and helped troubled kids.

Roberta: In the 1980s, we made a difference. We purchased a fetal heart monitor for the Red Cross Hospital and a portable kidney dialysis machine. At the time, there were not enough dialysis machines for kidney patients.

Emily: We made a difference for us in 1984 when we bought a house and made it into “Our Little Piece of America” right here in The Hague.

Roberta: In 2002, we made a difference. We had our first of four Pink Galas to raise funds for Breast Cancer Awareness and Research. We raised awareness and we Raised over ONE MILLION EUROS for research! The Pink Ribbon Campaign happens in Holland each year because of what the AWC began.

Emily: In 2010, we made a difference at our 80th Birthday Party. We wore “Diamonds and Denim” and danced and laughed and did it all to raise funds to “Help Haiti” “RISE UP” from the ravages of the earthquake.

Roberta: And in these last years, we made a difference.

Emily: Two Galas For “Hearts and Minds” Benefits for Children in Need. 85 and Counting.

Roberta: “Bloom where you are planted” Spring after spring after spring, the jonquils and tulips and hyacinths turn the lowland by the sea into a rainbow canvas of lavender and purple and yellow and pink and year after year after year, we “Bloom where we are planted.”

Emily: 85 and Counting...

Roberta: ...and Counting...

Emily: ...and Counting. Like Mrs. Jesse Van Wickel and her American lady friends...

Roberta: ...with hats and gloves...

Emily: ...so long ago. We fill up with feisty determination and look around and ask, “What can we do to make a difference?”

Roberta: In the “worst of times,” Anna Frank optimistically wrote, “How wonderful that there is no need to wait a single moment to change the world.”

Emily: We cannot “change the world,” but we will not “wait a single moment” to try “to make a difference” and make the little part where we are planted “Bloom!” 85 and Counting!

Roberta: 85 and Counting!

John Proctor: Artist & AWC Friend (cont.)

Continued from page 41

to the AWC over the past 13 years. He has helped us touch many lives throughout the Netherlands and beyond. We are looking forward to many more years of friendship.

John is currently living in Driebergen, east of Utrecht, with his wife Gerda. John would say there are three true blessings in their lives: their son Joran, beautiful 18-month-old granddaughter Ava who is the apple of John's eye, and Ava's wonderful mother Kimberly.

Please stop by the AWC to see John's beautiful paintings.



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