













THE FEDERATION OF AMERICAN WOMEN

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Brynn Bruijn, FAWCO Film, 1990  
Jamie Watson, Conferences in Dublin, Luxembourg, Florence, Stockholm, The Hague,  
Birmingham  
FAWCO Archives, Zürich, Switzerland

## DESIGN

Nancy Thornley  
John Thornley

## PRODUCTION

John Thornley

## PRINTER:

Acme Bookbinding, 100 Cambridge Street, Charlestown, Massachusetts

## FONT

Garamond

## PAPER

Mohawk Options 32/70# Warm White

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# FOREWORD

We begin with a vision, in sepia tones — hats, suits, pearls and fox furs — posed sedately for posterity. London 1931. We conclude, seventy-five years later, in vibrant color — Birmingham 2005.

In between these two endleaves unfolds a story — our story — told in voices of passion and purpose. The women of 1931 speak to us over the years as we reach back to them, kindred spirits in the continuum that is FAWCO.

This history begins with ‘Milestones,’ a brief overview of accomplishments and goals. The ensuing essays articulate their pursuit and completion. Some, like Citizenship and Voting, took years; others, like ‘Tea Bags,’ were quick side notes. The section on ‘People,’ in personal vignettes, remembers those important to us. ‘Places’ presents memoirs of adventure, of foreign worlds and world events.

The Red Book History refers to the previous publications credited to Ruth White and Anna Brady (1971); Elizabeth Bagney, Pan Hottinger and Shirley Van Ooijen (1981); Elaine Senigallia (1991); and Elaine Senigallia and Georgia Regnault (2001). It has been added to by Lucy Laederich, Pam Dahlgren and Arlene Coward, and the whole re-edited by Nancy Thornley and Georgia Regnault.

We have retained the phrasing of the past. For instance, up to 1977, women were properly listed and referred to by their married names. In 1997, ‘hostess’ became ‘host club’ and ‘chairman’ became ‘chair.’ (In that same year the Interim Meeting became the Interim Conference and observers became participants.)

The book is being distributed to all the member clubs, made possible by the support of FAWCO and the generosity of individual donors. We are grateful to them.

We thank Jamie Watson, our Conference photographer, for contributing his computer skills, and Jackie Isler and Margaret Haenni, our archivists. Judith Treanor has been an invaluable proofreader. John Thornley is responsible for all of the technical aspects in producing the book, including layout and photography.

Georgia Regnault, my co-editor, and FAWCO Treasurer, President and Counselor, brings a depth of knowledge and insistence on detail. It was also her task to promote and fundraise for the book.

Together, in collaborating on this 75th Anniversary Edition, we are impressed with two themes, a persistence that never wavers and a comraderie that abides.

Nancy Thornley, Editor

# MISSION STATEMENT

The Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas is an international network of independent organizations whose mission is:

to serve as a resource and channel of information among its members;  
to provide a voice for American women abroad and  
to support the rights of all Americans worldwide;  
to contribute actively to the global community with a specific focus  
on education, the natural and human environment, multicultural  
understanding and international goodwill.

Adopted Athens 1998; revised Stockholm 2003

## DEDICATION

In 1931 seven American Women's Clubs gathered to explore the possibilities of working cooperatively to achieve world peace. Seventy-five years later more than 18,000 individuals, women and men, Americans and those of other nationalities, clubs and corporations, living overseas and in the United States, still are striving to further that original purpose.

FAWCO is many things to many groups and individuals — not only is it a support and networking organization but, as the largest private-sector American citizens group abroad, it is a persuasive voice in Washington that speaks on behalf of the expatriate. FAWCO is an NGO with special consultative status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations active in the fields of women's and children's rights; it is a charitable institution which collects funds for emergency relief; it pursues long-term projects in support of its NGO goals. Through The FAWCO Foundation, FAWCO provides awards to members and members' children and development grants to projects nominated by the clubs; FAUSA ensures that members who repatriate back to the United States are not forgotten.

Through educational programs, participatory workshops, environmental projects, social gatherings and fundraising events, volunteers have steadfastly and without much fanfare been a source of goodwill and a force of good in the world. FAWCO's mission remains as relevant and vital in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as it was in the 20<sup>th</sup>. We are committed to another seventy-five years of positive thought and action.

Emily van Eerten, President  
The Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas, Inc.









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# MILESTONES

- 1931 Federation of American Women's Clubs in Europe formed by seven clubs.
- 1932 First conference of Federation of American Women's Clubs in Europe held in Berlin.
- 1935 Name changed to Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas.
- 1937 Acronym FAWCO adopted.
- 1949 First postwar conference at Copenhagen. Six clubs out of eight attend.
- 1955 Special Citizenship Committee appointed to work on absentee voting. Membership now sixteen.
- 1957 Mutual-aid project put into operation and donation sent to victims of Thessaly earthquake.
- 1965 Peace Through Knowledge adopted as FAWCO project.
- 1968 FAWCO Foundation established and first grant made to victims of Lisbon flood. Gertrude de Gallaix of FAWCO receives Woman of Conscience Award from National Council of Women of the U.S.A.
- 1971 First FAWCO Foundation scholarship awarded.
- 1975 New category of membership, the associate member club, created for those groups with a sizable non-American membership. AIWC Genoa the first to join in this category.
- 1979 First reps' meeting at a conference. Membership now twenty-three.
- 1981 Conference delegates voted in favor of incorporating FAWCO.
- 1982 First Interim Meeting opened to all club members. A FAWCO tour organized to Thailand.
- 1983 *Handbook for the American Family Abroad* published. Membership now twenty-nine. First meetings of club presidents at a Conference; four meetings of FAWCO Reps.
- 1984 *Social Security Benefits Overseas* pamphlet published.
- 1985 First Conference sponsored by two clubs in cooperation, Düsseldorf and Oslo. Associate clubs granted same voting rights as regular clubs.
- 1986 First Interim Meeting outside Europe held in Casablanca, Morocco.



- 1987 FAWCO Disaster Relief Fund used to help victims of Mexico earthquake. Name changed to FAWCO Relief Fund. Membership now thirty-nine. FAWCO Resource Center opened at The Hague; index distributed.
- 1989 US tax-exempt status granted. Membership now forty-two. *University Education in the United States—A College Planning Guide* published. Relief Fund donations made to Lumpa Women's Development Association in Sierra Leone.
- 1990 Affiliate membership on a trial basis established for distant clubs. FAWCO promotional video photographed at clubs throughout the world. FAWCO on the steering committee for the First World Conference of US Citizens.
- 1991 Kuwait club assisted financially because of war damage. *The Years of FAWCO from 1931 to 1991* distributed. Board proposed dues increase of 25%; urged increased fundraising and advertising. Founding member of the World Federation of Americans Abroad.
- 1992 FAWCO Foundation added award for Students with Special Challenges. Citizens' Concerns Committee announced that US citizens may now be employed in embassies and consulates. Employment Committee published *American Women and Work Overseas*
- 1993 First Conference in Africa held in Casablanca. Regional meetings held in Hamburg and Copenhagen; Asia-Pacific conference in Bangkok. New *Resource Manual for Clubs* distributed to reps. FAWCO Foundation announced thirteen scholarships valued at \$90,000. Twenty-eight clubs sponsor award applicants, a new record. Membership now fifty-four.
- 1994 Federation applied for NGO status affiliated with the UN. Annual memorial award in the name of Gertrude de Gallaix established. Foundation received a bequest of \$50,000 from former FAWCO President Ruth St. John.
- 1995 President and First Vice President represented FAWCO at the UN summit on Social Development in Copenhagen. Seven FAWCO members attended United Nations Fourth Conference on Women in Beijing, China. Environment Committee reported total number of trees planted worldwide by FAWCO clubs and club members was 57,788. FAWCO worked with World Federation of Americans Abroad to have overseas Americans included in US census.
- 1996 FAWCO Alumnae Committee published first newsletter and proposed to hold the 2000 Interim Meeting in Washington, DC. All board members online; FAWCO website ([www.fawco.org](http://www.fawco.org)) established. 20th anniversary of voting from overseas celebrated.

- 1997 Mary Robinson, President of Ireland, spoke at Dublin Conference; first head of state to address the Federation. FAWCO granted special consultative status to UN ECOSOC. Board of Representatives voted to call Interim Meetings Interim Conferences. Member clubs divided into thirteen regions, each headed by a regional coordinator.
- 1998 Relief and Development Committee transferred from the Federation to The Foundation. New FAWCO mission statement formulated. First Board meetings held online. Circle of Honor Award created for outstanding service to FAWCO; first recipient was Shirley van Ooijen.
- 1999 London Conference first to be hosted by four clubs. Resource Center phased out. Circle of Honor Award to AWC of London on its 100th birthday. Membership now seventy clubs.
- 2000 First FAWCO Conference in the United States. Circle of Honor Awards presented to Eleanor Fina (Washington Liaison), Kathy Webster (Voting from Overseas), and Caroline Newton (FAWCO Archives). FAWCO cherry tree planted near Washington Memorial.
- 2001 FAWCO website redesigned. First Foundation Online Auction. FAWCO joined CONGO, the UN Conference of NGOs. Five new clubs joined, including India and Finland. First-ever regional meeting held in Asia.
- 2002 FAWCO recognized in the areas of citizen's concerns and in UN-related causes; it attended the UN Assembly on Aging in Madrid. By-laws amended to permit the FAWCO Treasurer to be a non-American. Emergency Relief Fund activated in response to 9/11.
- 2003 FAWCO attended the first Overseas Americans Week in Washington; census for Americans overseas promoted. By-laws amended to change FAWCO Alumnae USA, Inc. (FAUSA), from an affiliate member club to a separate entity as the alumnae arm of FAWCO.
- 2004 FAWCO pin launched and The Founder's Circle inaugurated. FAWCO submitted its Millennium Forest Project to the UN for publication. Foundation Development Grants re-structured.
- 2005 Caroline Curtis Brown Spirit Award and FAWCO Fellowship Award established. Kathy Webster honored for her work in overseas voting. Website redesigned. Emergency Relief Fund aided tsunami-relief in Sri Lanka. FAWCO pledged to raise \$75,000 for treated bed nets to combat malaria.



Queen Sophia

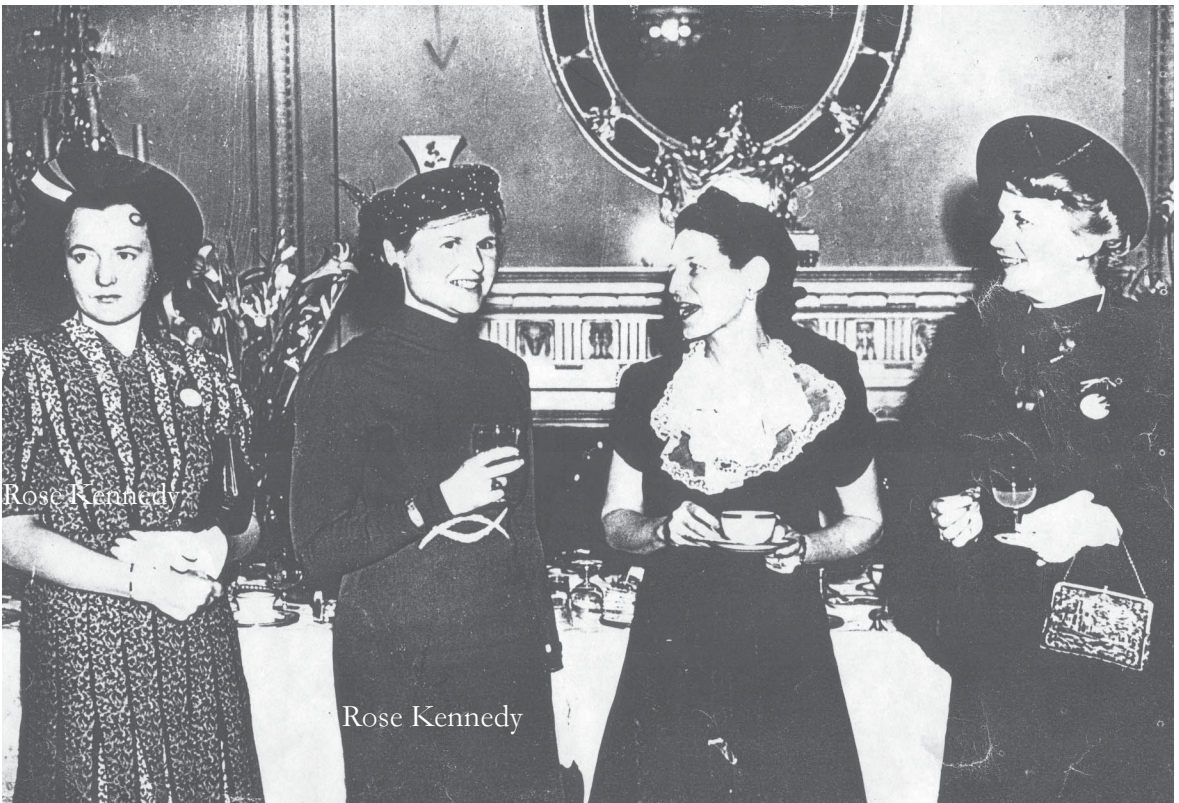


Jehan Sadat





Gertrude de Gallaix and Queen Fabiola



Rose Kennedy

Rose Kennedy



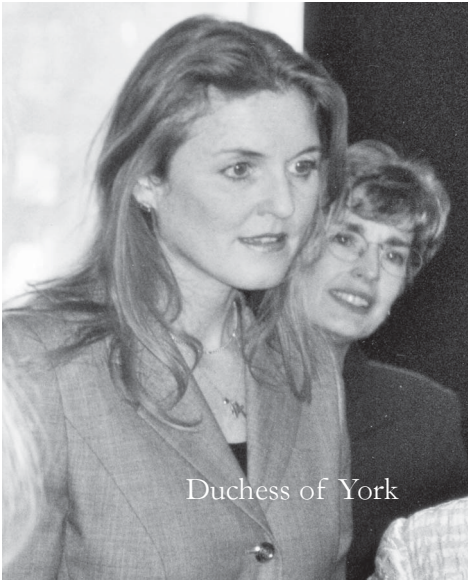


Princess Margaret



Queen Fabiola





Duchess of York



Grand Duchess of Luxembourg



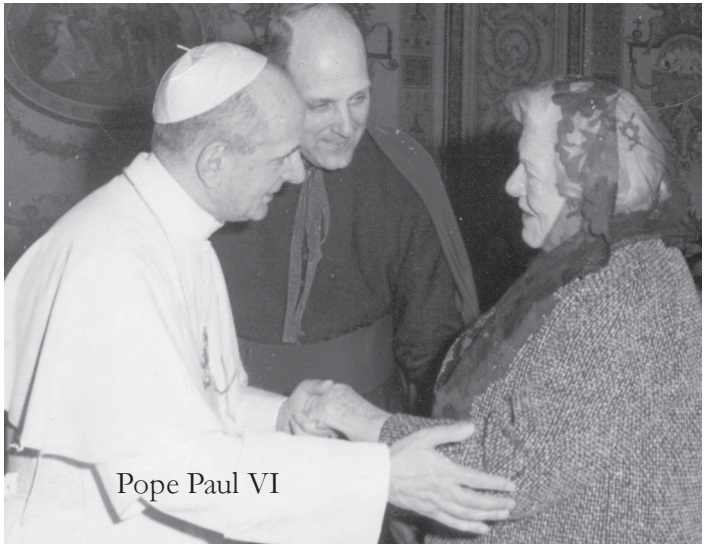
Queen Silvia



Maeve Binchey



Mary Robinson



Pope Paul VI





Signora Ferragamo







# THE FEDERATION







Caroline Curtis Brown

# REPORT OF THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUBS IN EUROPE

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>, 1931  
at 46 Grosvenor Street, London, W.1

Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup>  
2:15 p.m. Opening Session. In the Chair — Mrs. Curtis Brown

Mrs. Curtis Brown called the meeting to order by declaring: "The first Conference of the American Women's Clubs in Europe is now open."

"You will see from your agenda that the first item is an address. I have no intention of making an address, but I do want to say how very great a pleasure it is to welcome the delegates to this Conference. It is an occasion full of emotion, happiness, and hope; and it is especially gratifying to welcome delegates from distant parts of Europe."

The following delegates were present:

Mrs. Curtis Brown: London

Past Presidents Mrs. H.R. Griffin, Mrs. Comins, Mrs. Moller: London

Mrs. Huntington: London

Mrs. Schandain-Best, Miss Schneider, Mrs. Heyl: Berlin

Mrs. Guttman: Vienna

Mrs. Korthals Altes and Mrs. Hoover: Amsterdam

Mrs. Foster and Mrs. Lee: The Hague

Mrs. Carr: Antwerp

Mrs. Wellington Hay, Mrs. Byron Clark, Mrs. Daniells, Mrs. Herbert French

Regrets were sent from Paris, Rome, Shanghai and Zürich. Letters of best wishes came from Mrs. Mary Anderson; The Viscountess Bryce; Mrs. Frank Kellogg (wife of US Ambassador in The Netherlands); Dr. Clara Burdette, Secretary of the General Federation of Women's Club International Relations Committee; The Countess of Winchelsea and Nottingham; Viscountess Harcourt; Mrs. Charles G. Dawes (wife of US Ambassador to Great Britain) who invited the participants to "take tea with me on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>."

Mrs. Hoover from the White House wrote: "Thank you so much for your letter telling me of the Conference of the American Women's Club in Europe. Such an occasion should afford a wonderful opportunity for discussion in regard to the many problems that confront American women both in England and on the Continent, besides the joy and value to the members of becoming warm personal friends through the sharing of these problems. With all greetings to assembled delegates and every good wish for a successful meeting."

Discussions centered on the general problems of young clubs — membership drives, eligibility with regard to nationality, finances, club housing, dues and 'programmes and circles.' Other agenda items were sponsoring American artists, the necessity and value of keeping a club non-political, the bestowing of guest cards to women of other nationalities, constitutional machinery, and contacts and affiliations with other clubs, including both American men's

clubs and local non-American clubs.

On the third day the discussion began to center around the “Question of General Federation of American Women’s Clubs of Europe.” Mrs. Curtis Brown opened the subject by saying that “it had occurred to the Executive Committee that if the Conference went along smoothly, and it seemed possible for the delegates to act in agreement, it might be as well to consider the possibility of a federation so that something definite might be the outcome of the Conference.” She went on to say that “there was very definite work which American Women’s Clubs in Europe, if federated, could do with much more power than if they acted as single units. In humanitarian and philanthropic objects they would carry much more weight as a federated body; they need not be aggressive, but in subtle ways they could work together for their mutual good; there was plenty of opportunity.”

The delegate from Berlin replied that “they wanted to join the federation, but they also did not want to relinquish any of their privileges or any of the prerogatives they had at present.” Mrs. Curtis Brown emphatically replied that “the last thing that was wanted was that Clubs should lose their individuality — that would be most undesirable.” The general session wholeheartedly embraced this premise.

Of immediate concern were those clubs that had associate members of other nationalities. It was decided that “membership rules would have to be very fluid owing to the difficulties of small clubs.” One delegate stated that “surely the name was significant; as long as they were the *American* Women’s Clubs, questions need not be asked as to how the club membership was composed.” However, Mrs. Lee of The Hague asked “what would have been the position of the federation before the last war (World War I) if non-American members had been admitted. She did not like the thought, but it might happen again, and it was as well to think of such difficulties.”

Mrs. Curtis Brown replied “that one of the purposes of the federation would be to prevent war ever again taking place.” That was one of the ways in which they could be of the greatest service to the human race, and she was sure that if they were determined to work for greater sympathy between nations, it would have an enormous effect in preventing future wars.

Having passed a resolution to the effect that the delegates would return to their clubs and seek approval to join a federation, dialogue centered on the topics and issues that the federation could and/or would concentrate on. Under the general topic, “Women’s Influence — At Home and Abroad,” the delegates discussed Education, Public Opinion, and International Cooperation.

Education was felt to be very important as it was “in this realm women have much to give.” One comment was, “with the growth of woman’s freedom care must be taken not to become a mere reflection of man. Woman has her own role to play if she is to fulfill her true destiny.” The speaker went on to say, “As the custodians of the children of the race during their most formative years, the privileges and responsibilities of womanhood are great indeed. It is perhaps not too much to say that the future peace of the world depends largely if not entirely on woman’s attitude to this vital question.”

On the issue of public opinion, it was urged “to avoid making sweeping statements.” In



mentioning the Press in various countries, one delegate declared: the Press “put in just enough truth to make the facts difficult to repudiate and sufficient that was not the truth to distort one nation to another.” The assembled urged each other that if they wrote “the truth as they saw it, they would do a great deal to promote international understanding and sympathy.” “What the world wanted was an international viewpoint. Each country had its own particular talent, but what was needed was that each should recognize the genius of the other. The world today wanted the best of everything. This could only be got by interchange and by trying to see the other man’s point of view.”

In the speeches that followed, “several points were raised: the passport difficulties and the head taxes imposed on visitors to the States by the Government; the position of women who married Americans and therefore lost their own nationality, but were not according to the USA laws American citizens; and so forth.” Mrs. Curtis Brown answered the women who had spoken by saying that “if American women in Europe federated these very questions were some of the ones on which they could get started to do a definite piece of work for humanity. Working in concert they were powerful, but as single units quite useless.”

On that note, the delegates adjourned for lunch. In the afternoon International Session, three resolutions were proposed and passed on International Cooperation, The Opportunity before Us, and a resolution to endorse the “initiative by the President and Cabinet of the USA in paving the way for the Washington Agreement limitations.”

In closing the Conference and receiving the thanks and appreciation from all the delegates, Mrs. Curtis Brown reiterated the need in the world for “intelligent understanding”...and “that we American Women, members of this Conference, representing five different countries in Europe and living outside the borders of the U.S.A., in a loyal desire to serve our country while living abroad, feel that we can be of service by reflecting to those at home as faithfully as possible public opinion relating to international issues.” She noted further that, with the “responsibility as custodians of the future through their children,” American Women’s Clubs might be of definite usefulness in furthering educational and international interests among their own members and in endeavoring to use any influence they have toward peaceful measures of settlement in any specific question in dispute.

Thus adjourned *sine die* the First Conference of American Women’s Clubs in Europe.

*Georgia Regnault*

## FAWCO AS A UNITED NATIONS ACCREDITED NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

*Paula Daepfen*

True to its founding goals of promoting international goodwill, world peace and multicultural understanding, it was natural that in 1993, under the leadership of President Barbara Johnson and First Vice President Peggy Rigaud, FAWCO would set its sights on obtaining recognition by the United Nations as an affiliated NGO (non-governmental organization). The first step was to apply for accreditation with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI).

On June 15, 1995, FAWCO was approved for association with the DPI and in August FAWCO representatives joined world leaders and 30,000 women from all over the world as official NGO representatives to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China.

After that exciting start and wishing to strengthen its position in the global community, FAWCO applied for membership in ECOSOC, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. A comprehensive evaluation process followed with FAWCO receiving Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC on August 14, 1997. This status entails participation in ECOSOC meetings and oral interventions and written statements on agenda items of the Council. It brings invitations to international conferences called by the UN as well as UN General Assembly special sessions and meetings. It requires that FAWCO file a report every four years detailing its activities in support of the United Nations. FAWCO's ECOSOC Reports for the period 1997 through 2000 and 2001 through 2004 are impressive compilations of FAWCO's work in the fields of women and children's rights, education, health, literacy and the environment.

FAWCO had early NGO representation at UN headquarters by Lise Chase and Pam Perraud in New York, by Joanna Gallagher in Geneva and by Phyllis Reimer in Vienna. FAWCO's permanent New York Liaison and NGO specialist, Pam Perraud, was from the beginning instrumental in promoting FAWCO at the UN and guiding FAWCO as a new NGO.

FAWCO's commitment to UN issues was highlighted at the 2001 Luxembourg Conference with an adopted mandate "to urge the United States to ratify the International Convention on the Rights of the Child," asking Washington "to take a position of moral leadership to ensure the protection and respect of the youth who will shape the world's future." This has remained an important FAWCO priority.

In 2001 Paula Daepfen was appointed as FAWCO's first NGO Director, charged with expanding FAWCO's involvement at the UN and linking this involvement to FAWCO's global committees and member organizations. At the same time, FAWCO joined CONGO (Conference of NGOs with ECOSOC) to facilitate its participation in UN debates and decisions. Paula Daepfen was also appointed as FAWCO's representative to CONGO. This has increased FAWCO's involvement, with membership on the Committee on the Status of Women, the Special NGO Committee on Human Rights, the Committee on Ageing and the CONGO committee on HIV/AIDS, of which FAWCO was a charter member.

Continuing its concern for children's rights, FAWCO took part in the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN Preparatory

Meeting for the Special Session on Children in May 2001 and the UN Special Session on Children in New York in May 2002. At these two UN meetings FAWCO worked closely with other NGO groups to influence the US position on both the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Outcome Document of the Special Session on Children.

In 2002, representatives of FAWCO attended the UN World Assembly on Aging in Madrid. They presented the US Delegation with a statement adopted at the Florence Conference “urging recognition of the special needs of aging women, the largest percentage of the aging population and those who are often the primary caregivers despite limited financial resources.” FAWCO also continued its association with the Geneva International Network on Aging, working closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) on health and aging issues.

The new FAWCO NGO/UN website re-enforced the importance of information technology as an effective and manageable way of communicating and accessing UN related information. It was therefore appropriate that FAWCO participated at the UN PrepCom on the Information Society in 2002 as well as at the World Summit on the Information Society in 2003, concentrating on the importance of Information Communication Technologies (ICT) as a tool for social and economic development and focusing on the needs and protection of women, the elderly and children.

Since 2003, besides the major conferences and CONGO committee meetings, FAWCO representatives attended the annual 59<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Committee on the Status of Women Forum in Geneva; the annual September DPI Conferences and the UN Conference on Water and Health in New York; meetings of the NGO Committee on the Family in New York and Vienna; the Second World Urban Forum in Barcelona; the Asian Civil Society Forum in Bangkok; meetings on the Millennium Development Goals and UN Reform in Geneva and New York, and various UN/NGO meetings on issues of concern.

FAWCO has worked within the UN framework to promote the rights and welfare of women and children and to support health services and programs aimed at preventing, controlling, and treating diseases such as HIV/AIDS and practices harmful to women. In support of the work of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in July 2004 FAWCO issued a statement of concern on the decision of the US Administration to again withhold US Congress-approved funding for the UNFPA, funds destined to help improve the health and survival rates of women and children worldwide. In the official statement FAWCO asked the US “to honor the rights and dignity of women and children by supporting life-saving programs sponsored by the UNFPA and commit to the future and health of millions of women and children.”

FAWCO’s Resolutions and Recommendations have increasingly set strong mandates for endorsing the United Nations as a forum for the peaceful resolution of conflict situations. They set strong mandates for promoting the rights and welfare of women and children with support for CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women) and the CRC (Convention on the Rights of the Child). They support efforts to protect women and children in abusive and conflict situations, promote special programs for literacy training of women and children and support health services and programs. In addition,

they encourage involvement in environmental protection to reduce pollution and combat global climate change.

FAWCO was an early supporter of the UN Millennium Development Goals, which set a powerful agenda for global partnerships in solving some of the world's most critical problems by the year 2015. Starting with an initiative by Environment Chair Valerie Garforth, FAWCO's Millennium Forest Project demonstrates the ability of FAWCO's members to make a positive impact in the achievement of these goals. Organized by AIWC Casablanca, this project was submitted as a MDG success story for an ECOSOC publication in 2004.

The 2005 FAWCO Conference in Birmingham ended with a renewed commitment to the MDGs with the delegates unanimously agreeing to "take up the global challenge for reducing poverty and improving lives by promoting and supporting the Millennium Development Goals." More specifically, they resolved to address the tragedy of malaria by encouraging FAWCO's members to make a significant commitment to worldwide malaria prevention. In a shared vision to halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria, FAWCO set a target of \$75,000 to be reached by its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Berlin, March 2006.

With this mandate, FAWCO marks its anniversary year with Networks, a project created to provide insecticide-treated bed nets (ITNs) to some of the world's most vulnerable women and children. The goal is to supply at least one net for every member of FAWCO. As part of this commitment, FAWCO joined the December 2005 World Swim for Malaria, a global effort to get a million swimmers in the water to raise money for malaria eradication.

## CITIZENSHIP

*Michael Adler, Phyllis Michaux, Dorothy Stage, Rebecca Tan, Kathy Webster*

Citizenship has not always been an entitlement, at least not for those American women who married foreign nationals. Until the Cable Act of 1922, these women automatically lost their American passports even if living in the United States (the disenfranchisement did not apply to men).

FAWCO, at its conferences in The Hague (1935) and Zürich (1937), discussed the dilemma of the stateless woman and the law's often ambiguous character. In 1940 Congress allowed women who had lost their citizenship status between 1907 and 1922 to repatriate through an application process and by taking an oath. The McCarran Act of December 1952 regulated the application process for a second nationality and the US residency requirements for the children of dual-national parents.

By the end of the 1950s dissatisfied citizens began to question these laws. In Paris, Phyllis Michaux invited like-minded women to a meeting (which led to the founding of AAWE), and Gertrude de Gallaix, AWG, raised the subject at the FAWCO conference in The Hague (1961). FAWCO established a Citizenship Committee and recommended a study on the problems of children born abroad of one American parent and one foreign national. At the London Confer-

ence in 1965 Gertrude collected valuable information on these families in preparation for further study.

Aldo Bellei, the son of AWA Rome member Lola Bellei, challenged the constitutionality of the residency laws which required children born abroad to dual-national parents to live in the States for a certain number of years or be stripped of the US citizenship that they had acquired at birth. AAWE co-filed a friend of the court brief with the American Bar Association on behalf of Mr. Bellei (it was the first time that the ABA had ever co-filed an *amicus* brief). Although the Supreme Court upheld the five-year residency requirement, it was amended in 1972 and finally repealed in 1978. Since then children born abroad do not need to take up residency in the United States in order to retain their citizenship.

Another aspect of losing American citizenship was performing a particular action that had been prohibited by the law, such as voting in a foreign election or applying for a foreign passport. Some progress was made with the Supreme Court decision in *Afroyim v. Rusk* (1967) which laid down the right of a US citizen to remain a citizen “unless he voluntarily relinquishes that citizenship,” and in *Vance v. Terrassas* (1980), the Supreme Court decision which held that, in order to establish loss of citizenship, the government must prove that the person not only voluntarily performed the expatriating act, but intended to relinquish citizenship by doing so.

Kathleen de Carbuccia, in reporting on the progress of AAWE’s Citizenship Committee at the Conference in Copenhagen (1975) and in Rome (1977), asked FAWCO to help change the current citizenship laws. FAWCO members attended a meeting for Americans Living Overseas sponsored by AAWE and the Association of Americans Resident Overseas (AARO) in Paris in 1977. At the Interim Meeting in Amsterdam (1978), FAWCO President Shirley van Ooijen’s Board gave top priority to citizenship issues. The clubs responded positively and, cooperating with other overseas groups, held local citizenship information meetings, e.g. AWC Hamburg sponsored a panel discussion with its US Consul. Club members distributed Citizenship Action Kits that they had obtained at the FAWCO meetings in Paris and Amsterdam. These contained addresses of members of Congress, sample letters and details of the bills to be passed. In 1979 Dolly Bjerke, AWC Oslo, compiled a comparative citizenship chart of the United States and eleven other countries.

Kathy Webster, AWC Brussels, assumed the chair of the Citizenship Committee from Erika Parra. The Citizens’ Action Group in Brussels published a flyer noting that the Fourteenth Amendment of the US Constitution names as citizens all persons born or naturalized in the United States, but not Americans born overseas.

At the 1981 Paris Conference Kathy suggested a campaign to influence the Select Commission on Immigration & Refugee Policy. FAWCO resolved to “support legislation that would reduce from ten to two the number of years of residence in the United States required to transmit US citizenship to a child born overseas, when the other parent is an alien, with the reservations that the two-year period be cumulative and the law be retroactive.” It was decided that a member in each club would be responsible for citizenship rights and should collect case histories for the new Washington representative, Phyllis Michaux, from people who were not able to retain or transmit, or who had lost, their citizenship. AWL Kuwait contributed \$100

to this campaign.

Citizenship was discussed at the Interim Meeting in Lugano in 1982. The next year, at the Brussels Conference, FAWCO again voted to “support legislation eliminating inequities in the laws affecting Americans living abroad in regard to citizenship.” Kathy circulated her own crib sheet, *Information Concerning Citizenship for Americans Overseas*, which was the precursor to *Fact Sheet for Americans Overseas* by Michael Adler, AAWE Paris. Michael had just assumed the position of Citizenship chair for AARO and AAWE, and served on Kathy’s committee in FAWCO as chair for Loss of Nationality.

At the Dublin Interim in 1984 Kathy created several specialized sub-committees: Transmission (Kathy and later Roberta Enschede, AWC The Hague); Dual Nationals and Loss of Nationality (Michael); Voting (Dean Ferrier, AAWE Paris); and Congressional Representation for Overseas Citizens (Helen Hootsmans, AWC Amsterdam).

In 1986 Kathy and Roberta, working closely with other expatriate groups, led campaigns to get the pending legislation passed. They divided the 50 states among FAWCO’s 35 clubs in such a way that every congressman would be personally contacted. At Christmas each club sent identical postcards to congressmen picturing a Santa Claus handing out a passport to a little girl, with some appropriate wording. It was fun and it worked. On November 14, 1986, Congress passed a law enabling children born overseas of dual-national parents to receive citizenship automatically if their American-citizen parent had lived a total of five years (two after age fourteen) in the States prior to the birth. This was not retroactive, but it reduced by half the American parent’s residency requirement, which had been ten years. It also stipulated that the loss of citizenship in such cases would occur only if an American performed acts specifically intended to relinquish his nationality, reaffirming the Terrassas decision. Another aspect of the new law was that it allowed the transmission of citizenship to an illegitimate child through the father, an option formerly open only to unwed American mothers.

At the Madrid conference in 1987 Kathy distributed information about expeditious naturalization. It was possible at that time to confer citizenship on a child under certain circumstances if the US parent could satisfy the Immigration and Naturalization Service that he was living abroad for a reason important to the United States, such as working for a US corporation overseas. Kathy’s daughter, for instance, got affidavits from her American company saying that she was essential to its work overseas. Not everyone had this option. (The committee persisted, and eventually the possibility of expeditious naturalization — which means *without* residing in the States for a required period of time — was extended to everyone concerned by the definitive passage of HR 783 on October 25, 1995.)

Once again FAWCO joined forces with like-minded organizations, this time forming the Council of Americans Resident Overseas (CARO) together with FIAC and AARO. All clubs received the updated *Citizenship Fact-Sheet for Americans Overseas* prepared by Michael.

Although the 1986 amendments represented considerable progress, the goal continued to be that all children born abroad to an American parent automatically become United States citizens. A Baby Card campaign was launched at the Luxembourg interim in 1988 and later, at a Brussels regional meeting, those present signed a petition; they were still trying to make the law retroactive and to reduce the residence requirement to two years in the aggregate. In



Zürich (1989) Kathy reported on continuing to lobby Congress.

The first-ever Congressional hearing specifically for Americans abroad occurred in November 1989 at the behest of Congressman Mervyn Dymally (D-CA) who chaired the sub-committee on International Operations of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. Kathy Webster's daughter Amy represented FAWCO at this hearing. She described her dual-national family and how the residency requirement would deny citizenship to her child. Other testimony included taxation, voting, Medicare and Social Security.

The first Global Town Meeting, chaired by Congressman Dymally, met in Paris, July 4-6, 1990. Six organizations attended: FAWCO, AARO, the European Council of American Chambers of Commerce, American Citizens Abroad (ACA), Democrats Abroad and Republicans Abroad. Representing FAWCO were FAWCO President Kay Miller, AWC Brussels; Rebecca Tan, AWC Hamburg, the new coordinator of the Citizens' Concerns Committee; Kathleen de Carbuccia (also representing AARO); and FAWCO past president, Elaine Senigallia, AWA Rome. Kathleen led a panel of Americans who discussed children being refused US citizenship because their parents had not fulfilled the residency requirements; children having different citizenships within one family due to the present laws; and children adopted overseas who are unable to be US citizens without being naturalized in the States. Many members of FAWCO clubs supported these efforts by sending case histories of their citizenship problems.

The Global Town Meeting led to the founding of the World Federation of Americans Abroad (WFAA) in September 1990. Kathleen was FAWCO's official representative. She — with Phyllis, Michael and Roberta; FAWCO President Ann Day, AWA Vienna; Eleanor Fina, Benvenuto Milan; and Denise Liebowitz, AWC Brussels — attended meetings in Washington, DC, in June 1991. Present at the April 1992 WFAA meeting in Walldorf, Germany, were Rebecca, Phyllis, Karen Schulstad and Ellen Schauff, the latter two from AWC Taunus. FAWCO also supported Denise who successfully lobbied for the passage of the Rockefeller law, October 1991, which lifted the prohibition on the employment of American citizens in most local hire positions in American Embassies and Consulates.

Door knocks and testimonials provided opportunities to plead the cause to Congressmen in Washington. Michael testified before the Mazzoli Subcommittee on International Law, Immigration and Refugees, of the House Judiciary Committee, in May 1992. The following attended a WFAA meeting in Washington, DC, in June 1993: FAWCO President Barbara Johnson, AWG Paris; Norma Lehmann-Vogelweid, AWC Zürich; Michael, Kathleen, Denise, and Helen Tange, AAWE Paris. Michael returned to testify before the Immigration Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee, which Eleanor Fina also attended in March 1993.

At last, in 1995, Congress enacted the legislation establishing expeditious naturalization. This law applied to those children and grandchildren under age eighteen who were not previously eligible for citizenship and whose grandparents had lived in the United States for five years. It also enabled children adopted abroad to become citizens and provided for restoration of citizenship to those who had lost it as young adults because they had not fulfilled the (now-repealed) residency requirement. Michael updated her *Fact Sheet*. Paula Daepfen, AWC Zürich, became the new head of the Citizens' Concerns Committee.

In 2000 the Child Citizenship Act eased the acquisition of American citizenship for foreign-

born adopted children of American parents. Dorothy Stage, AWC Gothenburg, became chair of the Citizenship Committee in 2001. She completed *A Global Comparison of Dual Citizenship Opportunities and Requirements in the Different Host Countries Represented by FAWCO*, with input from FAWCO reps in 25 countries. The results were posted on the FAWCO website in March 2002; two addenda to the survey appeared in March 2003 and in January 2005. The second survey questionnaire on using the expeditious naturalization law (Section 322 of the Immigration and Naturalization Act) received few replies, indicating that not many members were acquainted with the possibility of obtaining US citizenship for their grandchildren.

A face-lifting of the Citizenship Committee section on the FAWCO website was completed in March 2005, making access to citizenship information easier and quicker. The latest information regarding new requirements for US and foreign passports and travel to the United States may be found under Recent News. In Citizenship Issues, one can read about acquisition of American citizenship, selective service registration, expeditious and automatic naturalization.

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## FAWCO AS A FORCE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR OVERSEAS VOTING

*Kathy Webster*

At the 1963 FAWCO Conference in Madrid a show of hands indicated that only four members present had been able to vote in the most recent presidential election.

FAWCO has come a long way. At the 1953 Brussels Conference it was voted "to assist members to participate in US elections." At every subsequent conference this dedication has been reaffirmed with decisions taken on the most useful actions to be pursued at the time.

During the 1950s and 1960s FAWCO pressured both Federal and State politicians. It sought support from the League of Women Voters and the National Council of Women as well as combining forces with overseas groups as they were formed. Success was eventually achieved through concerted efforts with the Bipartisan Committee on Absentee Voting, organized in the mid-1960s, and the Association of Americans Resident Overseas (AARO), founded in 1973.

As suffrage is a State privilege, each local electoral board had the final word. Even after the States finally accepted absentee voting by their residents, three major stumbling blocks remained for overseas voters:

- Proving residence in a State when living overseas
- Registering (in person) in States with no permanent registration
- State and local tax liabilities

In 1967, at the Rome Conference, a panel that included outside experts considered the



situation and the possible solutions. It concluded that the most likely route to success was to seek Congressional legislation that granted overseas citizens the right to vote in federal elections. By the end of the decade this cause began to reach sympathetic members of Congress who proposed a series of bills, some of which were passed, but none of which were binding on the States. It was not until 1975, and the AARO-inspired Tea Bag Campaign, that the groundbreaking Overseas Citizens' Voting Rights Act was passed.

Throughout these efforts, FAWCO was inspired and guided by an impressive series of competent and dedicated women.

Esther Petersen, President of AWC Brussels, chaired the Absentee Voting Project in the 1950s. She later held government positions in three administrations as well as at the United Nations and became known in the consumer movement. She returned to FAWCO as the keynote speaker at the 1985 Düsseldorf Conference.

In 1963 Alicia Paolozzi, FAWCO Washington Liaison, testified at hearings held by President Kennedy's Commission on Registration and Voting Participation; she solicited the help of her New York Senators, Javits and Lindsay.

Genevieve Garzero, AWA Rome, sued the State of California in an attempt to regain her own registration in that state, hoping to establish a legal precedent. She chaired the Citizenship Status Committee and led the 1967 panel in Rome.

Elaine Senigallia's 1968 report on *The Americans Who Can't Vote* was submitted to a Congressional subcommittee holding hearings on electoral reforms.

In 1969 Frances Rennie, AWC London, chaired the Citizenship Status Committee and conducted a survey of all fifty State Boards of Election to define the problem more concretely. It was submitted to Congress.

Gloria Fischel, AWC Amsterdam, did a survey of the American community in the Netherlands in 1972. It demonstrated that the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1970 were ineffective. Two more bills were submitted before an acceptable draft appeared. As chair of the Citizenship Status Committee, Gloria directed FAWCO's efforts towards passage of the 1975 version, working closely with the Bipartisan Committee, AARO, and 'Tea Bags.' The Overseas Voting Rights Act of 1975 passed Congress and was signed by President Ford on January 2, 1976.

Now that the right to vote from overseas was achieved, FAWCO's next challenge was to ensure that it was used by getting the complicated and diverse procedures simplified.

In 1976 Kathleen de Carbuccia and Phyllis Michaux, both AAWE Paris, co-chaired the Citizenship Status Committee. They obtained materials and information to distribute to all FAWCO clubs from the Voting Information Office of the Department of Defense (predecessor of the Federal Voting Assistance Program, FVAP), and from the League of Women Voters. In 1977, in Rome, they conducted a workshop to identify continuing problems. The most urgent was an oversight in the drafting of the 1975 law that meant overseas voters still risked local taxation.

A letter-writing campaign by FAWCO women contributed to the passage in 1978 of further legislation to assure overseas citizens that voting in *federal elections only* could not cause them

any tax liabilities. In 1980 FAWCO could at last launch a program of intensive get-out-the-overseas-vote campaigns. Clubs were urged to reach out to all United States citizens by organizing special voter registration sessions. The first workshop to train volunteers was conducted at the 1984 Dublin Interim by Dean Ferrier, AAWE Paris and Voting Chair 1983–93, and Kathy Webster, AWC Brussels and Citizenship Committees chair.

In 1986 Dean led FAWCO members in a successful letter-writing campaign to support passage of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens' Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), which included the new emergency Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB). Throughout her term Dean collaborated with FVAP in obtaining materials and advice and in working to improve the process of voting from overseas. FAWCO reps helped Dean by responding to surveys, organizing letter campaigns to Congress, and offering constructive comments on successive revisions of the Federal Postcard Application (FPCA). In 1992 Dean provided all clubs with an invaluable pamphlet, *Absentee Voting: How to Organize Voter Registration Rallies*.

In 1993 Kathy Webster became chair of the FAWCO Voting-from-Overseas Committee and continued the biennial workshops. The first one conducted by the Federal Voting Assistance Program was at the Bad Homburg Interim in 1996 when Polli Brunelli, before becoming Director of the FVAP in June 1999, first attended a FAWCO Conference. She caught a severe case of 'FAWCO fever' and has worked closely with FAWCO ever since. FVAP has offered three more workshops and is a constant source of information, help, and materials.

The FAWCO Voting Committee promotes and assists participation in the United States general elections by supplying information and guidelines via published articles, all-FAWCO messages, and postings on the FAWCO website. All information needed to vote from overseas is now readily available 24/7, as are *Guidelines for Voting Assistance Volunteers*. Increased use of the Internet has produced a sea change in helping overseas Americans to vote.

FAWCO's US Liaison, Lucy Laederich, AAWE Paris, has contributed immensely to the passage of federal legislation favorable to FAWCO. The latest Overseas Voting Survey defines the progress; in 2004, 88.5% of those who wished to vote from overseas were able to do so. It also reveals a continuing need for improvement; 11.5 % were disenfranchised because of persistent obstacles.

Kathy Webster retired as chair of the Voting-from-Overseas Committee in March 2005.

## THE TEA BAG CAMPAIGN

*Phyllis Michaux*

On June 25, 1973, a group of overseas Americans was finally able to take concerted legislative action. The Bipartisan Committee on Absentee Voting, with a representative in Washington, persuaded Senator Charles McC. Mathias, Jr., (R-MD), to introduce a bill. Its main provision was to abolish domicile and residence requirements as preconditions for absentee voting in federal elections.

In September, 1975, the bill was still wending its way through the legislative process — committees, hearings, verifications, more hearings — but never coming to a vote. Several former ambassadors, including Charles Bohlen, Arthur Goldberg, Averill Harriman and George H. W. Bush, had testified on behalf of the bill.

Yet the Justice Department, suspicious of voter fraud, came out against it. A legal counsel to the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Antonin Scalia, later named to the Supreme Court by Ronald Reagan, held that it basically seemed unfair to permit a person who may have no knowledge or interest in the State in which he was formerly domiciled to cast votes in that State.

A grass roots campaign was underway, however, and would eventually turn the tide. The Association of American Residents Overseas (AARO) had been given the use of the administrative facilities of the American Chamber of Commerce in France, making it feasible to coordinate a letter-writing campaign to Congress. Working with other American Chambers of Commerce in Europe, with FAWCO clubs, veterans groups, alumni associations, schools, churches, and just about any American organization that could be located, it became possible to reach individuals all over Europe and beyond.

But generating letters was not easy. So many people had never even tried to vote. They were unsure of their congressional district or the name of their congressmen. They also needed the name and number of the bill. What to say, what terms to use? All of these questions discouraged action. Furthermore, the generalized use of copy machines, computers and e-mail messages was non-existent, all written communication still mired in the typewriter and carbon-copy era. As for the recipients, letter writers were not actual, but only potential, constituents. One or two letters was not enough to get any real attention. Many more were needed.

At that point good fortune for this legislation came to us in the form of Sonja Beaumont Mincbere, a former president of both AAWE and FAWCO. Sonja, knowledgeable and sophisticated, came to my office in the library of the Chamber of Commerce several times a week to update the mailing lists. She would note the amounts of contributions and names and addresses on five by eight cards. In the afternoon we had our cup of tea while discussing how to get more people to write more letters to more congressmen. Then, suddenly one day, Sonja picked up a tea bag, waved it around and exclaimed, “Tea Party Boston!”

She had found the solution. It was simple, direct and catchy. We wrote a brief message on AARO stationary with good spacing on the page:

In 1773 there was a Tea Party because of no representation

In 1975, we mail you this tea bag because of the Overseas Voters Rights Act

So that in 1976 we will be able to vote for you.

Support H.R-3211 and S-95

A short cover letter was prepared, telling the addressee to staple a tea bag to the letter and mail it to the congressman. All we had to do then was to send one copy to everyone on our mailing list, counting on them to copy and distribute as many as possible. And they did. By December, 1975, the reconciliation bill had passed the House, 374 to 43. The chairman of the House Administration Committee stated that the mail received in his office on behalf of this

bill had exceeded by five or six times the amount that had come in on any other issue that year.

But opposition by the Justice Department continued, still led by Antonin Scalia who had persuaded the Attorney General to oppose the president's signing of the bill. The Bipartisan Committee Representative, Gene Marans, decided to go over the head of the Justice Department. He asked Senator Barry Goldwater to call President Ford's legal counsel. Senator Goldwater's message to the White House was: "Listen, you damned fools, there are more Republicans in Paris than there are in Detroit, and Ford doesn't want to be the first president to veto a voting-rights bill since the Reconstruction."

The bill was signed by the president on January 2, 1976. Direct political life had begun for Americans living overseas.

## WASHINGTON LIAISON

1988–1998

*Eleanor Fina*

The telephone rings at 2:00 a.m. in Alexandria, Virginia. Someone in the Philippines is calling to ask how to apply for the FAWCO Foundation Special Challenges Scholarship. The Liaison explains the necessary qualifications. Calls continue from Germany, Kuwait and Korea. Why all these calls? *USA Today* has published the news of the scholarship with my telephone and fax numbers but *without* mention of the FAWCO club relationship requirement. Result: the paper published a correction, it learned more about FAWCO, and its far-flung readers received a kind voice of explanation, if not a scholarship.

This is just one strange example of what the Washington Liaison did from 1988 to 1998.

The work can be summarized as promptly serving and communicating with others as well as keeping on top of personnel changes and contact data.

All sorts of information was requested by FAWCO presidents, officers and committees; it was provided based on what could be learned in the States from contacting both governmental and private organizations. Information was volunteered to FAWCO, as when Project Vote Smart, a non-partisan source of political information, was founded. Information was also provided to the National Women's Political Caucus, a multi-partisan organization specializing in developing and supporting women candidates. You never knew when American women returning from abroad would decide to run for public office.

The communication flowed in both directions. The FAWCO *Forum* and other appropriate news was hand-carried or sent to people in various offices in the Department of State, Defense's Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP), the press and organizations and individuals interested in Americans abroad. There was contact, too, with the White House and Congressional offices.

When Brynn Bruijn, AWC The Hague, traveled the world to produce her FAWCO video

(1990), the Liaison made possible the Washington segment. Brynn photographed FAWCO people with government personnel in the White House, State, Defense (FVAP), Congress and the Lincoln Memorial. All but Mr. Lincoln learned more about FAWCO.

Upon completion of the video, each federal organization had a private showing. A public showing was held for the press and others, co-sponsored by Esther Peterson, the renowned consumer advocate and friend of FAWCO since the 1950s when she was President of AWC Brussels.

In 2000, Washington, DC, was the site of the first FAWCO Conference held in the United States.

2001–2005

*Lucy Laederich*

The e-mail that arrived in September 2001 from a senior staffer on the Senate Rules Committee confirmed that FAWCO had definitely reached a new level of visibility in Washington. We were being asked if we could support a piece of landmark election reform legislation that later became the Help America Vote Act of 2002. My rapid response was that we could not, because a search yielded only three occurrences of the word ‘overseas’ in reference to existing law, so that the problems for overseas voters were not addressed at all; collaboration between House and Senate staffers and organizations like FAWCO would change that in the up-coming months.

The position of US Liaison was directed by the 2001–2003 FAWCO Board to serve two purposes. The first was to strengthen FAWCO’s ties with other overseas American organizations. Although FAWCO had joined with groups such as NOW and the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, our work with other overseas advocacy groups dates from the drive in the 1970s to obtain the vote for Americans living abroad as well as our joint efforts to improve citizenship legislation affecting our children.

From their very beginnings, FAWCO worked with AARO (Association of Americans Resident Overseas), founded in 1973, and with ACA (American Citizens Abroad), founded in 1978. In 1985 FAWCO President Muriel Bremner, AWC Ireland, represented FAWCO in founding the Council of Americans Resident Overseas (CARO) along with AARO and FIAC (Federation of International American Clubs). And in 1990, following the First World Congress of Americans Abroad held in Paris that summer, FAWCO joined AARO, ACA and the European Council of American Chambers of Commerce (ECACC) to form the World Federation of Americans Abroad (WFAA), sending representatives to Washington on several occasions to defend our positions on such issues as double taxation, citizenship legislation and voting from overseas. In the WFAA framework, we collaborated also with American Chambers of Commerce around the globe, as we continue to do on various occasions. As a Founding Member, FAWCO was on WFAA’s Board of Governors, contributing, over the five year period, two chairs, a vice chair and a treasurer. At that time, as well, FAWCO had a Washington Liaison (see above) who served as a valuable channel for communication.

Cooperation among our organizations picked up pace again when we took on the challenge of trying to get overseas Americans counted in the US Decennial Census. From our first efforts at a slogan in 1995 (“You can’t stand up and be counted if no one knows you’re there”), to my testimony at a Congressional sub-committee hearing in September 2004, FAWCO was an increasingly visible and vocal advocate for that cause. It was certainly due to the combined efforts of AARO, ABCGC (American Business Council of the Gulf Countries), ACA and FAWCO that, following a two-day conference in Maryland called by the Census Bureau in 2001, a trial census was planned and carried out in Mexico, Kuwait and France in April 2004, with significant input from us all. That test was a severe disappointment but the flame still burns: FAWCO and AARO are now exploring other options which could, in the much longer term, achieve the original goal of our inclusion.

We have also worked closely with our sister organizations on improving procedures for voting from overseas, the most dramatic example being in October 2001 when FAWCO wrote to members of the House and Senate committees responsible for election reform legislation, forwarding endorsements from 17 other organizations around the world regarding two proposed bills, introduced by Senator Jay Rockefeller and Representatives Carolyn Maloney and Tom Reynolds, which directly addressed the problems of overseas voters.

Thanks to persistent efforts and several visits to Washington, the provisions in those bills were incorporated in the ultimate House bill and added in extremis as an amendment to the Senate bill only hours before the final vote was taken. It is safe to say that never in our long history have we worked more closely or more successfully with other similar organizations than we did on the census and election reform issues.

The second mandate of the US Liaison was to represent FAWCO in dealing with Washington. The idea that an organization with an overseas membership should be represented in Washington by an overseas American grew from our work on these same two issues. I had traveled twice to Washington at the invitation of the Census Bureau as FAWCO President, and I returned in January 2002 to join then-President Pam Dahlgren, AWA Surrey, to present the voting ‘wish list’ prepared (largely by Kathy Webster) for the Overseas Americans Week that had been postponed after September 11, 2001. Each time the reaction would be the same: “Are you on holiday in the city?” or “Do you have relatives in Washington?” “No, I came to see you.” “You came all the way from Paris just to see me?” It was clear that a visit or even a call from someone abroad had an impact a local call simply could not generate.

The three Overseas Americans Weeks that FAWCO has helped to plan and carry out from May 2002 to May 2005 have given even more of us the opportunity to learn the ways of Congress and government agencies. Presidents Pam Dahlgren, Arline Coward and Emily van Eerten, American Club of Lyon President Eric Way and FAUSA President Dale Koepenick, have joined me with representatives of AARO, ABCGC, ACA and ALLAMO (Alliance of American Organizations Iberia). Each time we make a few new friends, a few more people that I can call for information or advice on upcoming legislation to be shared with FAWCO members or translated into a call for action as it was when, for example, the Senate Finance Committee decided to do away with the ‘Section 911’ foreign-earned income exclusion that



protects many overseas Americans from double taxation. In addition, some Congressional offices are clearly grateful for input from the unique population we represent, and we will, in all probability, continue to be consulted on the language and provisions of some legislation.

FAWCO has also become more visible thanks to the map that, along with AARO, AAWE Paris and ACA, we sponsored to 'salute the 4.1 million Americans living and working abroad.' That map is now a familiar sight to many on the Hill, at the Census Bureau, the State Department, the GAO and the Federal Voting Assistance Program. Like the Circles of Honor that FAWCO has awarded to Senator Rockefeller and Congresswoman Maloney for their election reform and census legislation, and those given to Senators Mitch McConnell and Chris Dodd and Congressmen Bob Ney and Steny Hoyer for authoring the Help America Vote Act, it has made us a more familiar name in Washington.

Not long ago, at the request of NGO Director Paula Daepfen, I called to make an appointment with a senior staffer on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in order to present our position paper on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Her first reaction was, "Oh yes, I've heard about your federation. I'll be happy for a chance to learn more about you."

## A TREE FOR EVERY MEMBER

*Valerie Garforth*

FAWCO has never been afraid of dealing with important and difficult issues: as it moved into the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the health of the environment clearly emerged as a major concern. The Los Angeles and London smogs of the 1950s, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* in the 1960s, the energy crisis and first Earth Day in the 1970s — all were reported and discussed by FAWCO. Eleanor Hofmanner, AWC Zürich, chaired the first Environment Committee in the late 1970s and early 1980s and sent out regular tip sheets on issues such as natural gas and how to be eco-friendly in the laundry and kitchen. In the late 1980s the environment had become a major issue and, at the 1989 FAWCO Conference in Zürich, the Environment Committee, under the chairmanship of Mary Rose Walsh, was re-formed to investigate and report back to the Federation. At the Brussels Interim in 1990 the theme for the 1991 Conference in Vienna was set: The Environment—What On Earth Can We Do?

Parallel to this FAWCO-wide initiative, a local movement was taking shape in AWC Brussels. In 1990 Kathy Webster, FAWCO Board Secretary in Kay Miller's presidency, invited Monsieur Francois Roelandts du Vivier, a prominent local environmentalist and former European Parliamentarian, to talk with concerned women from the Brussels club. This led to the formation of the AWC Brussels Environment Committee which became a model and testing ground for eco-friendly activities that could be promoted throughout FAWCO. There were a few teething problems. The introduction of recycled paper for the photocopier and the toilet met with some resistance: the photocopier jammed up and the paper was scratchy. Recycled paper has come a long way since then and so has the FAWCO Environment Committee.

AWC Brussels sponsored its Environment Committee chair, Valerie Garforth, to attend the 1991 Vienna Conference with the environment as its theme, and Valerie became the chair of the FAWCO Environment Committee. The strong feeling of the new committee members was that action was essential; distributing information about recycling and energy efficiency was, and still is, important, but we wanted visible results for the world to see. Tree planting was the obvious choice: wooded areas, no matter how small, provide habitat for birds, insects and small mammals; trees consolidate the soil and prevent flooding; trees absorb pollution and, crucially, by removing CO<sub>2</sub>, counteract the greenhouse effect and global climate change. In 1987 the first of a series of terrible storms uprooted thousands of trees throughout Europe. Here was the chance to put theory into action. In November 1991 AWC Brussels, with the help of the local Forestry Department, initiated the first of seven annual tree plantations in the Forêt de Soignes, a finger of ancient forest close to the AWCB clubhouse. These plantations involved many international women's and young people's organizations; the challenge was to sponsor one tree per member. At \$1.00 per tree, this was easily within reach.

With this experience, the challenge went out to all FAWCO clubs to plant trees; AWC Taunus, AWO Greece and AWC Languedoc-Roussillon were among the first. In 1993, at the Casablanca Conference, a conversation began between Stella Fizazi, Donna Sebti and Valerie Garforth about planting trees in Morocco. AIWC Casablanca had a strong record of community support, but now the concept of linking environmental protection with improving human life, especially in rural areas, became clear. The concept took root. In 1995, working with Peace Corps volunteers, AIWC Casablanca organized its first tree-planting project, offering two apple trees as a gift for each pine tree planted by residents of the Imchil area. Seeking to undertake a project of special significance to mark the beginning of a new millennium, the FAWCO Environment Committee proposed to AIWC Casablanca that its reforestation program, now an annual event, be named the FAWCO Millennium Forest and should receive support from throughout FAWCO. This project was submitted to the United Nations in 2004 by NGO Liaison Paula Daepfen as an example of a successful implementation of sustainability, one of the Millennium Development Goals.

Tree planting has not been the only area where the FAWCO Environment Committee has been active. For several years FAWCO clubs were encouraged to purchase an acre of rainforest in the *Bosque Eterno de los Niños* (Children's Rainforest) in the Monteverde cloud forest area of Costa Rica. This well-run project seeks to purchase land to increase the area of protected rain forest and, for \$100, FAWCO clubs and individuals receive a colorful certificate acknowledging their contribution. This became a popular gift for birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, etc. FAWCO Alumnae Committee Chair Karin Burdsall, herself a native of Costa Rica, visited the preserve in the 1990s and wrote glowingly about its work. We also sponsored a WWF (World Wildlife Fund) project, proposed by AWO Greece, to protect a turtle-nesting beach by challenging FAWCO clubs to 'purchase' a square meter of beach.

Clean Up The World is another United Nations project that FAWCO has embraced. The annual event takes place the third weekend of September when organizations throughout the world undertake beach, park and forest clean ups. Several FAWCO clubs have participated in



these activities over the years, including AWC Basel, AWC Denmark, IW Portugal, AWC Zürich, AWC Dublin and AIWC Casablanca. This is a fun and worthwhile way to get young people involved in protecting the environment.

Tree planting, however, has always been the most important emphasis of the FAWCO Environment Committee. At the conclusion of the Nairobi conference in Kenya in 1995 a small group of delegates, including newly elected FAWCO Board members Lucy Laederich and Sarah Porubcansky, and Environment Chair Valerie Garforth, planted fifty trees donated by AWC Zürich in the Amboselli game preserve below Mount Kilimanjaro. When FAWCO 'Came Home to be Counted' for its 2000 conference in Washington, DC, the proposal to plant a cherry tree near the Washington Monument was a powerfully symbolic act. In order to raise the \$250 required to plant the seven year old tree, the FAWCO Environment Committee sold green ribbons. Each ribbon, at a cost of \$5.00, indicated that the wearer had contributed to the Cherry Tree Fund. So popular was this initiative that there were several hundred dollars left over to give to AIWC Casablanca for the FAWCO Millennium Forest. A ceremony was held at the conclusion of the 2000 conference when delegates were able to walk the couple of blocks from their hotel to the Mall and visit the FAWCO cherry tree, planted on our behalf by the National Park Service.

In 2003, at the Stockholm Conference, the FAWCO Environment Committee, aware of the growing threat to the planet of global climate change, introduced the concept of a 'Carbon Neutral Conference.' This concept has been pioneered by other groups seeking to balance the negative effect of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions on the environment by planting trees to absorb the CO<sub>2</sub> due to delegates' travel. The FAWCO 'green ribbons' appeared again in Stockholm and monies raised went to the FAWCO Millennium Forest in Morocco and Trees For Life in Scotland, an organization that is seeking to restore the ancient Caledonian Forest that once covered the Highlands; it provides brochures with the calculation of how many trees each person needs to plant.

The theme of the 2004 FAWCO Conference in The Hague, 'Changing the Flow,' focused on water, and the FAWCO tree ribbons became green and blue to reflect the connection between trees and water. The next year, in Birmingham, UK, the tree ribbons had become green, blue and brown, indicating the connection to the earth. At this conference funds were raised to plant a FAWCO grove in a Woodland Trust site chosen by The North American Connection, the Conference host, at the historic Himley Plantation at Womourne in the Midlands. AWC Amsterdam also sold tree cards to raise funds for its tree-planting project in Aalsmeer in April. It is a perfect example of how planting trees consolidates the soil, so important in low-lying countries such as The Netherlands, where rising sea levels threaten the coastline, and also consolidates relations between FAWCO club members and their host countries.

## EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER SUPPORT COMMITTEES

*Susan Van Alsenoy*

Everyone was *so* busy. Conferring over coffee, madly dashing to make meetings. Dazed people frantic for directions. Confusing, exciting, stimulating: Brussels 1983 — my first FAWCO Conference.

The buzz word seemed to be work. How can we find work in our host countries? Can we get a work permit? Do qualifications travel? How can we start a business? How can we be more than a trailing spouse?

And then, in the middle of a General Session, we had to pause for the treasurer's report because she was nursing her infant. President Elaine Senigallia reminded us that family comes first. These were welcome words to my ears. Being one of the first now-commonplace older mothers of younger children (at the time I was forty with a four-year-old daughter and a three-year-old son), I was delighted to hear her support of motherly functions after hearing so much about careers.

I became interested in learning what the various FAWCO clubs were doing to support their mothers with young children, hoping to bring some suggestions back to my own club. Most of these women were not only going through culture shock; they were experiencing baby shock as well, in an environment that often contained no close family or friends and with a foreign bureaucracy and medical system that contained many unknowns.

I proposed an investigation into this area, received permission from the incoming FAWCO President, Muriel Bremner, and became a committee chair of...what to call this new, investigative committee? Many ideas were considered. We chose the Women and Home Committee, perhaps to balance the Women and Work Committee.

Back in those days of no computers, e-mails or even faxes, things moved at a snail's pace. But crawl along they did. A questionnaire was approved by Headquarters and mailed to the clubs. I was excited, naively expecting all of them to respond immediately, if not sooner. I found out that unless you happened to luck out and hit a FAWCO rep who also had a personal interest in your work, your chances of a response on the first go were very low; one-third to one-half of the current Federation membership was a good response.

Once the requested forms got to the target audience, I found out that there were many moms with young children out there who were eager to exchange information. Many were isolated, lonely, frustrated and even angry. The attitude in many clubs seemed to be, "Well, we did it, now it's your turn." Part of this thinking was perhaps due to the fact that during those years many club members were older women; it was the older rather than the younger executive that was being sent overseas.

I remember driving to Düsseldorf, my friend Patty Dykstra at the wheel, patiently listening as I practiced, over and over again, my first speech for the brand new committee. I was frantic with nerves. How dare I address such an eminent audience? How could I convince an assembly room full of women bent on obtaining working rights of the value of supporting women whose focus was staying at home and rearing children? Much to my surprise and delight, my

kick-off speech was well received. There were many in the audience who recalled their own trials and tribulations in becoming an international mom. The sympathy was there.

Now I became interested in seeing if the support would come too. I decided for my next project to do the *Addendum to Pre-Schoolers Abroad*. It investigated what, if any, improvements the clubs had made in their policies or customs as a result of the survey, and it was rewarding to see that some clubs did implement changes.

One day I went along to a meeting organized by a member of AWC Brussels for ladies who were married to gentlemen not of their nationality. We discussed the topic, 'If you knew then what you know now, would you have made the same decision?' Why not have such a group in Antwerp, I thought? I wondered if any other FAWCO clubs have similar groups. *Dual National Marriage Groups* was the result of these cogitations and became a fruitful resource for our fledging Antwerp group.

Educational support became my next challenge. Our daughter was beginning the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. She had always done well in elementary school but now, for no apparent reason, she started having a lot of difficulties. Luckily, one of her teachers had a student the previous year who made similar types of errors to those Freya was making. That student had been diagnosed as dyslexic. A subsequent two days of assessment gave us the good news and the bad news. "Your daughter is extremely intelligent. She is also very dyslexic."

Once again I turned to FAWCO and the collected wisdom of its members. The Educational Support Committee for Students with Special Challenges was created and the study, *Students Who Learn Differently*, began. I say 'began,' because at this writing it is still ongoing. As more information becomes available, I continue to add to, delete and correct it.

Its longevity is due in great part to the Internet and to the interest, support, and work of Emily van Eerten who considered the first *Students* report to be of enough value that she created and adapted that first study and many of the subsequent additions into <http://studentswholearn.fawco.org>, the ESC sub-domain on the FAWCO site.

From 1999 to 2003 I worked as a learning support consultant at the Antwerp British School. Having experienced the frustration and anxiety of being the parent of a LD learner, I was now able to see first hand the frustration and anxiety experienced by the teachers. The two-year research project, *LD Support for Mainstream Teachers*, presented at the 2003 Stockholm Conference, is an effort to help the teachers in both host country and international schools help their LD learners. It has been translated into nine languages and it is hoped that eventually it will appear on the site in all the languages of the countries where FAWCO has member clubs.

What is good for the LD learner is good for all the students in the class. With the presentation of the workshop, 'We All Learn Differently — Some a Bit More Than Others,' at the Birmingham Conference, the focus of the committee came to include all learners, not just those with LD issues. It was time to be called the Educational Support Committee — full stop.

## HEALTH ISSUES

*Dolores Cuellar*

The Women's Health Committee was formed following the Luxembourg Conference in 2001. Its purpose was to inform, educate and support FAWCO clubs in disseminating timely information on health issues important to the members, and to help them make knowledgeable decisions about health-related issues. Using the FAWCO website, the first article concerned techniques for diagnosing ovarian and breast cancer.

In 2002 the second UN World Assembly on Aging was attended by Arline Coward, AWC Madrid, FAWCO Third Vice President; Paula Daepfen, AWC Zürich, UN Issues; and Dolores Cuéllar, AWC Madrid, Women's Health Committee chair. It was decided to expand the scope of the committee to include topics related to aging — health care, quality of life, the care of elderly parents, etc. Adding the health issues of spouses and families, the name became the Health Issues Committee.

In 2004 the Marcy Dwyer Cancer Information Site was added to the website. Marcy Dwyer was a member of AWC Zürich and editor of *The FAWCO Forum*. She died in 2003 after a long battle with ovarian cancer. The site grew out of her suggestions that FAWCO provide a site to support members of FAWCO clubs whose lives have been touched by cancer. The site provides a list of sources of reliable online information on cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment and support programs for cancer patients, families, friends and caregivers.

In 2005 the committee added the Global Health Issues segment to include information on health issues of a world-wide scope, especially issues of special interest to the World Health Organization. The site encourages member clubs to celebrate World Health Day, World AIDS Awareness Day and World Heart Health Day, among others. As a result of FAWCO's commitment to the UN Millennium Goal of reducing the incidence of malaria throughout the world, the Health Issues Committee site features information on this topic.

At each FAWCO Conference and Interim the Health Issues Committee has actively participated in the FAWCO Fairs, making available information on various health topics and receiving comments and suggestions from the conference attendees. At the 2005 Birmingham Conference the committee presented a forum on Women and Heart Disease in order to emphasize the importance of this disease which is the number one killer of women throughout the world.

## FAWCO GOES ONLINE WITH A NEW BABY

*Rebecca Tan*

A new FAWCO Board assumed office in March, 1995, during the FAWCO Conference in Nairobi hosted by AWC Kenya. Then, 'online' was a buzz word people used to show off, but nobody could describe how it tasted, looked, weighed, or traveled. The new-fangled idea didn't go away though, and at an October regional meeting hosted by the American Women's

Club of The Hague, Georgia Regnault arranged for a workshop, 'Understanding and Joining Cyberspace.' Sixty people attended and, with all eyes fixed on the screen like Alexander Graham Bell clutching his phone, they went online and never looked back.

A few board members resisted signing up for a server but they were terrorized into submission and, in the spring of 1996, all board members had e-mail addresses, primarily with CompuServe, and the first online board meeting was scheduled. FAWCO members were ahead of the Board and the first all-FAWCO e-mail address list of 84 names was published.

For the March 1996 Bad Homburg Interim, hosted by AWC The Taunus, an Internet workshop was planned which caused a wild scramble for — new words — a modem and a beamer. Where to get them, how to connect, and what if they don't work? All went smoothly.

Also, in Bad Homburg, the Board met with Barbara Lau from Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, representative of the three Focus clubs (London, Geneva, and Brussels) and WICE (Paris); Focus sponsored the Women On The Move Conferences. The meeting was preceded by in-depth correspondence between Barbara Lau and the Board members. The intention was for the two groups, FAWCO and FOCUS/WICE, to produce a website together (we never knew whether to write 'web site' or 'website'). After Bad Homburg we followed up with more long e-mail messages. Finally, after almost six months of deliberation, FAWCO decided that there could not be a mutual agreement which would be equally beneficial to both sides and there was an amiable parting from Barbara Lau. By then Robin Jack, AWC London, agreed to head a database committee with the enthusiastic support of Sarah Porubcansky (there was definitely a reason that the youngest board member was also the most interested in databases). Soon the committee was renamed the Website Committee, complete with job description: the website committee coordinates the efforts of FAWCO volunteers in the on-going construction and maintenance of the website.

At the 1995 FAWCO regional meeting in Montpellier, France, October 14-15, hosted by AWC Languedoc-Roussellion, there was a detailed report as follows:

Sarah went to London in September to work with Robin Jack for one week to set up the website. They consulted Linda Carney, AWC London, who was knowledgeable in this area.

Lucy Laederich, AAWE Paris, suggested that, once the new website was perfected, the various FAWCO groups should make an effort to reach out to other organizations to include FAWCO-related information or references in their websites. This would then refer users back to FAWCO's website. She also said that Evelyn Tan Powers of *USA Today* was waiting to publish the new website which should be up in October 1996. Robin was willing to put her own e-mail address on the website for users to contact for further information, even about individual clubs, in the event that the club did not have an e-mail address or anyone in the club available to offer one. Robin would then forward the inquiry to the individual club.

Sarah distributed print-outs of the website that included FAWCO membership criteria, publications, committees, The Foundation, FAWCO history, a current events bulletin board, and one page per club. Lucy suggested scanning in certain older out-of-print FAWCO publications. She offered to serve on this committee with members from the Resource Center in The Hague — Eileen Harloff, Georgia Regnault and Julie van der Wolf.

By the 33<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Conference in Dublin hosted by AAW of Ireland, March 18-23, 1997,



the Website Committee had a firm hold on the group's agenda.

Tuesday: Robin Jack, a Website Committee meeting open to interested experts.

Thursday: A 'Baby Shower' to welcome in newborn [www.fawco.org](http://www.fawco.org).

Friday: A discussion, 'Caught in the web,' at the FAWCO Fair.

Saturday: 'All the News That's Fit to Print,' with the *Forum* editors, and a workshop, 'Tomorrow's Technology for Club Management,' led by Beverly La Flamme.

At the end of the Conference the new Board inherited a working website and e-mail-savvy members, and the audio-visual/modem/computer equipment for hooking up laptops to websites became standard for conferences.

## EXPANDING THE WEBSITE

*Emily Van Eerten*

In 1999, AWC Amsterdam member Maureen Kittredge (now Thomas) designed a concept for a new website to become FAWCO's virtual clubhouse. She enlisted the help of Emily van Eerten, AWC Amsterdam, and others, and within a short time the new website debuted on a new server. This enabled FAWCO to establish e-mail aliases and lists and to change the face of FAWCO communications. For the first time in FAWCO history, addresses were created that would not change every two years, e.g., [president@fawco.org](mailto:president@fawco.org) would reach the current FAWCO president, wherever she may be located.

The new website created a new credibility for FAWCO, its member clubs, and the work of its committees. A club directory provided direct access to member clubs. Special sections were initially devoted to reports prepared by FAWCO committees, with substantial material posted relating to Educational Support and Voting from Overseas available for worldwide access. Later, sections for all of the FAWCO committees and liaisons were expanded.

In order to help member clubs take advantage of current Internet technology, FAWCO undertook to develop a web hosting program. By using the economy of scale, FAWCO clubs were able to access premium web hosting features for a bargain price and to benefit from the website assistance of volunteer members of the FAWCO web team.

Kathey Carreiro, AWC Malmö and AW Sydney, led the development of a newly designed website in 2001 and added even more features. The website underwent yet another reiteration in 2005 with the help of designer Stephanie von Ohain, AWC Stockholm, and web manager Alice Grevet, AAWE Paris.

## THE WEBSITE, WEB TEAM AND WEB HOSTING

*Alice Grevet*

### The FAWCO Website

One can visit FAWCO's virtual clubhouse at <http://www.fawco.org>. The latest version of the website was designed by Stephanie Von Ohain, AWC Stockholm, and Web Manager Alice Grevet, AAWE Paris, and was inaugurated for the 37<sup>th</sup> Biennial FAWCO Conference in Birmingham, England, in March of 2005.

This new website is divided into colorful sections where each committee has its space to publish articles and link to other pertinent websites and information. One can find copies of the FAWCO *Forum*, information about the FAWCO Foundation, FAUSA, Global Concerns, US Concerns, profiles of all of the FAWCO member clubs with links to their club websites, information about how to join FAWCO, and much more. The log-in section allows members, reps, club presidents and committee chairs to log in to their respective password protected areas to access material relating to their functions.

### The Website Founders

In 1994 Sarah Porubcansky, AWA Vienna, and Robin Jack, AW Berkshire/Surrey, decided to embark on a journey to take the FAWCO website from an idea to a reality. After many weeks of planning, HTML training, practice and testing of web pages, the first 80 plus pages of the website were born. Due to relentless efforts, the website evolved into a widely used tool by its 16,000 members around the globe.

### Interim Support November 1998–March 1999

Susan Fiorentino, AWA Rome, maintained the FAWCO website and moved it from the original web-hosting service provider to a new one. Susan inspired other FAWCO web developers to build their own websites after visiting the one that she created for her club.

Susan and Maureen Kittredge, AWC Amsterdam, presented several workshops in order to further inspire others to join in building club websites and to build a FAWCO web team which would span the globe and enable each team-member to share in the maintenance and enhancement of the website.

### 1999 FAWCO Web Team Expands

In April 1999, a larger web team was formed to assist FAWCO in developing a pool of volunteers to help it reach its short, medium and long term website objectives. These members evaluated the current goals of the organization and began to lay the foundation to take the website from its initial growth stages into the next millennium.

### History of FAWCO's Web Hosting

In 1999 web-weaving workshops were held at the FAWCO Conference in London and

several clubs expressed an interest in FAWCO's Web Hosting Project. A survey was sent to FAWCO reps and the Barcelona Women's Network volunteered to be the first hosted member club underneath the FAWCO umbrella. The migration to a new web hosting vendor was approved and completed and webpage templates were prepared for club use. AWC Zürich and AWC Hamburg became the second and third pilot clubs to go online. In 2000 the American Women of Surrey subsidized the extra cost associated with upgrading to the top service package until the program was self-supporting. By 2002, 36 clubs had signed on.

By 2003 FAWCO had outgrown its current server. All FAWCO accounts were transferred to a new server, Appieshost (<http://www.appieshost.com>), allowing more services and web building tools to the hosted clubs such as unlimited email aliases, access to their own statistics, and added discussion forums and interactive calendars to their websites; they may also request technical help from Appies when needed. In addition to the FAWCO webteam support, clubs now have quite a support system to cover website maintenance.

At the time of the publication of this book FAWCO is hosting 41 of our member clubs:

## CLUB SITE ADDRESSES

American International League of Florence Onlus	<a href="http://www.ailoflorence.org">www.ailoflorence.org</a>
American International Women's Club of Genoa	<a href="http://aiwccgenoa.fawco.org">aiwccgenoa.fawco.org</a>
American Netherlands Club of Rotterdam	<a href="http://ancor.fawco.org">ancor.fawco.org</a>
American Women of Berkshire & Surrey	<a href="http://www.awbs.org.uk">www.awbs.org.uk</a>
American Women of Surrey	<a href="http://www.awsurrey.org.uk">www.awsurrey.org.uk</a>
American Women of Sydney	<a href="http://www.awsydney.org">www.awsydney.org</a>
American Women's Club of Amsterdam	<a href="http://www.awca.nl">www.awca.nl</a>
American Women's Club of Basel	<a href="http://www.awcbasel.org">www.awcbasel.org</a>
American Women's Club of Bern	<a href="http://www.awcbern.org">www.awcbern.org</a>
American Women's Club of Central Scotland	<a href="http://www.awccs.org">www.awccs.org</a>
American Women's Club of Cologne	<a href="http://www.awccologne.org">www.awccologne.org</a>
American Women's Club of Denmark	<a href="http://awcdenmark.org">awcdenmark.org</a>
American Women's Club of Düsseldorf	<a href="http://www.awcduesseldorf.org">www.awcduesseldorf.org</a>
American Women's Club of Gothenburg	<a href="http://www.awcgothenburg.com">www.awcgothenburg.com</a>
American Women's Club of Hamburg	<a href="http://www.awchamburg.org">www.awchamburg.org</a>
American Women's Club of Korea	<a href="http://www.awckorea.org">www.awckorea.org</a>
American Women's Club of Languedoc-Roussillon	<a href="http://www.awglr.org">www.awglr.org</a>
American Women's Club in Liechtenstein	<a href="http://www.awcliechtenstein.org">www.awcliechtenstein.org</a>
American Women's Club of London	<a href="http://www.awclondon.org">www.awclondon.org</a>
American Women's Club of Luxembourg	<a href="http://www.awcluxembourg.com">www.awcluxembourg.com</a>
American Women's Club of Madrid	<a href="http://www.awcmadrid.com">www.awcmadrid.com</a>
American Club of Lyon	<a href="http://www.americanclublyon.org">www.americanclublyon.org</a>
American Women's Club of Malmö	<a href="http://www.awcmalmo.com">www.awcmalmo.com</a>
American Women's Club of Oslo	<a href="http://www.awcoslo.org">www.awcoslo.org</a>

American Women's Club of The Hague	<a href="http://www.awcthehague.org">www.awcthehague.org</a>
American Women's Club of the Philippines	<a href="http://www.awcphilippines.org">www.awcphilippines.org</a>
American Women's Club in Sweden	<a href="http://www.awcstockholm.org">www.awcstockholm.org</a>
American Women's Club of the Taunus	<a href="http://www.awctaunus.org">www.awctaunus.org</a>
American Women's Club of Zurich	<a href="http://www.awczurich.org">www.awczurich.org</a>
American Women's Group of Paris	<a href="http://www.awgparis.org">www.awgparis.org</a>
Association of American Wives of Europeans, Paris	<a href="http://www.aaweparis.org">www.aaweparis.org</a>
Association of American Women of Aberdeen	<a href="http://www.awaaberdeen.org">www.awaaberdeen.org</a>
Barcelona Women's Network	<a href="http://www.bcnwomensnetwork.com">www.bcnwomensnetwork.com</a>
Chilterns AWC	<a href="http://www.cawc.co.uk">www.cawc.co.uk</a>
FAWCO Alumnae USA	<a href="http://www.fausa.org">www.fausa.org</a>
North American Connection	<a href="http://www.naconnect.com">www.naconnect.com</a>
American Women's Club of Shanghai	<a href="http://www.awcshanghai.org">www.awcshanghai.org</a>

FAWCO also hosts the following FAWCO-related websites:

FAWCO NGO	<a href="http://ngo.fawco.org">ngo.fawco.org</a>
Students Who Learn Differently	<a href="http://studentswholearn.fawco.org">studentswholearn.fawco.org</a>
The FAWCO Foundation	<a href="http://www.fawcofoundation.org">www.fawcofoundation.org</a>
The FAWCO Foundation Online Charity Auction	<a href="http://auction.fawcofoundation.org">auction.fawcofoundation.org</a>

## THE ARCHIVES

1931–1999 *Caroline Newton*

The founding of the Federation in London in 1931 was the beginning of a long and illustrious recorded history. As London was the location for the founding meeting, and as its president, Mrs. Caroline Curtis Brown, was elected the first president of this new group of European women's clubs, it was deemed fitting for the London club to hold the archival material (the club had the space as well).

Helen Seavern, an AWC London member, was chosen archivist. She was responsible for compiling the first eight volumes of books which had black covers and a shoe-lace type binding. Photographs were glued onto the folio pages.

During World War II, when FAWCO shut down as an active organization, the archives were put in storage in the basement of a member of the London club. Ruth White, another very dedicated club member, became archivist in 1965. She retrieved the material, by then in a sorry condition — time and the English climate had not been kind. Ruth rescued the books and their contents and nursed them back to health. She spent many happy years with her



'children.' She chose red leather to encase the new volumes, and continued to glue in the material. When, in 1985, her health was failing and it was apparent she could no longer carry on in that position, Caroline Newton took over as archivist.

Over the years the American Women's Club of London, which had sold its clubhouse before the war, had to make several moves within the city due to rising costs, each move affording a smaller space. The Archives were the travel companions. They were a high consideration in any move and an effort was made to provide for them.

In 1997 the Board of Directors decided that the club space, now down to two rooms, needed to be renovated and more space provided for its own club records. The FAWCO Archives had to go. On a short term basis, an English moving company was able to help by storing the books in its office. Then, in 1999, the moving company decided to relocate to northern England and the archivist, Caroline Newton, decided to return to the States. Shortly thereafter Zürich came to the rescue with space available in its clubhouse.

1999- *Jacqueline Isler*

The FAWCO Archives, preserved so carefully by former archivists, are now in Zürich and housed safely in the cellar of the AWC. The present archivists, Margaret Haenni, AWC Bern, and Jackie Isler, AWC Zürich, have weeded out years of repetitious administrative material and unnecessary copies of correspondence between past board members. The changeover to electronic communication has made a dramatic difference; for instance, now no personal mail between the directors collects, and no record of the intricacies of running FAWCO is being saved. On the other hand, besides all the documents, pamphlets and bulletins, room is gained for in-depth committee reports and input from an expanding Federation. A file is rapidly growing with a collection of news articles reporting on FAWCO's concerns and achievements, namely those that have directly benefited the rights of Americans living abroad. One file contains reports, some personal, about such cataclysmic events as 9/11; future generations of FAWCO women will have a deeper perception of these particularly sad, eventful years.

At present, a comprehensive plan for the future of the Archives is slowly evolving. Many tomes are very heavy, unmovable and fragile, therefore accessible to only a few. (Interestingly, the glue of the 1930s holds up well, but the cellophane tape has become torn, brittle and brown.) Handier are recent conference manuals and photographs in protective notebooks. How long will these stay intact? How can more members get to see them? What combination of preservation methods is appropriate and cost-wise: scanning, microfilm, CDs? Scanning material for this history proved to be a good option, but other procedures will be investigated in the years to come.

One point is clear: the Archives show the vision, commitment and constancy of FAWCO's purpose and priorities throughout its seventy-five years. But the Archives are more than an inspiring collection: they always need growth and attention. Only then can they honor and celebrate FAWCO's past and present and, in doing so, enrich its future.

## EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (ERF)

*Georgia Regnault*

The first official designation of FAWCO funds was a \$200 commitment to aid the victims of the calamitous Thessaly earthquake in 1957. This pledge encouraged FAWCO clubs to make donations as well, bringing the combined contribution to around \$900.

After many discussions during the early 1960s, it was decided in 1967 to establish a sister organization, The FAWCO Foundation, whose sole purpose would be “the raising and distribution of funds for charitable, scientific or educational purposes or for the prevention of cruelty to children.” Its first grant was to the victims of the Lisbon floods.

Through the next two decades, The Foundation concentrated mostly on raising funds and screening students for scholarship awards, giving just one grant in 1991 to the American Women’s League of Kuwait to enable it to get back on its feet after the Gulf War and to distribute funds where most needed.

Responding to a plea from the representative of AWC of Chile at the Conference in Düsseldorf, the FAWCO Board decided to create a Disaster Relief Fund to enable the organization to give aid on an emergency basis. Funds were immediately given to the Chilean club to be used as they saw fit to help victims of the earthquake which had struck Chile just days before the Conference in 1985. This gesture led to the permanent establishment of a Disaster Relief Fund; a few years later the name was changed to Relief Fund. In September 1987 aid was given to a nurse who was helping victims of the Mexican earthquake.

After much study by First Vice President Margaret de Maura, AWC of Madrid, Relief Fund donations in 1989 were given to the Lumpa Women’s Development Association in Sierra Leone. The monies were channeled through WOE (Women Overseas for Equality), an international women’s organization based in Brussels. In 1991 support was continued to this group, which is still in existence today. The Lumpa Women’s Development Organization engages in skills training and income-generating activities; it also helps women distressed by war-related destruction.

Over the next few years the purpose of the Relief Fund changed and it became the Relief and Development Fund. Under the chairmanship of Jean Schapp, FAWCO clubs were solicited for projects and in turn they had the opportunity to vote on the recipients. In 1997, \$5000 was distributed to: Miftumukiza Project, the tracing of families of unaccompanied minors in Tanzanian refugee camps; Amica, helping traumatized refugee women in Tusla, Bosnia; Desa, empowering refugee women in Dubrovnik, Croatia; and Rural Girls’ Literacy Classes in Morocco.

Later that year the Relief and Development Fund moved to The FAWCO Foundation where it continued to function in the same manner as before, with full decision-making power given to the clubs. However, world events and natural disasters prompted two member clubs to request that the FAWCO Board reinstate a mechanism for ‘emergency response,’ when consultation with the clubs is simply not possible. It was announced that individual or collective donations could be sent to the FAWCO Emergency Relief Fund.

In 1999, these donations enabled FAWCO to contribute a total of \$7,147.31 to benefit refugees in two different ethnic groups in war-torn Kosovo. Soon thereafter, a devastating earthquake hit the region just north of our member club in Bombay and, once again, donations

began to come in. The first check for \$1,646.75 was sent just three weeks after the earthquake. In both cases, the checks went to Nobel Prize-winning Doctors without Borders for their work on site.

Immediately after the September 11th attack on America, the ERF was activated by FAWCO President Pam Dahlgren. The charity FAWCO chose to support was the Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund, established in order to help the children and spouses of the victims of the attack realize their educational dreams; it was created by a partnering of two non-profit organizations and supported by President Clinton and Senator Dole. By March 2002, FAWCO had raised a total of \$20,649 (the Fund reached its goal of one hundred million dollars on September 4, 2004).

The tsunami in Southeast Asia on December 26, 2004 inspired an outpouring of donations. AWG of Languedoc-Roussillon recommended giving the funds to the Beruwala Village Housing Project, Sri Lanka. Beruwala Village is on the southwest coast of Sri Lanka, 60 kilometers south of Colombo, and consists of Beruwala and five smaller villages that surround it, with a population of 12,000. Thanks to AWG Languedoc-Roussillon, FAWCO was able to locate the Beruwala Village Humanitarian Association, founded in 2000 by Pierre Vivier from Montpellier. The FAWCO donation of \$48,000 was used to build a home for the widows and orphans of the twelve fishermen killed in the tsunami, sixty people, all of whom lost house, home, husband or father, and all means of financial support.

Hans Eysselinck, husband of AWG Languedoc-Roussillon member Genette Eysselinck, an architect, served as treasurer of the Beruwala Village Association. This connection, and the concreteness of the project, was an ideal combination for FAWCO. AWC Languedoc-Roussillon Club President Linda Laval made the following observation: "I loved the idea that a woman living in a small village in France would be helping another woman in a fishing village on the other side of the world...I could help her build her long house, feed her children and enhance the community that she lives in — one woman helping another woman, united."

As this history is being recorded an appeal has gone out to help the people of Louisiana and Mississippi in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in August, 2005. FAWCO has identified a stand-alone project with an organization dedicated to investing in long-term solutions. The choice, proposed by AW Surrey and FAUSA, was Dillard University, an institution heavily devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Founded in 1869, Dillard is one of the first African-American liberal arts colleges. It now has nearly 2000 students, almost all of whom are on scholarship and come from black families in the Gulf area. Having one of the first accredited nursing schools in Louisiana, Dillard continues with a strong nursing program. Dillard University's president has been philosophical. "Our beginnings are rooted in struggle and a committed determination to overcome social, political and environmental obstacles. Today we face a formidable challenge; however...we are guided by our unwavering belief and absolute confidence that Dillard will be back and better." By supporting Dillard University in its time of need it is FAWCO's hope that it can play a part in inspiring Dillard students to consider themselves citizens of a global community with both the joys and responsibilities that they entail.

FAWCO is committed to help where it can through its Emergency Relief Fund and is standing ready whenever the need should arise.

















# THE FOUNDATION





## THE FOUNDATION HISTORY

*Edith Beyer*

It was a happy President Mag who announced at the 18<sup>th</sup> FAWCO Conference in Rome in 1967 that a means of receiving tax-free contributions from Americans had been found. During her presidency, 1963–1967, she had been discussing this issue with various people including the US Liaison Officer. The advantage of being a not-for-profit organization was that gifts from Americans would be tax-deductible for US income tax purposes. The stumbling block was that FAWCO was not based in the United States.

Fortunately for FAWCO, Mary Mag's brother-in-law was a partner in the law firm, Stinson, Mag, Thomson, McEvers and Fizzell, located in Kansas City, Missouri. Arthur Mag found the solution. The State of Missouri did not require that an organization be based in the United States, but it should have a precise statement of purpose. Arthur Mag recommended that a separate organization be formed whose sole purpose was to raise and distribute funds for "charitable, scientific and educational purposes and for the purpose of prevention of cruelty to children." The FAWCO Foundation became a reality when the Articles of Incorporation were drawn up in Kansas City by three members of the afore-mentioned law firm. The restrictions were easily solved. The necessity of The Foundation residing in the United States was overcome by having a member of the law firm as the Registered Agent. The official address of The Foundation would be the same as the law firm's. A bank account in the United States was established.

On February 26, 1967, it was decided that the Executive Board of the Federation would also be the Board of The Foundation; it was elected on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. A set of By-laws was adopted as well as a corporate seal. The officers were Mrs. William McEwan, President; Mrs. Peter van Brunt, Vice President; Mrs. Edward Mag, Secretary; Mrs. Inger Jakheln, Treasurer. (The listing of names in FAWCO and The Foundation, and references in the minutes and correspondence, were according to marital status.)

In October, 1967, The Foundation received a letter of Determination from the United States Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service. The FAWCO Foundation was now able to accept gifts that were tax-deductible for US income tax purposes.

At the 1969 FAWCO Conference in Brussels, The Foundation president reported that three grants had been made: \$276.78 to Portugal flood victims, funds which had come from the American Women of Lisbon; \$110 to Sicily Earthquake victims with funds given by the American Women's Association of Rome; and \$413 to the Federation for the traveling expenses of the Conference keynote speaker, Dean Chayes. The Foundation's bank balance at the Chemical Bank of New York was \$312.50. Personal gifts of \$285 had been allotted to the Scholarship Fund. Two committees had been formed to carry out the provisions in the Articles of Incorporation, a Fundraising Committee and an Awards Committee. An assistant secretary had been appointed. It was stressed how important it was for the organization to keep exact records and to follow the rules and regulations for granting awards.

Interest in The Foundation had increased club contributions, making the bank balance

\$1,504.20. Vice President Florence Cohen had obtained \$1,000 from The Nat Wolfson Charitable Residuary Trust to be “used for scholarship for a student to study somewhere in the United States.” The scholarship award that resulted from this donation was given to Joyce Stephens, daughter of Colonel Robert Stephens who was stationed abroad with the US Air Force.

The American Women’s Group in Paris had a scholarship program of its own and was interested in obtaining tax-free donations. A Foundation sub-committee was established in Paris. The Foundation was able to grant \$1,088 to AWG’s Scholarship Fund. That same year the Brussels club gave The Foundation the profit from its Conference, \$409.08. The other donations were smaller, e.g. \$22, \$85 and \$95. Nevertheless it was possible to send AWC Genoa \$74.20 to help rebuild a road that was washed away by the flood of 1970.

The Foundation kept growing. During the next two years, 1973–75, the clubs increased contributions. There was \$1021 available for Pakistan relief, \$175 for the International Youth Center in Brussels and a \$1000 Scholarship Award for study in the States. The US Liaison Officer raised \$2500. Three scholarship winners were announced

All this activity meant more meetings for The Foundation Board and, as these were the same people as the Federation Board, it was difficult to find a Foundation president. Mrs. Marcel de Gallaix, President of The Foundation 1975–77, diligently and ably amended the By-laws so that it was possible to separate the two boards. The new Foundation Board was elected in 1977; originally eight members, it was increased to twelve. (The By-laws were amended in 1998 to let FAWCO clubs elect The Foundation officers.)

The new board was elected at the 1977 Rome Conference: President Edith Beyer; Vice President Gertrude de Gallaix; Secretary Pan Hottinger; Treasurer Rosamond Olivetti. Members-at-large were Helen Hootsman, Frieda Baciglupo-Natali, Elizabeth Tine, Shirley van Ooijen and Agnes Coppin, Awards Chair. Three awards of \$1000 were granted in that year.

A substantial sum from the profits of the Rome Conference made it possible to increase the Merit Award to \$2000. Following the London Conference in 1979 the host club contributed \$5000. The Federation protested and wrote in its Guidelines that profits from FAWCO meetings must be given to the Federation.

In 1978 an unexpected gift from Leonard Firestone increased Foundation funds, enabling a grant of \$5000 to the Brussels club for a children’s library in its club house. Contributions from clubs and individuals increased and so did the amount of the awards. The Merit Award was now \$4000. In 1980 four award winners received grants of \$8000.

All the money went to the awards. The officers and members of the board received no compensation for attending a Conference. They paid their own expenses — travel, hotel and conference fees. It was especially difficult for the Awards Chair who had many extra outlays. Finally, the interest of the bank accounts was such that the Board could receive some re-imbursment. Administration costs were also financed by this policy of using only the interest, and award expenses were paid for by the application fees.

An unexpected gift from Dublin in 1984 was a full-length palomino mink coat. Should it be auctioned? Fortunately it was sold and The Foundation was happy, as was the buyer for her



tax-free donation. A very welcome gift came from the Bern Club. Stanley Roseman, an artist, had an exhibition at the club which resulted in a contribution of \$14,000, and an award of \$5000 was made in his name. A very touching gift came from the Timm family in Basel; their son had been an Awards winner.

Over the years many memorial gifts have been received. When Mary Schwartz, FAWCO Rep from Basel, died in 1982, the club donated money for an award in her name. The Antwerp Club wished to honor the memory of David Schanlon and in 1984 an award was granted in his name. After Frieda Bacigalupo's death in 1983, the Genoa Club donated an award in her name to be granted annually, pledging \$500 a year. This award has grown and is also supported by Frieda's two sons. The Hillary Gulliford Memorial Award in Journalism and others have increased the value of the awards and also enhanced the memory of those honored. Acknowledgement cards are sent to the families of the deceased as well as receipts for tax purposes.

When the two Paris Clubs, AWG and AAWE, wished to honor Gertrude de Gallaix on her eightieth birthday in 1983, Gertrude asked that the grant be used outside the United States. Thus began another type of award. There are now merit awards in the arts, in science and in the humanities at graduate and undergraduate levels; there are grants to high school students for summer study in the United States, to handicapped students and a Dual-Citizen Award for teen-age students at the secondary school level; awards to FAWCO members to further their education, to students in the plastic arts and to students of journalism; and a grant to recognize a FAWCO member who performs outstanding service in her community. The award process takes time and special knowledge and much preparation. Awards chairs are well-qualified and dedicated Foundation members. It is a labor of love. The amount of the grants varies according to the funds donated, in 1993 a total of \$40,000.

The Foundation has received two legacies. Ruth St. John, a former Foundation board member and FAWCO president, left in her will \$50,000 for the Scholarship Fund. The Board wisely uses only the interest of this money for grants in her name. When Gertrude de Gallaix died, her relatives endowed an award in her name. The organization is extremely grateful for these legacies.

In 1985, when FAWCO was negotiating for tax-free status, a grant to victims of the Chilean Earthquake was made by the re-activated Disaster Relief program. In 1997 the administration of this function was changed from the Federation to The Foundation and re-named the Development Grants, whereby FAWCO clubs propose charities to be voted on at the next Conference.

The requests for awards are many and various. There have been as many as eighty applicants in one year. To fulfil the need for more awards, The Foundation has endeavored to raise money in several ways. At the Casablanca Interim in 1993 a spontaneous auction was held. It was so successful that another was held the next year in Bern and again in Nairobi. These proved to be too lively and long-lasting and a switch was made to silent auctions. These have proved to be popular events and the competition fun, even if one doesn't always win.

At more or less the same time, in 1995, Roberta Zollner, former Awards Chair and Founda-

tion President-to-be, wondered if a FAWCO quilt might interest FAWCO quilters. She proposed they send her blocks on a specified theme and she would do the quilting; the finished product would be auctioned at the next Conference. The idea caught on. Now the quilts are no longer auctioned but raffled, giving everyone a chance to win. Another fundraiser is the On-Line Auction, held twice a year. The latest project is Kids Help. By buying a gift certificate in the name of a child or person one wishes to remember, one contributes to a program that helps children around the world. Donations to the Friends of the Foundation (\$40.00) go to planting a tree in Morocco. A gift to The FAWCO Foundation is acknowledged by the status of a Donor, a Patron or a Benefactor.

## FOUNDATION PRESIDENTS

Mrs. Edward Mag February 26–March 2, 1967  
Mrs. William MacEwan 1967–69  
Mrs. U.P. Rohr 1969–71  
Mrs. Edward Mag 1971–75  
Mrs. Marcel de Gallaix 1975–77  
Edith Beyer 1977–87  
Eleanor Hofmanner 1987–92  
Lee Iacovoni 1992–96  
Jackie Isler 1996–98  
Roberta Zollner 1998–2000  
Elinor Badanes 2000–2003  
Mary Rose Stauder 2003–2005

## Mission Statement

The purpose of The FAWCO Foundation is to put into action the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas' stated interest in the global community by specifically aiding charitable, scientific and educational programs and supporting the rights of women and children throughout the world.

# EVOLUTION OF THE FAWCO FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

*Jane Indreland*

## 1985–1991 THE FAWCO DISASTER RELIEF FUND

The FAWCO Disaster Relief Fund was established by resolution at the 1985 Oslo/Düsseldorf Conference in response to an earthquake in Chili and famine in Africa. The FAWCO Board set forth these guidelines in July 1986.

The Fund should be administered by the First Vice President. The Fund should be used to aid disasters and other situations of great need. Particular attention should be given to women and children in the third world; the name was changed from Disaster Relief Fund to Relief Fund.

Whereas large, well-known organizations may receive donations from FAWCO clubs and individual members, the FAWCO Relief Fund should concentrate on smaller projects where the results may be more immediately evident, progress can be observed and feedback is available.

In the event of a disaster, the administrator of the Fund should ask the nearest United States Embassy or Consulate if there is an AWC in the disaster area. If there is, that club should be informed of the FAWCO Relief Fund. Information regarding special projects designed to give aid to the victims should also be requested. If there is no AWC in the area, the Embassy or Consulate may be requested to supply such information.

Any FAWCO club, especially 'far flung' clubs, may propose projects or individuals as potential recipients.

A report of the income and disbursements made during the year should be made at each Interim and Conference.

The administering of the Fund is a service to each FAWCO club and each individual member of FAWCO. Donations may be made to relief projects around the world and may be designated for a specific disaster or may be undesignated.

FAWCO supported several projects with the Relief Fund: Lydia Smith, a nurse, was given \$300 for Youth with a Mission, a project in Mexico, and \$200 was given to the Lumpa Women's Development Association, a self-help group in Lumpa, Sierra Leone. FAWCO continued to support the Lumpa Women's Project; it was reported at the 1989 Zürich Conference that, out of total donations of \$1,658.34, 90% were earmarked for that project

## 1991–1995 THE FAWCO RELIEF FUND COMMITTEE

In March 1991 the FAWCO Relief Fund became a committee with the intention of focusing more directly on the Federation's charitable works. The committee was co-chaired by Ellen Baur, AWC Zürich, and Booke Givot, AAW Ireland, who investigated various possible directions for the Fund.



## 1995–1997 THE FAWCO RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

In 1995 the Relief Fund was changed to the Relief and Development Fund in recognition of an interest in longer-term projects, particularly those supporting sustainable development in developing countries. Jeanne Schapp, AWC London, and Jane Indreland, AWC London, were the first chair and co-chair of the new Relief and Development Fund. They developed a procedure whereby the FAWCO clubs were asked to nominate charitable projects in which they were involved. After receiving the nominations, the committee created a ‘project summary’ for each one and sent the summaries, along with a ballot, to the clubs asking them to rank the projects in preferential order. Amounts awarded depend on available funds.

## 1996 FAWCO RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANTS

\$1000 SEWA Nepal (Socio-Economic Welfare Action for Women in Nepal)  
AWC of Fyn

\$750 Youth Action for Sustainable Development in Nepal AWC of Denmark

\$750 Fatima Self-Help Center in Thailand AWC Antwerp

## 1997 FAWCO RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANTS

\$2000 Mfitumukiza Project for photo tracing of refugee children in Tanzania  
AWC of Oslo

\$1000 AMICA, for refugee women and children in Tuzla, Bosnia AWA of Vienna

\$1000 DESA, for refugee women in Dubrovnik, Croatia AWC of London

\$1000 Rural Girls’ Literacy Classes in the village of Tinzouline, Morocco AWC of Casablanca

## 1997–2004 FOUNDATION RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

In the summer of 1997, under President Ellen Rice, the FAWCO Board decided to consolidate all of FAWCO’s philanthropic work under The Foundation. The Relief and Development Committee became a Foundation committee and the committee chair, Jane Indreland, became a Foundation officer. The method of asking the clubs to propose a project and then asking all of the clubs to rank them in their order of preference remained the same, but the fundraising was combined.

## 1998 FOUNDATION RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANTS

\$2000 Association Managré Nooma Pour la Protections des Orphelins (AMPO) in  
Burkina Faso, West Africa AWC Denmark

\$1000 Amazing Grace Project, home for disabled children in Antigua AWC of  
Antigua and Barbuda

\$1000 Kurdish Women’s and Children’s Refugee Center in Greece AWOG Athens

\$1000 Stichting Charité (Children in Need), work with children with medical prob-  
lems as a result of the Chernoble disaster in the Ukraine AWC of The Hague

#### 1999 FOUNDATION RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANTS

- \$3000 Tsimbalina Children's Hospital, St. Petersburg, Russia AWC of London
- \$2000 Bellhouse Academy, Thika Kenya Ulster AWC
- \$2000 Operation Angel, a humanitarian health center and pharmacy in Bajram Curri, India AWC of The Hague
- \$1000 Philani Nutrition Centres, South Africa AWC of Luxembourg
- \$1000 Ripples and Rainbows, using a school as a resource center for street children in Calcutta, India AWC of Dublin
- \$1000 Women's Center in Katuba, Democratic Republic of Congo AWA of Vienna

#### 2000 FOUNDATION RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANTS

- \$5000 Nyapea Hospital, Okoro County, Uganda AIL of Florence
- \$3500 Horizons Ouverts (Village Schools), Ain Cheggag, Morocco AWA of Rabat
- \$2500 Monze Mission Hospital, Monze, Zambia AWC of Dublin
- \$2500 Tailor Training Project, Kenya AWC of Bern
- \$1500 Nuevo Amanecer, Madrid, Spain AWC of Madrid

#### 2001 FOUNDATION RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANTS

- \$7000 Maiti Nepal, Nepal AW of Sydney
- \$5000 Chivuna Mission Rural Health Center, Zambia AWA of Rome
- \$3000 School for Girls in Upper Mustang, Nepal AWC of Cologne
- \$2500 Women's Center of Azzib, Morocco AIWC of Casablanca
- \$2500 Punjabi Hospital Maternal Health Project, India AWC of Languedoc-Roussillon

#### 2002 FOUNDATION RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANT

- \$5000 Children of Cali, Colombia AWC of Hamburg
- \$4500 Vincente Maria Children's Home, India AWC Oslo
- \$3000 SANKALP ("A firm resolve"), India AWC of Bern
- \$3000 Hope For the Hopeless (CCD), Thailand AWC of Thailand
- \$2500 Girls of the Maqattam Garbage Settlement, Egypt AIL of Florence
- \$2000 Kezakimana ("Children of Love"), Burundi AWC of Basel

#### 2003 FOUNDATION RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANTS

- \$4000 Hope House Babies Home, Nairobi Kenya AWA of Kenya
- \$3000 Ostrov Shelter- Social Patrol, St. Petersburg, Russia AWC of Sweden
- \$3000 Mkombozi Center for Street Children in Moshi, Tanzania, East Africa AWC of Luxembourg
- \$3000 Frauenhascha (Refuge for Single mothers with Tents) Mongolia AWC of Bern
- \$2000 Cecily Eastwood Zambian Aids Orphan Appeal The North American Connection

## 2004–2005 FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Under the guidance of Foundation President Mary Rose Stauder, AAW Ireland, and Development Fund Chair Elinor Badanes, AW Surrey, individual clubs were invited to sponsor grants in categories important to FAWCO's purpose. Projects for \$3000 grants could be proposed in specific categories.

### 2004 FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

#### AWC MADRID EFFECTS OF VIOLENCE

\$3000 Action for Children Soldiers in The Democratic Republic of Congo AWC of Düsseldorf

#### AW SURREY FEED THE WORLD

\$3000 Wells For Life, Siem Reap Province, Cambodia AW of Surrey

#### HEALTHY LIVING (resulted in a tie)

\$1500 Children of a Lesser God, Outreach Moldova AWC of Dublin

\$1500 Ojos Del Mundo, (Eyes of the World) AWC of Madrid

#### HOPE THROUGH EDUCATION

\$3000 Malawi Orphan Support Project AWA of Rome

#### PEACE THROUGH UNDERSTANDING

\$3000 Literacy for Indigenous Women in Southern Mindanao, Philippines AWC of Bern

### 2005 FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

#### EFFECTS OF VIOLENCE

\$3000 AIC Girls Rescue in Kenya AWA of Kenya

#### AW SURREY FEED THE WORLD

\$3000 Prevalence of Malnutrition in Tanzania AWA Bristol

#### AWC BASEL HEALTHY LIVING

\$3000 Obstetric Fistula in Mali AWC Basel

#### HOPE THROUGH EDUCATION

\$3000 Madagascar Support Children's Literacy AIWC of Genoa

#### PEACE THROUGH UNDERSTANDING

\$3000 Big Brothers/Big Sisters in Antigua & Barbuda AWC Antigua & Barbuda

#### SKILLS FOR LIFE

\$3000 Kugeria Women Water Project in Kenya AWC of Cologne

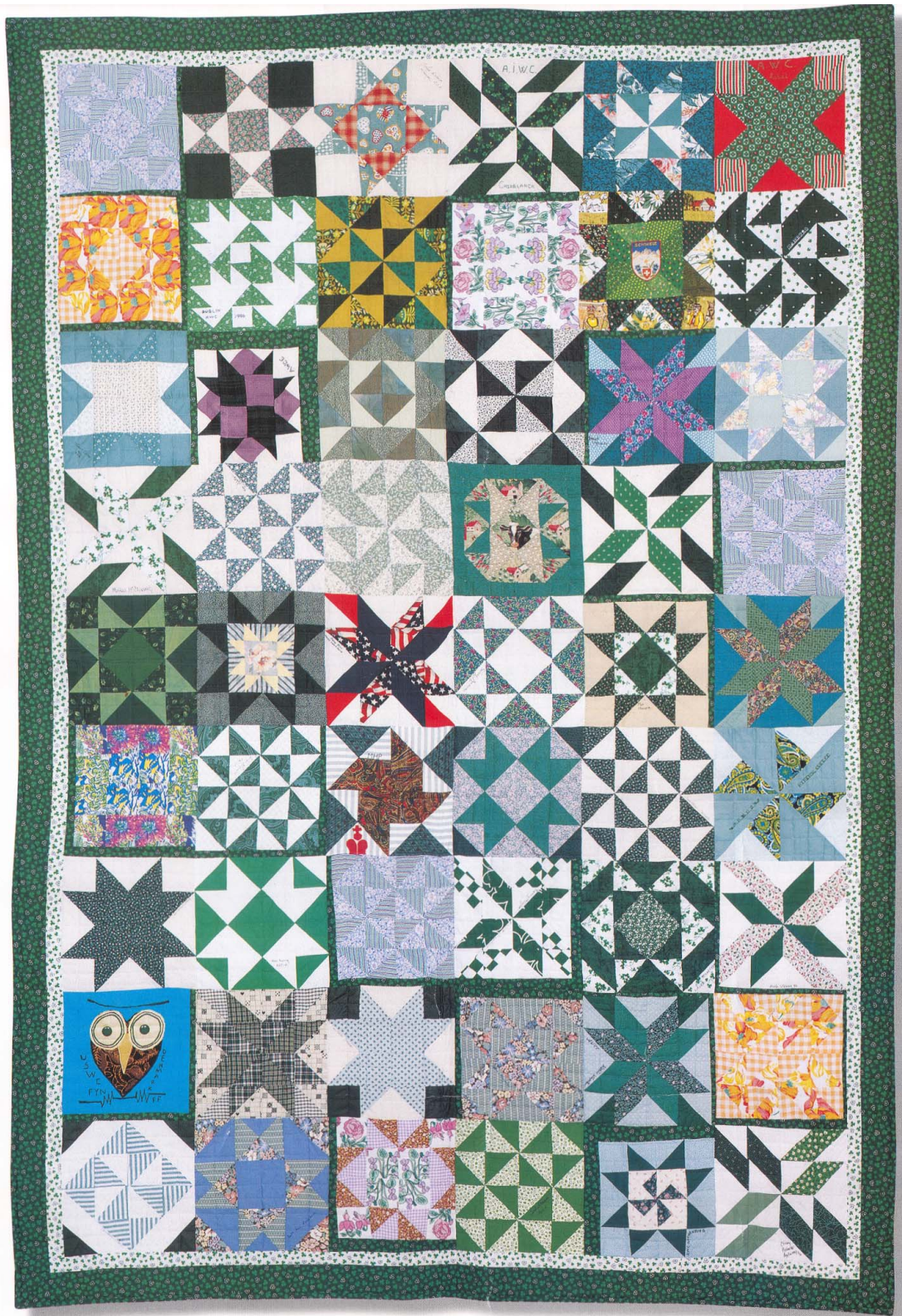
In the twenty years that the Federation and The Foundation have been donating money to charitable projects in a structured way, \$126,000 has gone to 52 causes in 28 countries.





Friends in the Window  
1996





Piece and Partnership  
1997





Where the Heart Is  
1998





Friendship's Atmosphere  
1999









Give a Little Piece of Your Heart  
2001





Let the Sunshine in

2002













How does FAWCO's Garden Grow?

2005









# FAUSA

FAWCO ALUMNAE USA, INC.



## FAWCO GOES HOME

*Jacqueline Isler, Mona Garcia, Nancy Thornley*

The idea of ‘returning home’ became a FAWCO reality in the late 1970s when Helen Cola, from Rome, moved back to Washington, DC, and set up a card file of local repatriates. This group became known as FAWCO West, a vision shared by Helen and Jackie Isler, who created a Returning Home Committee in 1980. The Washington group sent back how-to information on obtaining credit, license plates, mortgages, schools and whatever else pertained to adjusting to life back home. *Guidelines for Retuning to the USA* was published in 1983 in response to a survey and included a chapter on returning home with children. An on-going ad was placed in club bulletins: “Returning to the USA? Don’t let us lose you.” A map marking the locations of FAWCO alumnae showed them primarily in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Boston, Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia, Texas and California.

In 1989 Linda Crowley, AWC Düsseldorf, had moved to Connecticut and was appointed the Alumnae Committee representative. Using a computer, Linda expanded the membership file and sent out a newsletter. She was succeeded by Karin Burdsall.

At the Nairobi Conference in 1995 Mona Garcia, a member of AWC Madrid who had moved back to Texas, was asked to chair a more formalized, cohesive alumnae committee. Dues were collected and Mona edited a quarterly newsletter featuring repatriate articles; it was sponsored by a relocation service.

In 1997, at the Dublin Conference, responding to a proposal by Linda Crowley, the delegates voted to meet in Washington, DC, to celebrate the year 2000 in America. This idea was a first. Under Mona’s leadership, twenty-one women\* from all over the United States met for the next three years in various venues — Chicago, Santa Fe and Washington — to plan for the FAWCO Conference which was held at the Hotel Washington on March 16-20, 2000. *The Conference Cookbook*, written by Nancy Thornley, was published and sold for the occasion.

These organizers became the nucleus of the alumnae group which, up to that time, was a FAWCO committee. On May 1, 2000, the group became a new entity, FAWCO Alumnae USA, Inc. (FAUSA), incorporated in the State of Texas with a bank account and an elected Board of Directors. As it was an independent organization, and no longer a committee, FAUSA became an Affiliate Member Club. However, this designation seemed inappropriate as applied to FAUSA. In 2003 the FAWCO By-laws were changed to designate FAUSA as the alumnae arm of the Federation with the same rights of participation as those of member clubs except for holding office in FAWCO and receiving FAWCO scholarships (FAUSA contributes to its own alumnae scholarship, which The Foundation administers).

By 2001 the new organization had both a Constitution and By-laws and Administrative Guidelines, written by Nancy Thornley. “The purpose of the Association shall be to facilitate the repatriation experience of its members and to help them maintain their international ties in order to bring about a better understanding between the United States and other nations.” FAUSA also had an IRS designation, 501 (c) (4), a quarterly publication, an awards program and an Annual Meeting. The first meeting in 2001 in Provincetown, Massachusetts, was organized by Nancy Thornley. Sixty members, including husbands, shared Cape Cod lore and

repatriation support. Dale Koepenick of Washington, DC, was elected President. The second meeting in 2002 was in Red Lodge, Montana, organized by Jane Indreland. Along with a ranch venue, this meeting featured the first FAUSA quilt auction. Three members, Brooke Givot, Kay Miller and Nancy Petersen, hosted the Chicago meeting in 2003. A commitment was made to locate charity programs in the southern part of the American hemisphere. The Washington group, led by Neil Greene, held the next meeting in 2004 in Easton, Maryland, on Chesapeake Bay. FAUSA announced its first charity donations to a literacy program in Guyana and a hostel program in Oaxaca, Mexico. The 2005 meeting was in San Antonio, Texas, organized by Mona Garcia and Linda Sampson. Jane Indreland of Billings, Montana, was elected President.

The membership fluctuates between 180 and 200. Regular Members are those who belonged to FAWCO clubs; Associate Members (limited to 20% of the total membership) are those American women who lived overseas but were not members of FAWCO clubs. There is an Honorary Member category. The country is divided into regions and metropolitan areas, with the largest percentage of members living on the coasts.

\*Mona Garcia, Linda Johnson, Linda Sampson, Jude Stalker, Linda Crowley, Kay Miller, Dorothy Childers, Elizabeth Bagney, Eileen Ploumpis, Angela Eliopoulos, Dale Koepenick, Jean Geesey, Donna Belt, Nancy Thornley; also Helen McNulty, Eleanor Fina, Lise Chase, Donna Gray, Marilyn Richey, Shirley Van Ooijen, Brooke Givot

## FAUSA BOARDS

1999–2001		2003–2005	
President	Mona Garcia	President	Dale Koepenick
1st Vice President	Pat Coker	1st Vice President	Jane Indreland
2nd Vice President	Jane Indreland	2nd Vice President	Laverne Ferguson
Secretary	Kay Miller	Secretary	Nancy Thornley
Treasurer	Jude Stalker, Maritere Nemic	Treasurer	Jean Geesey, Denise Fryzek
Parliamentarian	Shirley Van Ooijen	Parliamentarian	Shirley Van Ooijen
2001–2003		2005–2007	
President	Dale Koepenick	President	Jane Indreland
1st Vice President	Jean Geesey	1st Vice President	Denise Fryzek
2nd Vice President	Jane Indreland	2nd Vice President	Laverne Ferguson
Secretary	Nancy Thornley	Secretary	Elizabeth Hemminger
Treasurer	Meritere Nemic, Terry Erzmonet	Treasurer	Erica Fox Zabusky
Parliamentarian	Shirley Van Ooijen	Parliamentarian	Nancy Thornley































# PEOPLE



## THE AMERICAN DIASPORA

*Linda Deak*

In 1929 the US State Department estimated that there were 392,668 Americans living overseas. Now, in 2005, the estimates are less precise and range closer to eight million. This is really not surprising if one considers global trends. We are living in speedy, heady times and if one thinks of the world as a giant molecule and the people as electrons, the electrons are hurling around Mother Earth in wider and wider arcs with ever increasing swiftness. Every one of these electrons is different. We are categorized into broad types, usually from the place where we were launched, and I am the American type. What that means can be as variant as our faces, our fingerprints. A person's DNA has over three billion base pairs of four separate chemicals and if we could unravel it all we would quickly learn that we are all cousins from somewhere along the way. Those of us who land on the outside of our country are probably more aware of that than others. Still, for me, even though I have lived almost half my life outside of America, it would be impossible to take the America out of me. Who are we? Who are those sorts that join the American Women's Club when we find ourselves at the other end of an electron's arc, away from America?

I like to think of us as the American diaspora, although we probably did not get kicked out of our country. Diaspora comes from roots meaning to sow or to disperse. Loosely, it has evolved to mean the dispersion of something that was originally localized or, even more loosely, it can mean a group of persons associated by some common tie and regarded as an entity. People have been traipsing the globe since the time of Lucy, our common African ancestor. Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were not the first Americans to leave our homeland to do work abroad, but they were forefathers in expatriate living as well as in the establishment of our democracy.

This group of Americans abroad is naturally very rich in diversity, a cross-section of America, a country comprised mostly of immigrants, transplanted amongst the vast diversity of the world. We may have a bit more pluck than other Americans. Maybe we are a little more flexible and adaptable. Maybe we are more tolerant of differences than others. It requires some courage to go out, away from what is home, the cultural nuances of which one understands, and forage one's way through another topography, culture, language and history. The new land may or may not have welcoming feelings for Americans.

We are living outside our country for a variety of reasons. We may come alone or as part of a family. It may be work and career opportunities that prompt the move. It may be curiosity and wanderlust. It may be educational opportunities. It may be romance. But somehow eight million of us (if we were a state we would be the 21<sup>st</sup> most populous) live out here in this wider world. We live amongst the 96 percent of the world that is not American.

Amongst this crowd of dispersed Americans are many types. We might be part of that fortunate number born on American soil to foreign parents. We might be American for thirteen generations. We hale from every State. We may be here for a short time or most of our lifetime. The whole gamut of professions is represented in this group. We are teachers, lawyers,

writers, human rights activists, artists, musicians, chiropractors, small business owners, business execs, soldiers, diplomats, nurses, consultants, scientists, craftsmen, bankers, chefs, marketing gurus, environmental engineers, translators, doctors, journalists, comedians, publishers, editors, docents, nutritionists, travel agents, bartenders, museum curators, architects, tutors, clerks, directors, computer experts, agricultural scientists, opera singers, chemical weapons inspectors, doctors, researchers, accountants, project managers, a few ne'er-do-wells, professors, art historians, poets, philosophers, investigators, nannies, critics, waiters, librarians, mechanics, booksellers, newscasters, sportscasters, web site designers, technical support types, actors, political scientists, conservators, pilots, CEOs, dancers, trade specialists, chemists and some more, no doubt.

Besides work and study we live our lives like people do everywhere. We make homes, maybe raise families and educate children, establish friendships, cook, clean and shop. Our days have the same customary sequences that make time and the world home to all inhabitants. We have probably put down roots and grown to understand and love our outside-the-USA countries.

When I meet someone new and they hear my American accent and ask me, "Where are you from?" I have to say, "Well, that is difficult to say. I am American. I have lived in nine States and know America very well. I have also lived in three countries. I have become a mixture, although I am and feel American." There is another layer in these electrons that orbit this wide world, and that is the children of people like us. Often they consider the world as their home and have to think longer and harder than I do before they answer the question, "Where are you from?"

The American diaspora is one of America's assets. This group is very much aware of the world's complexities. We can give some insider views to the outside world and some outsider views to the insiders. In today's connected world, connected by commerce, diplomacy, shared interests and these marvelous machines most of us have, we can help others transcend cultural divides. Our languages, our heightened observational skills, our sharpened perspectives and our abilities to become cultural chameleons should be worth something. I think I can speak for many when I say it is worth something to us.





## GERTRUDE DE GALLAIX\*

A founding member of the Association of American Wives of Europeans (AAWE), a founding member of the Council for the English-Speaking Community, a founding member of AARO, a charter member of the American Women's Guild in Paris (AWG), the writer of the original policy statement for the Junior Guild of the American Cathedral, past president of FAWCO — only a piece of Gertrude's story.

She was born on October 30, 1905, in Chicago and attended The Francis Parker School which she described as progressive with an emphasis on developing the individual rather than on passing examinations. A graduate of Smith College, '27, she went on to Paris the next year to study at the Sorbonne. With her sister, she lived in Neuilly with two elderly ladies. A friend of Gertrude's father wrote to a friend in Paris about the two American sisters. One day Gertrude and her sister sent an Opneumatic (a message couriered in a metal tube) to this Parisian friend, asking him if he would like to come and call. Marcel de Gallaix did go to call and thirteen months later Gertrude and Marcel were married in Chicago.

The couple settled into a third floor apartment in the 16<sup>th</sup> arrondissement in Paris. Gertrude contracted polio in 1934 and was obliged to walk with a stick which became more difficult during the war years while coping with food lines and rationing. Marcel was a lawyer who specialized in property rights. Despite his wife's fears, he agreed to represent winegrowers in Burgundy who wanted to challenge German requisitions and confiscations. Gertrude described this time as being "hungry, cold and scared." She recalled listening to the BBC, turned down low so as not to attract the attention of the Germans upstairs. As an American, Gertrude was required to register once a week with the Paris police. Although married to a Frenchman, she was considered an enemy alien and her whereabouts known at all times.

Marcel passed away in November 1949 at age fifty-two, following a painful sciatica attack and operation. Gertrude decided to remain in Paris and pursue her career as a translator of legal and technical documents, skills she had acquired in the many years of assisting her husband with his international law practice.

While maintaining her professional life, she became involved in various blossoming American organizations in Paris. Partly due to her familiarity with the concept of constitutions and by-laws (she had translated numerous company charters and by-laws for her husband's law practice), Gertrude focused on organizational responsibilities. In 1930 she had already helped the Junior Guild of the American Cathedral draw up its original policy statement. In 1953 she chaired FAWCO's Constitution and By-Laws Committee, becoming FAWCO president, 1957–1959, and president of The FAWCO Foundation, 1975–1977. Her vision led to the founding of the original Education Awards program, reflecting her strong belief in the importance of a broad, well-rounded and international education.

In 1959, at the Hotel de Lauzun, Gertrude was presented with a scroll honoring her years of promoting Franco-American friendship.



In 1961 she was among the small group of women who created AAWE. She chaired its Constitution and By-Laws Committee, wrote its first set of Rules and Regulations and served for many years on its board as an adviser.

Perhaps her highest honor came in 1968 when she was one of a few selected recipients to receive the Women of Conscience Award from the National Council of Women for her work in building Franco-American relations. She was the only woman living outside the United States at that time to receive this award. In Gertrude's own words, she was busy "explaining the Americans to the French and the French to the Americans," well before orientation classes and booklets smoothed the foreigners' path.

Gertrude continued to work as a legal translator until she retired at age eighty. She passed away in Paris on December 16, 1989. After her death, the de Gallaix family donated \$25,000 to The FAWCO Foundation with the understanding that The Foundation would match the amount and apply the interest to a scholarship to be made available every year. AAWE in particular has supported this scholarship base over the years as a way to honor an AAWE founder and prominent member of the Paris international community. Gertrude felt strongly that we, as overseas Americans, should give something back to our host countries, promoting the idea of creating an achievement award that would be open to non-US citizens as well as being applicable to study inside or outside the United States.

She described her involvement over the years as "terribly time-consuming, often frustrating, yet above all wonderful and extremely stimulating. We gain," she said, "but we also have a great deal to give, and the more we give, the more we gain."

\*compiled from various articles in the AAWE *News*

## PAN HOTTINGER

Pan was devoted to FAWCO. I remember her most clearly as chair of the Administrative Guidelines Committee, which she did during most of the 1980s. She carried out this responsibility very professionally. After consultation with the clubs, the administration and her committee, the Guidelines were regularly studied and up-dated with copies ready for distribution at each conference. At these conferences she was known for her very short reports, the oral ones being even shorter than her written ones. When called upon, she would come forward, very seriously, and state that she knew we would all be very happy that she had almost no report — just collect your new AGs and read the written report if you were interested. In one of her written reports, in 1989, one of the four short paragraphs stated: "Reminders to send suggestions or corrections appeared at the Interim Meeting and in the following presidential newsletters. There was little response, so perhaps our guidelines are better than we thought." Wonderful!

Pan's FAWCO history also included being Workshop Coordinator for the 1983 Brussels Conference under President Elaine Senigallia. Before that she had been Communications chair, chair of a Women's Legal Status Committee and in charge of the FAWCO History. There may be more that I do not know about.

Pan endeared herself to everyone in FAWCO by her irrepressible wit, a wit that she frequently used when cutting through an endless discussion on a thorny subject at a General Meeting. But her wonderful sense of humor somewhat camouflaged a person who was deeply concerned with the problems she saw for humanity, the United States and the world in general. She worried about politics a lot. I was fortunate to be one of the friends with whom she shared ideas and fears — and also the occasional feeling that all was not so bad after all. She frequently sent me clippings of interesting news items. I learned a great deal from her.

I last saw Pan in January 2001 when I had the great privilege of rooming with her at the regional meeting in Bern. We had a wonderful time together. Her illness had already manifested itself, but she had it under control then and was contagiously optimistic. I remember she was going off to join one of her daughters at a spa in Brittany, and greatly looking forward to it. How I shall miss her. *Kathy Webster*

Pan Hottinger will be remembered as a sprightly and fey spirit who marched to her own drum with or without a band.

I remember the first time I met her many years ago at an AWC Madrid Bring & Buy. A small blond lady with beautiful blue, smiling Irish eyes came marching into the clubhouse greeting all there and asking if there were "any rags left that will fit me." She bought a gorgeous pink sweater that day and immediately modeled it for all present, turning around for everyone to admire. Someone remarked, "Oh, Pan, it is beautiful, but it has moth holes all over the back." Pan replied, "Oh, that's okay, I'll just tell anyone who is rude enough to mention it to me that I was just showered with that acid rain stuff all those wacky environmentalists are talking about."

She was a passionate supporter of FAWCO and was my personal champion as president of AWC Madrid. She was always willing to take on any job. She knew the FAWCO Constitution and Administrative Guidelines upside down and backwards (she was one of the authors).

Pan was one of the first supporters of FAWCO Alumnae USA (FAUSA) and a founding member. The FAUSA Board of Directors voted to make Pan an Honorary member of FAUSA at the Annual Meeting in Red Lodge, Montana in September 2002. I was chosen to contact her to let her know of our decision. When I called her in Madrid to give her the news, her response was, "Mona, now what have you told those women about me? I haven't done anything to deserve that distinction! Other members are more deserving than I am — no thank you." She would not let us put it in print, but she will always be remembered as an Honorary FAUSA Member.

Pan was a deeply devout Christian Catholic woman. She wrote me a note to say that Father Raymond Sullivant, founder of Saint Louis University in Madrid and our mutual friend and



priest, had died. She said that she was “annoyed with him” for leaving before she did, because he was the only priest she knew who gave “short, no nonsense funeral masses.” She was my friend, she made me laugh and I will miss her with all my heart. *Mona Garcia*

In 1997, when I signed up for the Dublin Conference, I didn’t have a roommate, so I was assigned Pan, whom I had never met. She was delightful. I learned a lot about ‘The Old Guard’ of FAWCO (stories I will never tell). It made me appreciate all the wonderful women who have worked so hard over the past half-century to support FAWCO. *Judy Treanor*

## ELIZABETH BAGNEY

I met Elizabeth Bagny in 1990 when I moved to Madrid. She was one of the long-time ‘FAWCO Ladies’ — Elizabeth, a survivor of World War II who became a child psychologist on two continents; the late Pan Hottinger, a registered nurse who came to Europe with the Red Cross during the war, married a Swiss-German expert on Middle East culture and politics, and made her homes in Spain and Switzerland; and Jane Cabaynes, a World War II spy who came to Madrid working undercover at the American Embassy, married a handsome Spanish architect and remained in Spain. These exciting and visionary women were the constants for FAWCO in AWC Madrid, and my mentors for the beginning of my great FAWCO adventure.

At the beginning of our friendship I did not know that Elizabeth had been president of FAWCO and that she and her above-mentioned friends had dedicated nearly all of their years overseas to FAWCO and its endeavors. Elizabeth went to her first FAWCO Conference in 1961 as a delegate from the club. She was the founder of the FAWCO Roots and Effects of Violence Committee and was a member of nearly every other FAWCO committee throughout her many years, except finance (she often told me that she didn’t like numbers and that it was all she could do to balance her own checkbook.)

Elizabeth had a fascinating life. She was born in Warsaw, Poland, the only child of loving parents. Her father was a medical doctor, her mother a writer and educator. Elizabeth was a World War II survivor of the holocaust in Poland; while her father was in Japan on a medical mission, she and her mother escaped the Nazis by insisting that they were not Jews and merely out for a walk. They walked out of Warsaw with the clothes on their backs and spent that winter in a chicken coop. Spring finally came and they continued walking, only to be picked up by Russian soldiers who shipped them to Siberia as German spies. There they spent a second winter. Elizabeth’s father found out where they were, got them out of Siberia and, finally, met them in New York City. Elizabeth was seventeen when she saw the United States for the first time. She and her family became citizens, and she earned a Masters Degree in Social Work. She met her husband, also a child of Polish immigrants, in New York. They had three children, raising their family in both New York and Madrid. Elizabeth’s husband died a number of years

ago and, sadly, she also lost both of her sons to early deaths. She had five granddaughters that she adored.

I traveled to Bangkok, Thailand, with Elizabeth while we, as co-chairs, were working to promote the Roots of Violence Committee for FAWCO. It was during that trip that Elizabeth shared some of her life story with me. This happened because she cannot stand to be cold and I cannot abide being too hot. We were sharing a hotel room in Bangkok. The first night there I awoke about 3:00 a.m. dripping with perspiration and thinking that I was having the mother of all hot flashes. After a shower and fresh night clothes, I discovered that Elizabeth had turned the air conditioner to Off. Since it is always 90 degrees plus in Thailand, I turned it back on. Elizabeth then awoke and tried to negotiate a lesser temperature — 85 degrees — and not comfortable enough for me. I offered to move to another room. She declined my offer, got out of bed, put on a flannel robe, socks and a cap, and got back into bed where, sitting under her covers, along with my bedspread, and with crossed arms, told me the story of her youthful experience in those terrible Polish and Russian winters. She told me that she had made a vow at age fifteen that “as long as I live I will never be cold again!”

We spent two weeks in Thailand. Elizabeth got ‘dressed’ for bed every night and slept with many covers, including mine. We traveled the countryside, rode elephants (Elizabeth adored elephants) and talked long into the balmy Asian nights, usually of international living and all that it entails. We became close friends. She was a wise and caring woman with a wonderful and accepting grasp of life and death.

I will always remember her as my FAUSA mentor and one of the grand visionary ladies of FAWCO. I will not be alone. *Mona Garcia*

## AWAR AND ME, A ONE-SIDED STORY

*Elaine Senigallia*

In 1955 you could park anywhere in Rome if you had a car. Most Romans had motor scooters and some still had only bicycles. A family of three fitted neatly on a motor scooter, papa at the wheel, mamma behind him holding the baby. Another small child could ride standing up between Papa’s knees. In the autumn you might see a hunter heading out to the country on the scooter, his dog perched calmly on the seat behind him. There were only a couple of traffic lights and few one-way streets. Naturally, I drove everywhere in our small Fiat 1100. A meal at a good trattoria cost around 1000 lire with wine while the most stylish shoes in Rome cost 12,000. We paid our full-time maid 22,000 lire a month and were rebuked by our Italian friends who said we Americans were ruining maids by *over-paying* them. (I felt like Simon Legree.) Shops were open every day except Sunday, there were three mail deliveries a day in the *Centro*, and it was rare to know anyone who had been burglarized or whose purse had been snatched. Two theaters showed first-run movies in English.



On recollection, it may seem like a golden age, just fifty years ago, and in some ways it was — at least for Americans whose dollars went a long way in Italy. It was at that pleasant moment that AWAR was organized. I was not at all interested. It didn't occur to me to join until a friend persuaded me to come to the first meeting. I met some delightful people and, feeling a little foolish (a women's club, for heaven's sake!), joined.

Within a few months I was asked to be Program Chairman and that is a job I recommend to anyone who would like to lose weight; I lost ten pounds at it. I don't remember all the VIPs I managed to snare. The agony came trying to cope with last-minute cancellations by scheduled speakers and later to reply calmly to comments from members such as, "Isn't that speaker very er...uh...radical?" "Why didn't they have anything at the fashion show for women who wear my size?" "I couldn't understand a word he said. Why don't you get someone who speaks American English?"

The following year, having apparently learned nothing from the experience, I became Publicity Chairman. After that, I felt I had done my duty and was entitled to let others do the work. I gained back ten pounds.

In 1975 BC (Before Computers), the only office machines AWAR had were a typewriter and an answering machine. Somehow, everything got done, although as president I spent hours at the telephone and my typewriter until my husband complained, "Lincoln freed the slaves, why not you?"

Looking back, it seems to me that we were all very well dressed, although by today's standards we were much too conservative. Mini skirts had not yet been invented and most skirts ended well below the knees, varying a few inches up and down with the season — just enough to make women nervous about what the new length was going to be. In the days when I covered Italian fashion for *The Herald Tribune*, the question I was most frequently asked was about skirt lengths. The freedom we have these days to wear anything from a mini to an ankle-length skirt did not exist and couldn't even have been imagined.

Yes, we wore hats to AWAR luncheons and the great advantage of that was not being dependent on hairdressers then as we are now. It was amazing how well hats could hide a frizzy permanent or growing-out color job. I sort of miss them.

On the other hand, these days there is a sense of vitality and freshness in AWAR that I find admirable. I like the eagerness to try new ideas and hope that AWAR will continue to broaden its outlook and astonish its members in this new century.

## SHIRLEY'S STORY

*Shirley Van Ooijen*

In 1973, attending my first FAWCO Conference, I was quite overwhelmed by the amazing women all around me. Gertrude de Gallaux and Mary Mag (I had not dared to even greet them yet) asked me to have a little chat with them. They suggested that I run for president. I was

astounded, and told them I was too new and had so much still to learn. They then explained how the election worked. Two candidates run for president; the winner becomes president and the loser becomes first vice president.

As an experienced FAWCO member from Spain was a candidate, I asked if they could guarantee she would win. That they could not do, but eventually I agreed to run. When I told my delegation from Amsterdam, they thought it a great idea. I warned them not to do anything, but did agree that they could vote as they wished.

Elizabeth Bagney was elected president (we became the best of friends) and I became her 1st VP. At our first informal get-together with the new officers, I asked her what my duties were. "There are no delegated responsibilities," Elizabeth replied. Well, that seemed to me an empty honor, even wasteful. Then Elizabeth asked me what I would like to do. I thought it over and said, "How about membership extension?" And that was how I became involved in trying to increase membership in FAWCO.

Functions for elected officers became policy and, with FAWCO'S growth over these many years, it is hard to remember we were only seventeen affiliated clubs in 1973.

My FAWCO experiences were a highlight during my time abroad.

## CAROL'S TWO CENTS

*Carol Bordonì*

I consider the Conferences the most interesting and amusing and fruitful part of FAWCO (I say FOW-CO — like cow, and Joyce Ahrens says FAW-CO — like haw. Take your pick.)

I have been in Italy since the end of 1947. My father was Italian (so was our income), my mother, American. I married an Italian engineer from Perugia and my two daughters did the same. I now have five American/Italian grandchildren.

Our club was founded in 1957 and was entirely American until the late 1960s when the shipping and oil companies left Genoa. Frieda Bacigalupo suggested that AWC, as it was then, accept as members Italian friends who could speak English (an absolute requisite). I arrived in Genoa in 1972, having lived in Naples, Milan, Todi and Imola with nary an American about — and was invited to a closing lunch by an American friend. I became a member and met Frieda who was president and who put me to work immediately as vice president in charge of the bazaar. I liked bazaars — I had been doing them since 1961 in Rome at Santa Susanna's — but that's another story. I also met Mary Vanni and we have been in tandem ever since.

Posy Olivetti from the Torino typewriter family was a friend of Frieda Bacigalupo and told her about FAWCO. Frieda and I liked the idea of being part of something larger than just ourselves so in 1976 we invited Posy, who in turn invited Edith Beyer and Elizabeth Bagney, to Genoa to discuss the possibility of our club becoming a member of FAWCO. Those august ladies decided that Genoa would be the first associate member; that is, a club that had less than 60% of American members. The associate clubs were to have one vote and the regulars,



two. (The percentage fluctuates but we won't mention that. Actually it works very well as there are no barriers between the various nationalities represented — right now, nineteen. At first the president had to be an American; lately we have had an Iranian and an Italian. Sometimes the language gets mangled and you get two for the price of one — one sentence, two languages.)

Our first Conference was in Rome in 1977 where I met Phyllis Michaux, one of my 'most favorite' people, who took my hand, called me a schizo and hooked me on citizenship for the children. I also met Aimeè Gloeckner who taught me never to go to a Conference without a personal bar. My mother had lived in Rome and was a friend of Elizabeth Tiné; they were part of the Ladies Guild of the Santa Susanna American Church, so I already knew several of the AWAR crew: Genevieve Garzero, Joyce Ahrens, Chickie Payne, Elaine Senigallia, Nancy Thornley and Gloria Imperia among them. I was always very much at home in Rome (I never lived there; I was in Milan and there was no Benvenuto at that time, but there was an Anglo-American Group at the Cenacle that also put me to work on a bazaar).

We went on to the London Conference in 1979 and Mary DiSciullo was my roommate on the mezzanine of the Kensington Close and our bar was always open. The Italian clubs did a panel on 'Raising Children Abroad' and someone said that the panel spoke better English than its home-bred peers. Pan Hottinger called out from the side of the room, "...and what's wrong with a Texas drawl?" That's when we started to go to Mass together. Eleanor Mannix made those fantastic Pearlie costumes — remember?

In 1981 Frieda and I went to Paris and I talked my friend Elaine Senigallia into accepting the presidency over two enormous baguettes eaten cross-legged on my bed. Yes, that year the food was exceptional. Phyllis and I were the only ones who ate the mussels.

Aimeè Gloeckner invited all members of FAWCO to the Interim in Lugano in 1982. Until then only the reps went to the Interims. Kathy Webster in a wildly elegant cape introduced me to the voter registration business.

Brussels in 1983 was a beautiful bash and we had a large Genoese group attending. The Italian clubs did another panel, 'Making Ends Meet — Italian Style.' Gertrude Le Gallaix laughed 'til she cried. Our lovely Frieda had died in January and we decided to establish the Frieda Bacigalupo-Natali Award together with her two boys, Andrea and Massimo, and the Foundation. I sat next to Georgia Regnault for the first time — kinda like that girl.

In Düsseldorf I was alone and Georgia adopted me. Susan Van Alsenoy started her committee on education that year. I don't remember too much about that conference but the games of Trivial Pursuit in Muriel Bremner's room were definitely memorable. That was the year I met Helen Hoogerduyn — we always had something to laugh at. A lady speaker at the gala dinner began every sentence with, "I remember when..." and our table behaved very badly.

In 1987, in Madrid, we did another panel, 'Reaching Out — Not To Grab But To Give.' Georgia became FAWCO President and Jackie Isler and I were vice presidents. I was the worst v.p. on the books. I did go to the board meetings in Luxembourg and Zürich but never made it to the Conference or Interim. Alberto got sick for one and I had my first granddaughter for the other.

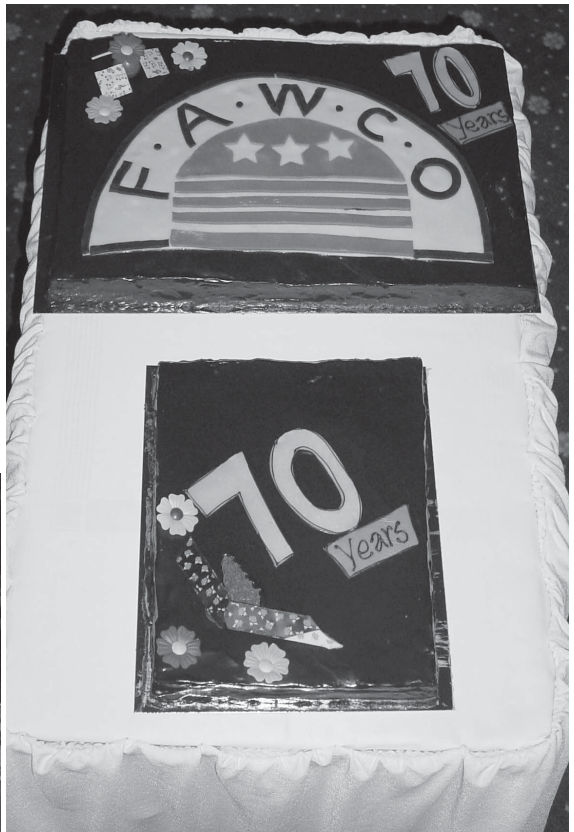
AIWC Genoa did the Columbus Anniversary Interim in 1992 and we had the best time ever. Ann Day and I spent hours on the phone not only talking about business but everything else under the sun. Organizing a meeting was a relatively simple job. A nice hotel, someone to photocopy the reports, arrange for the in-home dinners (always one of the perks of a Conference), and the committee chairmen did all the proper work. I had a lovely *young* committee and we met once a week to check out our assignments. Ann DeSimoni came on board and since then my 'chile done do me proud.

Thirty-three years ago we wore hats and gloves; today we wear jeans and Nikes but the spirit of FAWCO is the same. Yesterday FAWCO sent tea bags to Washington asking for the right to vote from abroad and for citizenship for our children and grandchildren. Today we are part of a large network of American associations interested not only in our own particular affairs but in world-wide objectives. We are present in the United Nations. We were twenty-odd clubs then and seventy-something now and growing.

The conferences were and are the occasions to see old friends and make new ones. *People* is always the bottom line. Committees, meetings and issues are important — no doubt — but the friendship and bonhomie we create among ourselves is our 'glue' so that when the Federation is called upon to make itself felt, we are friends united on a common front. The women who were important to me then are still important but I have new, smart, efficient young friends full of enthusiasm and know-how who are certainly more professional than we were and who treat me like we used to treat Gertrude and Frieda — in other words, like an old lady — and I love it.

Cheers! To the greater glory of FAWCO!

































# PLACES



## OSLO

*Virginia Hubert*

Leaving home and the USA was not something to be taken lightly in the 1930s. Mom was not just a phone call away and the crossing, generally by boat, took several days, not to mention weeks. Times were tough in the States with unemployment and the like, but they were in some cases tougher in Norway, that little land that not too many people had even heard of unless they lived in Brooklyn, Wisconsin, North Dakota or Minnesota. The majority of new arrivals were newlyweds following the love of their life to never-never land. English was not yet the second language and it was difficult to get your mouth to form the extra letters in the alphabet, Æ, Å, and Ø. Conversing with your new family and neighbors would be difficult, not to mention attempting to effectively run a household and to buy meat that was butchered differently, get used to boiled potatoes for every dinner, and have fish and more fish on the menu. Never mind that the grocer smiled when you asked if he had *spinat i bukser* when you really preferred spinach in a can (not in trousers). It was hoped that you would meet other women in the same situation who spoke your mother tongue and maybe had a book or two to trade. You really had to be in love in order to turn your back on the waving people at the quay and more than one tear was shed — as in the beginning of all fairy tales.

On April 9, 1940, the Germans marched into Oslo. Some American women were able to return to the United States — generally with their children — but most likely without Norwegian husbands. About twenty-five members of AWCO were still in Oslo. They decided to close up the pleasant library and clubrooms; by this time AWCO was a member of FAWCO and it could be fatal if the Germans got wind of the organization. Two American women picnicking with their children and quietly speaking the forbidden English were overheard and invited to join the other American women at their ‘secret meetings.’ The library was brought to the meetings in a suitcase and, due to rationing, everyone brought their own sandwich and a spoonful of ground coffee for the pot.

Peace brought allied troops to Norway and AWCO was asked to help entertain them at the USO. Many were invited for a home-cooked meal in spite of the fact that rationing was still in effect for many items. Educational facilities were struggling after the war; a helping hand was offered to a Norwegian student, establishing the first AWCO scholarship. In 1948 and 1949 the club library was enhanced by new books directly from the States.

In 1950 AWCO President Christine Loennechen was invited to a reception at the American Embassy to meet Eleanor Roosevelt. It was still a long, long way to the States and ‘things American.’ TV was yet to be found in everyman’s living room but AWCO members gathered to view films like *Ski Chase at Sun Valley*, and to listen to records from the newest Broadway musical, *South Pacific*. Membership numbered 100. In 1952 *The Bulletin*, our newsletter, was born. Biannual scholarship recipients were chosen by the Board. Wednesday was a bad day to plan activities for members who had small children and maids — Wednesday was every maid’s day off. The Fashion Show was an important fundraiser with wonderful raffle prizes, such as six pairs of nylon stockings. The Hungarian Relief Fund was one of the charities. Bridge was



played at monthly and even weekly gatherings, everyone, as always, properly attired.

The 1960s was the era of charity balls at the Embassy Residence and the Bristol Hotel — sweeping gowns and long white gloves. Christmas card sales featured prints from the Munch Museum, The National Gallery and those drawn especially for AWCO by contemporary Norwegian artists. Only when UNICEF started selling cards did the competition get stiff and the annual sales were discontinued. Monthly programs included such things as psychedelic posters, the meaning of student demonstrations, and the difficulties facing small countries like Norway in dealing with the larger world scene. In the 1970s the Norwegian Government planned recognition of North Vietnam. It was not always easy to be an American in Oslo. Marches were formed and rocks thrown at the Embassy. The American flag was burned.

In contrast, there were more fashion shows. In 1975 the hunger for things American was great and the decision was made to present the newest of the new in American fashion. Mr. Talbot himself agreed to send thirty outfits from the States to a sales show. Even Bloomingdales thought it couldn't be done, but it underestimated the ingenuity of the Oslo American Women.

By 1985, when AWCO co-hosted the FAWCO Conference in Düsseldorf, the club had a permanent home with a real library, a membership of 250–300, a professional group and a monthly newsletter re-named *The Fjord Flyer*.

Here we are, women with greatly varied backgrounds and needs. Times have indeed changed; the world's smaller, a trip to the States takes hours, not days, and transatlantic phone calls and communication by e-mail is an everyday thing. Gone are the days when it was assumed that after marriage and children one stayed home and consequently had time to play bridge during the day while the maid took care of the kids, or time to organize and participate in one fundraiser after the other. Due to wise investment, the scholarship fund now generates an impressive income, but we are a philanthropic group. We find time to organize here and there, to sew a quilt for a baby in Russia or bake cookies for the 4th of July picnic, activities that will benefit not only the scholarship fund but other needs like the Crisis Center, Ski for Light, or the removal of land mines. We are known by our own identities, not those of our husbands, and we no longer have to worry about crooked seams or a smudge on our white gloves when we attend meetings. But we still need each other — we speak the same language, we have similar backgrounds; we can help each other adapt to a different way of life, to be the support group when we don't understand. Nothing is new under the sun — it's all been done before in one form or another and that's why the 'usual' reason for us to make the decision to leave Mom and Dad and things familiar and set course for that little land of ice and snow is the man we love.

## LUXEMBOURG

*Louise Brooksbank, Mary Elvinger, Renee Prussen, Stefania Sakiotis, Joy Staudt*

In 1947, when two young American women living in Luxembourg met, a great friendship was formed. Both Mary Elvinger and Kappy Dupong had fallen in love with Luxembourgers. Mary was the first American woman to get married in Luxembourg following World War II and Kappy followed suit, marrying the son of Prime Minister Lambert Dupong. The bond between these two stylish and enthusiastic friends was to pave the way for many women in Luxembourg over the coming years.

In the 1950s Luxembourg was in an industrial resurgence. Big American firms such as Goodyear, Commercial Hydraulics and Dupont de Nemours came to the Grand Duchy, as well as Americans in the armed forces. One day Mary introduced herself to a woman she heard speaking English in a store. The lady, married to an American serviceman, had been in Luxembourg for six weeks and Mary was the first person to speak to her since her arrival. Mary realized that there were lonely American women living in this country. Something must be done to welcome and help newcomers to Luxembourg, but what? And how?

Mary and Kappy joined forces with Marie Taylor, a woman of great drive whose husband was First Secretary at the American Embassy. Marie goaded them into action. She contacted various club leaders in Europe and was given enthusiastic advice and offers of help, especially from FAWCO.

The adventure began. Marie and Mary took a train to Paris to meet the club there and find out how to go about setting up a constitution. They then started discussing the matter with other Americans in Luxembourg. Some wanted an informal group while others visualized a real American women's club patterned along the lines of existing clubs. What clinched the decision was a visit by a former FAWCO President, Mrs J.P. Ganseman. She kindled the fires the ladies had built, and a formal vote was taken to form the American Women's Club of Luxembourg.

The first meeting was held on March 4, 1959. Sixteen women were present and Mary's husband commented, "Don't tell me that there are sixteen of you here now, I thought it was enough with one." At this meeting they voted in the Constitution and By-laws and put into words their mission statement: "The object of the group shall be to foster and encourage social, educational, cultural and philanthropic activities among American women in Luxembourg and to assist in furthering American-Luxembourg relations."

The club originally provided for associate members who were citizens of English-speaking countries. However, realizing this imposed limitations and excluded the Luxembourgers, amendments were made to include "any English-speaking woman" up to 25% of the American membership. Member and Luxembourger Renee Prussen was a young girl during the Nazi occupation. Her countrymen, she said, had a reason to resist and defend their country and the Americans had a desire to liberate humanity. The Luxembourg motto is *Mir wëlle bleiwe wat mir sin* (we want to stay what we are), and the Luxembourgers were grateful to the Americans for helping to uphold this belief.



With the war behind them, the newly-founded club members enjoyed the stylish time they lived in. Hats, gloves and pearls were all the rage and *always* worn to meetings. The ladies organised fashion shows where they modeled clothes they had sewn themselves. Their meetings took the form of teas or long lunches. Guest speakers provided insight into current affairs. Cocktail parties and formal receptions were frequent. However, amidst the 'high society' that the ladies enjoyed there was an underlying and important philanthropic element to their activities.

In 1961 the club organized a Blossom Time Ball and the proceeds went towards setting up the first special clinic for children in Luxembourg. This donation began a long and respected tradition of charitable giving. Mary Elvinger explained perfectly: "You first arrive in a new and foreign country, you look around for a friendly face and a helping hand. When you are feeling more at home, your question is can I help someone, and from there it is a short trip to the query, what can we do in our community and in the international community?"

In November 1961 a motion to join FAWCO was unanimously passed. In April 1962 Mrs. Elizabeth Tine, AWAR Rome and president of FAWCO, addressed the club. In March 1963 Mrs Fred Hahn became the first Luxembourg representative.

In 1969 a vote was taken to leave FAWCO, and it wasn't until 1984 that newly-elected President Joy Staudt interested and motivated the club into setting the ball rolling once more. Joy arranged for the president of FAWCO, Muriel Bremner, to come from Dublin and address the Board and club members. In 1985 the club passed a unanimous motion to rejoin FAWCO. It was, recalls Joy, a very exciting time — to again have contact with other clubs worldwide, to attend conferences and to once again be involved in the philanthropic work of FAWCO. A lot of windows were re-opened.

At this time there was no office, only one person had a home computer, and most of the paperwork was done on typewriters; a clubhouse was purchased in 2002. In 1959, 51 copies of an edition called *Hints for Living in Luxembourg* were mimeographed; 2005 will see the publication of the 15th edition of *Living in Luxembourg*.

Mary Elvinger resides in Luxembourg and remains a member and great supporter of the club. She maintains that "founding a club is never the work of one or even two persons. An idea germinates and finds welcome soil in other minds and becomes a reality."

## ONE WOMAN'S EUROPEAN TOUR

*Eve Higgins Miller*

Assigned to Berlin at the beginning and the end of our twenty-seven years in Europe, my husband and I saw the city change from Cold War outpost behind the Wall to 21<sup>st</sup> Century metropolis.

Life in a walled city with controlled exits ruled by the post-World War II military occupation forces from the United States, Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union was full of strange

and wonderful travel possibilities: there was a British tea train through eastern Germany to the West, or a luxury overnight sleeper train to Strasbourg with the French military, or a more prosaic and much less comfortable American overnight train out to Frankfurt. Flying was expensive and driving meant long waits at the borders where soldiers checked cars thoroughly underneath with mirrors and demanded fees for transit visas. If I drove alone to Prague, I might be asked at the border checkpoints to remove both the back seat of the car and the dashboard to prove I was not smuggling prohibited literature either in or out.

Telephones were often tapped. The atmosphere was cold and friends were usually other journalists or others learning German. Artist friends did give us more than usual entrée into Berlin's lively drag queen world. By the time I was comfortable with my basic German, we were learning Serbian for our next move, to Belgrade.

Our time there was brief and we were always traveling. I was able to spend time in Poland, Hungary and Romania, to get to know Prague, and to see Croatia and southern Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia, the Dalmatian Coast, and Adriatic islands.

Country markets in southern Serbia had parking lots for horses ridden in by traders bringing their handmade baskets or wooden garden implements. A harem-pants clad woman would give the rider a wooden marker in return for taking the horse into an enclosure featuring hay and a big water trough. Farmers made wonderful cheese and excellent wine. There was a feeling of tolerance for those of other religions or heritage. Yet the economy, in which workers managed their own industrial enterprises, was weak. Shortages of imported goods required the thinking housewife to have a string bag handy in case bananas or other rare goods turned up in the store.

We survived earthquakes which shook the house and similar shocks to the political system when Marshal Josef Broz Tito died. He was the glue which held the diverse elements of old Yugoslavia together and, in his absence, things began to change.

Our move to Vienna, from which my husband continued to travel through the East Bloc countries, removed us from the world of shortages. Austria's reward for its capitalist-socialist neutrality and for tying its tiny schilling to the mighty Deutschmark after being freed from four-power rule in 1955 was a United Nations headquarters, the return of tourists and financial well-being for most of its citizens. Chancellor Bruno Kreisky could walk with no security detail through the pedestrian shopping streets late at night. No one went up to Nobel Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu as he shopped in a local store to ask for his autograph.

Having suffered the loss of professional identity as a trailing spouse, I was happy to find a perfect job in Vienna working for Austrian Radio's English language shortwave service. That led to other assignments as a radio stringer, which was particularly exciting during the Solidarity Campaign in Poland. When we moved to London, I worked covering the Falklands War from the Ministry of Defense. Our next posting, Copenhagen, offered a chance to work for Danish radio doing the English language morning news.

Then we moved back to Germany. It was to be the high point of our time in Europe. East German citizens had begun to leave their country via Hungary over the unguarded, green border to Austria. Then others moved into the West German embassy in Prague, waiting for



visas to travel west. And finally in November, 1989, the border began to open between East and West Germany.

As tiny East German cars began rolling westward down the autobahns, we drove toward the former east-west border. Once off the autobahn, in the small border town of Phillipsthal, we saw real red carpets rolled onto the sidewalks. Tables were loaded with donated cakes and coffee for visitors while residents passed out flowers to drivers who came from the east. There were tears, bear hugs and applause. In nearby Bad Hersfeld, we saw older men going up to visitors and offering money so they could afford to buy a beer.

In summer of 1990 when the currency was to be unified on both sides of the border, we drove again toward Phillipsthal, connected by an ancient bridge to neighboring Vlacha. Toward midnight, two border guards from the eastern side walked to the center of the bridge carrying a bottle of champagne. With their two colleagues from the western side of the bridge they fired off two flares and drank a toast. Reunification was to be made official in November, 1990, on the Day of German Unity, but it really happened that night.

Long before official reunification, things kept changing. Tiny eastern cars with lawnmower-like two-stroke engines came west and returned carrying sacks of cement, pails of paint and new windows. Houses in the East got new roofs and new paint jobs. Flowers were suddenly everywhere on village squares. Things which had not been considered essential in the good gray days of communism were suddenly affordable and in demand.

West German citizens had a solidarity tax added to the income tax bill to help replace or install sewer systems and telephone lines throughout the eastern side of the country. Roads were repaved and lined with guard rails. Even the wood carvers in the German hills near the Czech border got new paint for the famous smokers, nutcrackers and Christmas candle pyramids which they had been making for centuries.

Everything was available. Yet poorly organized and equipped eastern businesses were not equipped to compete with the west. Protected jobs began to vanish. After ten years of German reunification, some people began calling for a return of the wall. With unemployment up to 25% in some areas of the East, young people were moving west to find employment.

Germany, the former locomotive of the European economy, began to slow down. Tough problems remain and many changes lie ahead.

In Berlin, however, there is light and life and optimism. There is energy in the arts and music, if not in politics. Where kids with hammers battered holes in the wall in 1989, the future still seems full of possibilities.

## HAPPINESS IS A GERMAN WASHING MACHINE

*Carol Battenfeld*

Our family, friends and neighbors heard us talk about it for years, but when we actually did it, they were indeed surprised: coming back from Germany to ‘test live’ in Ithaca, New York, my hometown — two universities, a farmer’s market, wineries, scenery, famed gorges and, yes, atrocious winters and hot, humid summers. And wonderful, welcoming neighbors we’ve known for years. We bought my family home, an English Tudor-style house dating from 1926. Ongoing extensive renovations (we’re considered to be ‘fussy Europeans’), but a home with much charm and character, or so we remind ourselves. Family and friends are trekking here to see Battenfeld’s Folly first hand.

My part-time work editing for a scientific journal came along, too; a distinct advantage of e-mail. Finding the right plugs was easy; deciding on a broadband provider and new telephone system took a bit more effort, but cell phones still have us stymied (alas, European Handys don’t work here). The plethora of abbreviations and acronyms is dizzying. Do we need to worry about identity fraud? Oh, how I missed my Miele, and then the profound delight of finding three local dealers selling European-style models; there’s even a choice between German and Swedish brands.

Food packaging is mysterious: the percentage of chocolate isn’t listed and most products aren’t date-stamped. The political polarization is dismaying — but I received thank you letters from my congressmen when I telephoned in my concern for PBS and NPR. We are fascinated by the two C-SPAN programs. The newspaper lists self-help support groups and the readiness to volunteer is refreshing. After preparing ourselves well ahead of time to establish a credit rating, we are getting credit cards in the mail, unsolicited. Now that we’ve discovered how different from Germany the credit card works with the bank, we’ve opted for a debit card (we maintain our German credit cards, which work just fine here.)

It would not be such an unusual retirement decision were it not that my husband, Helmut, is a German national who has traveled extensively — but never lived — in the United States. Test live? We are keeping our options open in that we are maintaining a tiny apartment in Germany that I laughingly call a large storage bin for all of our furniture, plus a sleeping corner. Both of us maintain our German medical insurance, and I, my right to permanent German residency.

We return to Germany every three months. An INS official has suggested that Helmut apply for a visa, which would allow him to stay in the States for up to six months. This he will do at the US Embassy in Berlin. He has not applied for a Green Card and will only do so should we decide to stay on a permanent basis.

Some thirty-seven years ago Helmut and I met and married in Hamburg. Life was bliss. I joined the AWC and met several other newlyweds, including Georgia Regnault. A year or so later, Helmut started commuting to West Berlin and I tagged along. Flying was cheap (subsidized), so we flew — meaning that we also avoided DDR border controls. But this changed once we began driving back and forth: how well I remember that Wall, the chicanery of the



Vopos (police), the cold fear, and the palpable miseries of the DDR regime. We missed our friends in Hamburg. Helmut worked long hours and I found it difficult to meet people. I met another American woman my age in a grocery store, actually through her squalling infant, and we became buddies, especially nice because I was an expectant mother. A few months later our son was born and life got better and busier. Through him I became friends with other young mothers at the local playground

By the time our son was ready to start kindergarten at the bilingual J.F. Kennedy School, we moved to a small village on the Ostsee (Baltic Sea). An experience? Yes. Village life in northern Germany was very insular. A year later we were back in Hamburg where we stayed put for twenty years. The AWC once again became a social focal point. A strong AWC supporter, Helmut used to say that if the AWCH hadn't existed, he would have had to invent it.

Shortly after the wall fell in November of 1989, Helmut was back on the road again, this time to deep in the former DDR, to Cottbus, a city half way between Berlin and Dresden, known, if at all, by West Germans only through a German tongue twister. Eventually I went for visits and my curiosity was piqued; what Helmut didn't dare ask, I proposed: let's move. He was aghast — our friends, my AWC — I would end up weeping on the doorstep. Not at all. The inland continental climate was definitely a bonus and great for bicycling. What an opportunity to have a first-person view of the coming changes. To the East Germans, West Germans were viewed with caution and most had never seen a Yankee, much less spoken with one. People shyly asked how I liked living in Cottbus, fully expecting the worse. Their delight at my positive response was palpable. As anywhere, we met wonderful people with unnerving tales of their lives before the wall fell. Yet forty years under a repressive regime is not easily eliminated, and whopping investment mistakes have been made. We remind West Germans that the East Germans pay the very same 'reunification' taxes, and that this freedom has its price: soaring unemployment, migration of the young and able, and uncertainty. But the power of positive thinking can work wonders; if this is seeing life through rose-colored glasses, that's a much nicer color than gray.

There was even a tiny group of 'Cottbus Yanks' who gathered for holidays on a dish-to-pass basis. Three of us often met in a local coffee shop for a chinwag — sort of a mutual admiration society; I miss them.

Should we decide to return to Germany, we might stay in Cottbus. Or return to Helmut's beloved Hamburg. Or why not Berlin? Wow — what a swinging city — and they even have an AWC.

## MEMORIES OF MILAN

*Eleanor Fina*

Milan, from 1973 to 1985, was a fascinating city. It was a period of expanding economic well-being in the north of Italy shared in by American and multi-national companies. Many of these companies had offices in the Milan area, and the wives of many of their American or foreign employees were active in The Benvenuto Club which, as an associate FAWCO club, could include any English-speaking woman, whatever her nationality. *Benvenuto* means welcome in Italian.

This was also a period of political tensions, even violent ones. Contrary to some assumptions, they did not focus on American or other foreign firms. The best known of the terrorist organizations of the time were the *Brigate Rosse*, the Red Brigades. One might have assumed that the word Red meant that they were Communists. In fact, the *Brigate Rosse* was of left wing Catholic origins, and the Communist Party was as enthusiastic about its suppression as the Christian Democrats and other centrist parties. The targets were Italian politicians. Some may remember the knee-capping incidents in the mid to late 1970s as well as, in 1978 in Rome, the abduction and murder of Aldo Moro, a former prime minister.

In any event, Americans were never a target for this violence in the Milan area. Business executives and their families prudently took precautions as did the Consulate General. The Italian government placed armed guards at the Consulate and also at our residence around the clock. But we were fairly confident that we were not intended targets. Indeed, my greater concern was that our rather scruffy-looking teenagers, returning after dark, would be mistaken by the guards and perhaps shot. Italian young people had not yet adopted the casual look of American teenagers. The big change in dress came in 1980 when, suddenly, Italian children no longer wore long winter overcoats to school, replaced instead by ski jackets, formerly only worn on the slopes.

These were years during which the Italian Communist Party became increasingly estranged from the Soviet Union and increasingly willing to function as a normal political party in a democracy. It was a member of the governing coalition in Milan and while the Government of the United States continued to distrust it, its evolution into a democratic political party was pretty much a *fait accompli* during our Milan years.

The building of the American School of Milan was an enormous project. The school had been in three locations, with the high school over a bank in the commercial downtown area and the kids dispersing to local bars for lunch. The Consulate General found land on the periphery of the city, a former rice field of some ten acres just inside the *tangenziale* on Milan's south side. The new school was inaugurated in 1976, the Bicentennial year, with the American Ambassador in attendance. It had a large library, a 'café-torium,' excellent class rooms and large sports fields. It served a student body of roughly one third American, one third Italian and one third other nationalities, prepared (or preparing) to study in English. American education and culture were very attractive and a big drawing card, as was the possibility for all of the students to compete for entrance to American colleges and universities. The mock US Senate



week in the spring, planned and organized by the students while the adults were still busy with the final building problems, attracted student participation from American schools all over Western Europe. It continued annually with the involvement of the entire high school for years afterwards until, finally, it moved to Stuttgart.

The Duomo of Milan, the Galleria and La Scala, are at the city's heart and known to tourists the world around. That the Duomo was begun in 1386 on the site of a much earlier Christian church where St. Ambrose had baptized St. Augustine in 387 is less known. The Edict of Milan in 313, known internationally as the Edict of Constantine, proclaimed religious liberty for Christians, making the first basilica possible on the same site as the Duomo. This opened the way to Christianity becoming the prime religion of the Roman Empire.

One cannot remember Milan without mentioning its surroundings. With the Alps to the north and west, the lakes north and east, the Riviera to the south and the nearby Po Valley all the way to Venice and south to Bologna, Milan is the sportsman's delight, the tourist's Mecca and the food lover's paradise. The center of finance and fashion, the Italian love of life permeates everything. *Beato loro* — blessed are those — who have the possibility of living in Milan.

## MOROCCO

### *Donna Sebti*

My maternal grandparents came from Italy in the days when a good-bye really meant "I will never NEVER see you again, touch your hand, kiss you." (My paternal grandmother said they'd come for greed but I think it had more to do with survival.) In those days they sent a letter back home maybe once a year, but no e-mail, skype, phone, or even photos. (After I left home I wrote my mother twelve-page letters three times a week. When I'd arrive in Burbank, I would find her sitting in the dining room gazing out at the street — waiting, waiting. I regretted that her sewing machine had not been a computer, that we couldn't talk everyday, that she didn't see my children growing up.)

When I was eighteen my mother was thrilled that I would want to go on a student tour of Europe and even stay a little longer afterwards. 'A little' — little did we know. After the thirteen countries in four weeks, I went to Paris to see my friend Dany who had grown up just down the street in Burbank. She was perhaps the most foreign person I knew at the time as she had a French father, her mother lived in Mexico and she lived with her grandmother. After high school Dany went to Paris to work for her godmother Carven. Shortly after she left California she sent me a compact, fluffy puff and all, with the word 'Longchamp' on it. I had no idea it was the name of a French derby as well as the Casablanca neighborhood where I would live for forty years. It was a prophesy. I decided to leave France after a few months, since nobody there even tried to understand the words I could see printed in my brain's prompter. Dany and I went for a good-bye tea on the Champs Elysees. From there, a gentleman friend of hers gave us a ride back to her apartment.

I bought a train ticket to Spain where I remembered, on that student tour, the handsome young men, ever so charming, who'd danced with our busload of American girls. In Madrid I soon found a woman who rented me a room. Baths were public so I went a couple of times a week just to wash my hair in warm water. I found a job teaching English and started studying Spanish. My first teaching experience was a conversation class with young military officers. I started off by introducing myself and then asking them questions, hoping their answers would give me an idea of their level. I tried every question I could think of and they all just sat with blank expressions on their faces and said nothing. As I hit borderline nervous breakdown and tears, they started laughing and told me that they had decided on this treatment as an initiation. Out came the bottles of wine and fried fish from brown paper bags. I was so afraid the director of classes would pop in and see what was going on. I loved my students and the job. Spain in those days did not have same-sex marriages and nudist bicyclers. Then the school informed me that I'd have to move to another city as there were too many English teachers in Madrid. I was shown a list of names of cities and towns where my classes were needed. There was only one I recognized. Salamanca.

Our bus arrived in the evening. We had a late dinner and danced half the night with English-speaking Spanish engineers to tunes on a jukebox. Later I found out that that was the only hotel, the music was gone and the engineers were Chilean. I was getting a little suspicious when the school director came to get me at the train station in a horse-drawn cart. I found out that the swimming pool was for men. Men did as they pleased. They knocked on my door at the pension at all hours. I was stared at in restaurants and finally, as a last resort, I went to a convent to ask if the nuns would take me in along with their Spanish boarders. That worked out perfectly even though *la estrangera* (me) was blamed for every thing that went wrong. If I got back a minute late I was deprived of dinner. My mother had sent me some black tights to wear under my nightgown in our freezing 15th Century monument. Bad bad. The others were smoking in the bathroom. I had never touched a cigarette. I taught a few girls some exercises. More bad news.

Sundays were big days. After mass, with our missals in hand and mantillas still on our heads, we went to the Plaza Mayor where the girls walked around in a clockwise circle and the young men, counter-clockwise. They would say *piropos* (compliments) to us — some a little risqué at that. We would stop for a few drinks of wine and some tapas. When I got back about two o'clock, instead of lunch, I went straight to bed. The other girls were able to carry on at the plaza in the afternoon but my day was shot. Once I got the flu (because my long johns had been confiscated). One of the nuns told me she had the perfect cure so, three or four times a day, she brought me bowls of cognac instead of food. I had to give that up before becoming an alcoholic.

I got a letter from a German teacher who'd worked with me in Madrid. She had her vacation, no money and no one to go with. I asked for a month off, borrowed money from my mom for both of us and off we went. She wanted to go to the Canary Islands but all flights were full. We looked into the possibility of taking a boat but thought twice about getting ourselves out at sea with a boat full of sailors or fishermen. Someone suggested we go to Africa. I had never heard of Morocco. I voted that out since it was August and in Africa your legs swell and wild



animals roam the streets. Finally we decided to go to Tangier for one day. There we met a French couple driving to Casablanca. Adventure called. We seized.

We went to the Hotel de Madrid and from there to a cafe. A tall good-looking guy came up to me saying, “Danielle Patee.” He repeated it ten times in a French accent. I told my friend to ignore him and he would go away. I was so dumb not to recognize my friend Dany’s name and Paris. He was the one who had driven us home. In Casa, things began going fast. My German friend and I decided not to go back to Spain. She found a good job. I found a job and my husband, the best friend of the man who’d given Dany and me the ride in Paris a year earlier.

Even if I had announced to my mother that I wanted to marry an Italian in Italy she would have hit the roof, and I preferred not to imagine my father’s reaction. So when fate threw me into the arms of this Arab Muslim in Morocco, I just shut up. He had to do the same. Marriage to a foreigner at that time was out of the question. We tip-toed off with one witness and got married. Time passed. I got up the courage to go back to the convent in Salamanca to get my trunk of clothes. It was already hard enough to explain to the nuns what my plans were. They tried to SAVE me from my fate. His family began to realize that something was happening as my middle grew rounder but we all pretended not to see. When my son was born, on our way back from the hospital, his family threw a big surprise reception to celebrate our wedding and the birth. All I wanted to do was to go home to our little apartment.

My mother had written me that my purchase of a new refrigerator seemed to mean I was settling in. That was a good way to break the news, better known as the straw that broke the camel’s back. I told her about the baby. Two weeks later the Constitution sailed into port; on board were my two aunts, my father’s aunt, my mother’s cousin and MOM. I tried to fill them in about greetings before meeting my husband’s family. I told them that they kiss a woman on both sides of the face beginning on the right. We practiced a while until they got it down pat. To our great surprise, when we introduced the two groups, there was the most awkward but amusing situation. The Moroccan ladies were leaning backwards, avoiding the American overtures. It seems that my husband had told his mom and sisters that Americans do not kiss, only shake hands. (In Morocco, men do not kiss women that they do not know. Over the years, inevitably, my cousins and brother have kissed anyone they saw me kiss, bringing twinkles to some eyes and surprised looks from others.)

My husband’s first trip to the United States was an eye-opener for both of us. He was fascinated by ashtrays that filled up and even overflowed. He was the only one smoking — his pipe — but somewhere along the line a link was missing. We would go out shopping with my mother and come home to find no lunch had been prepared. Panicked that famine had set in, I tried to explain to him that my mother, the only person who might have done something about the situation, had been with us. The first time at a McDonald’s he asked if they could just toast the bread a little. Since we were the only customers at the time, he didn’t see why they couldn’t make that small effort to please the customer. Now he laughs about this. That day, as he was about to eat his soft-bunned hamburger, a woman came up and asked if she could take his picture. He said OK, but then asked why. “Because you are smoking a pipe under a NO SMOKING sign.”

Forty-six years later Driss and I are still happily married, surrounded by our four kids and nine grandchildren. Our children all went to college in the States and slowly migrated back to our nest. It has been great.

## ROME

*Nancy Thornley*

Pier Luigi huddles along one side of its unimportant *piazzetta*. Fiats and *motorini* sit any old way on the basalt cobbles, grimy and roughly rounded with use and re-use. One table leg is tottery and awkward; the waiter wedges it with a wad of newspaper.

It is Sunday lunch. We are surrounded by whole families, grandfather in his three-piece suit, children in short pants or Communion dresses, sisters-in-law, in black, chattering about important matters. The tables, laid in pink cloths, are sheltered under *ombrelloni*. The sky is a pure cerulean and the sun intense in mid-September.

A car turns into the square. Our table is in the way. The waiter picks it up, moves it aside and plunks it down again. The glasses, thick with no stems, barely make a clink.

We grasp our menus, handwritten in blue ink, smudgy and undecipherable. Our Italian is rudimentary. “*Un mezzo litro di vino bianco, per favore,*” we say. “*Aqua minerale con gas.*” An accordion is playing “Dixie.” Dixie? I want “*O Sole Mio.*” We order *spaghetti alla carbonara*. I know it to be a local dish. I have not yet learned to turn the strands against the side of the plate in order to make a nice, neat blob. I lean forward to bring the drippy strings to my mouth. Clinging bits of cheese graze my lips. I test the flavors. Hmm. Bacon and eggs. How interesting. We have been in Rome for three hours.

\* \* \*

Our apartment was in a small 15th Century *palazzo*, an *attico* on the top floor that had been converted from the original loggia designed for Renaissance ladies to take the air. Three high arches, now glass-enclosed, provided a grand view across the Tiber to the Gianicolo, the hill a shimmering gray-green when the cannon emitted its midday boom. I experienced my first *scirocco* from the roof terrace, watching the sky behind St. Peter’s deepen into a menacing, dirty ochre that advanced rapidly to shed powdery sand on all below. The hot, oppressive winds had blown directly from Africa. The *scirocco*, it is said, makes one *pazzo*, or crazy.

Three blocks away was the Campo de’ Fiori, an oblong Roman space laid out as a chariot run and now enclosed by the peeling walls of dank *palazzi* and the facades of assorted wine bars and tatty *caffès*. In the center, stalls were ablaze with tomato reds and sunflower yellows, multi-hued anemones and petaled margaritas. High on a pedestal, brooding over all, was the cowed statue of Giordano Bruno, burned at the stake for heresy in 1600 when the square enjoyed public executions.

The food displays were formidable: round and creamy *cipollini*, blush-tinted *albicocche*, feathery-lime *finocchio*; broccoli flowers buried deep in their leafy beds, forest green with a cobalt cast; mushrooms in piles, carrots in rows, lentils in bins; potatoes stacked in pyramids. The



fishmonger's catch — *spigola, dentice, orate, rospo* — was laid out in an orderly display, as if each one deserved some serious, some individual, consideration. At the other end of the piazza, at a small stand next to the flowers, Cinzia and Giorgio offered the produce from their farm in Velletri; the eggs, fresh that morning, would be individually wrapped in newspaper, safely nested for the journey home. I found this spectacle overwhelming, in fact intimidating, but my first forays were received with such delight, with such generous smiles and cajoling chatter, that I understood I was a welcome if helpless client who would be coddled and cared for.

In those early days I took a map with me everywhere. Eventually I knew every turn and vista, not by name but by texture or color or carving. The doors of the *palazzi* were of such an enormous scale, of carved and weathered wood, imposing, emitting ghosts from centuries of important carriages and footmen of important families.

Each street had its own identity: old banks (Banchi Vecchi), a new bank (Banco Nuovo), chair makers and barrel makers. It was from these narrow ways that one approached the Pantheon, its pediment and columns tantalizing slivers, then, bursting into view, dominating and minimizing all else within the *piazza*, even the obelisk and its ugly fountain, a hangout for stringy-haired riffraff. On a summer evening, while sipping an *aperitivo*, the sky frames the dome in the most intense blue that darkens to a deep-velvet midnight.

On a spring afternoon in 1977, while inside the Bar Pantheon to meet a friend, the three metal shutters banged to the floor. We were enclosed in a dim light. Silence. Outside, a roar, louder and coming closer, shouts, an angry rumble. Pounding on the closed shutters. Sixty-thousand students had descended on Rome, burning buses and smashing windows, to protest the arrest of a Fascist — or was it a Communist? We were imprisoned for two hours. Three Danish musicians offered to escort me home. We walked on the medieval back streets, now quiet. The protest had shifted to the Tevere, along the river, next to my apartment. My daughter reported that she saw guns. Indeed, we heard shots and running footsteps under the window. Tear gas clouded our *piazza*. Four *carabinieri* were wounded that night.

This incident introduced us to the *Brigate Rosse* and *Gli Anni di Piombo*, literally the Years of Lead. We learned to recognize how far away the bombs were. One was just down the street at the Fascist bookstore — we lived in a Communist neighborhood. On the afternoon that Aldo Moro's body was found, crammed into the trunk of a car on Via Caetani, I was on a bus that suddenly veered off its planned route and speeded up the river. I walked home, the only pedestrian, the city shuttered. The shops had not reopened after siesta. I turned on Vatican radio to hear the news, in English.

Such moments became a part of everyday life. I absorbed them or they absorbed me. On an early morning in 1980, walking the dog, I passed the Spanish church, Santiago e Montserrat. On the steps, at attention, were six palace guards from the Quirinale, all navy blue, red stripes and silver reflections. Next to them, in dark suits and hats and veils, waited ten men and women. A casket was carried out through the church doors and down the steps, into a hearse; the palace guards escorted it down the street. Only later did I learn that King Alfonso XIII of Spain had lived his last years in Rome, an exile from the Spanish Civil War. His grandson, King Juan Carlos, had come to take him home. When Pope John Paul I died in 1978 (the Romans say he was murdered), I stood against the red velvet rope at the foot of St. Peter's steps and

waited as the *a cappella* choirs, the Canons and the Cardinals passed by in slow cadence. On a wooden pallet, just three feet away, the Pope was borne to the Basilica, his red velvet shoes pointing the way. His ankles were blue; popes are not embalmed. On a rainy cold night in Assisi, in the Duomo, I listened to “St. Matthew’s Passion” sung by three hundred voices. Above and around the walls were the frescoes depicting the life of St. Francis in rose and mauve, cobalt, gold and faded tones of green. Those amazing Giotto’s were lighted for three hours. Other vignettes: dashing for Sunday lunch to an obscure Umbrian hilltown, one and a half hours away, to relish mountain trout, simply grilled, and almost too-generously smothered in the blackest of shaved truffles; or, arriving back from the States, my first glimpse of the umbrella pines marching in feathery rows along my route from the airport, the air always sweeter for my having been away.

\* \* \*

Not all is eternal. The overseas operator is gone — one dialed a special number to speak in English, German or French. Waiting for the call to go through, the earpiece emitted a constant swooshing roar, as if the submerged message was swimming along the Atlantic cable. Supermarkets have arrived in the *Centro*. The food stalls on the Campo are disappearing, replaced by CDs and discounted suitcases. Sergio, our flower man, has died, his space left empty. MacDonald’s is at the Spanish Steps, barely visible in the elegance of the surroundings. Starbucks threatens to invade. Yet these specks seem minor and muted, ephemeral in the layers of Roman time.

This year, back again, in the station finding lunch between trains, I saw a big sign, in English — FOOD HALL. I wandered far away, to the other end of the vast space, looking for a more familiar world. At the very end, on the left, is a traditional *tavola calda* and beyond, visible through the cafeteria, in a wan light outside a glass wall, is a vast high remnant of the Servian Wall, c. 378 B.C. Its pale, nubby stones form an enclosure that wards off the cacophony that is modern Rome, just beyond. I sat at a small round table under the dark forest shade of an umbrella pine. The air was warm, the sun cool. Before me were the newest of peas with bits of prosciutto; I squeezed lemon on the longest, narrowest green beans; the raspberries were sweet without sugar. I sipped a half bottle of Chianti.

Savoring this enclosed space — the light, the air, the texture and tone — was for me the essence of my time in that city: an awakening of the senses, an awareness of the moment suspended, a stillness of perfection.

## OKLAHOMA!

*Emily Van Eerten*

My house in Haarlem was built in 1899, a three-story brick town house in a city which dates from the 10<sup>th</sup> Century. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century the land behind my house was used at times for bleaching linens commercially and growing tulips. I am endlessly fascinated by the



history of my new home and never tire of discovering the paintings of Frans Hals, the organ of the Grote Kerk played by Mozart and Handel, the intrigue of the tulip trade and the tales of resistance and deprivation during World War II. My heart is torn hearing of the story of *Dolle Dinsdag*, a day in September 1944 when thousands in Haarlem and elsewhere took to the streets to await a liberation which didn't come. The disappointment that evening was devastating, but more chilling was that they didn't know they had the hunger winter ahead of them. My house now is without its wooden shutters, used that winter to keep the family from freezing.

I spend my Augusts in Oklahoma. Somehow, I seem to have missed the concept of Oklahoma history when I lived there. The fabled Oklahoma Land Run on April 22, 1889, opened the territory to non-Indian settlement. Soon, there were homesteaders on all reservations which had previously been assigned to both native tribes and tribes which had been relocated to Oklahoma from other parts of the United States. Oklahoma didn't become a state until 1907, but by that time oil had been discovered. In the 1920s my hometown, Tulsa, was known as the Oil Capital of the World. The influx of money which came as a result created an unusual situation where oil money was used not only to construct some pretty impressive Art Deco architecture, but also to collect and preserve much of the cultural richness of the Indian tribes of the day.

It's hard to compare the development of an old European city with that of the American prairie. Haarlem is the epitome of compact settlement. Everything is squished together, the buildings and the people. Everything is in biking distance, the shops, the schools, the offices. The people are disciplined — polite, but guarded. Oklahoma is the physical and spiritual opposite, spacious and relatively free. Oklahomans are friendly and open, everything is possible. Growing up in Oklahoma, I couldn't appreciate its special charms as I was too focused on the shining lights of bigger, older, more cosmopolitan cities. But having now traveled a fair bit and seen more than a few of the world's most famous cities, natural wonders and renowned museums, I have to say that Oklahoma doesn't fair too poorly in comparison.

What a treat it is to give my mostly-Dutch kids a taste of the past — *Oklahoma!* staged in a beautiful outdoor setting with horses and a real surrey with a fringe on top, or a re-enactment of Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show, trick riding, roping and shooting; the original had real Indians and real cowboys, and even a Cossack regiment from Russia. (Pawnee Bill made so much money he built himself a \$100,000 house which is still there. On the outside it looks like a large log cabin, but on the inside it rivals quite a few European palaces; this in the middle of the prairie.) In Tulsa, Remingtons and Russells are in the Gilcrease Museum; the displays at Woolaroc in Bartlesville reveal a close and respectful relationship between the oilman and the nearby tribes.

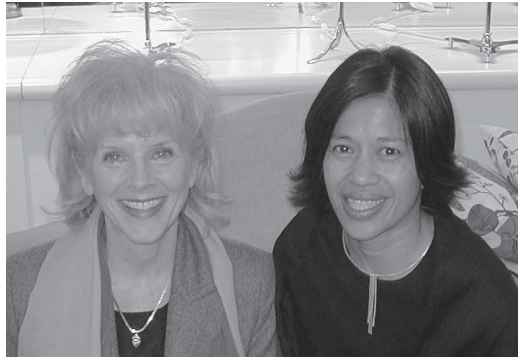
The world of the cowboy is also alive and kicking, as evidenced by the many local rodeos. Corny as it may seem, there is something pretty magnificent about seeing the Stars and Stripes galloping around a dirt arena at full tilt and a local soprano belting out the Star Spangled Banner, unaccompanied and on key. Whoever thinks that America is lacking in culture hasn't been to Oklahoma!















































# THE CLUBS



# REGION I

## ENGLAND

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB BERKSHIRE/SURREY

[www.awbs.org.uk](http://www.awbs.org.uk)

With activities ranging from A to Z such as Antique Antics, Life and Literature and Write-On, this 400-strong club was founded in 1982 and a quarter of its membership is international. One of its successful fundraisers has been an International Couples Dinner.



### CHILTERN'S AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB

[www.cawc.co.uk](http://www.cawc.co.uk)



“From a tour of Parliament to a hike through the Chiltern Hills — what a great way to meet people in and around my new home.” This is how one member describes this club located 25 miles north of London in the area known as Chilterns. Founded in 1987, the club has over 300 members.

### AMERICAN CLUB OF HERTFORDSHIRE

Small but active, this American club located north of London has 30 members. They celebrate the traditional American holidays and have special interest groups, a Book Club, Gourmet and Scrap-booking.

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF LONDON, LTD.

[www.awclondon.org](http://www.awclondon.org)

“Founded in 1899 as the Society of American Women, the oldest American women's club of the world, AWC of London has for over 100 years provided a welcoming atmosphere to expatriates living in London.” Due to the initiative of Carolyn Curtis Brown, AWC of London was one of the founding members of FAWCO.



## NORTH AMERICAN CONNECTION — WEST MIDLANDS

[www.naconnect.com](http://www.naconnect.com)

Located in the heart of England in the area around Birmingham, this small club was host of the 37<sup>th</sup> Biennial FAWCO Conference in 2005—“To the Heart of the Matter.” It devotes energy and time fundraising for local and national health charities.



C.A.S.E.

[www.casecommunity.com](http://www.casecommunity.com)

CASE, an acronym for Canadians and Americans in Southern England, is a 50-member club “working to bring us all a little closer.” Members donate their time for breast cancer research as well as to the Naomi House Children’s Hospice and the Treloar Trust, a school for the disabled.

## AMERICAN WOMEN OF SURREY

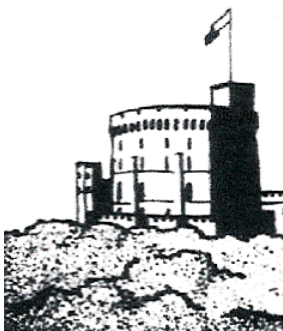
[www.awsurrey.org](http://www.awsurrey.org)

With a membership of 500 women, this club is one of the largest in FAWCO. While supporting various charities and holding monthly meetings on a multitude of subjects, some of the well-attended activities are the English experience ones — lectures, a book club, London walks and day tours.



## AMERICAN WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION OF BRISTOL

Founded in 1987, this small club of only 25 members is very active, organizing such events as Bring a British Friend to Lunch, and a barn dance as a fundraiser.



## THAMES VALLEY AMERICAN WOMEN’S CLUB

[www.tvawc.com](http://www.tvawc.com)

Via its monthly newsletter, *Thames Talk*, this relatively young club announces a varied program of activities, such as Ladies who Run, a supper club, and scrapping. It also joined with two other American Women’s Clubs in the area to collect donations to send to US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and to Landstuhl Medical Center in Germany.

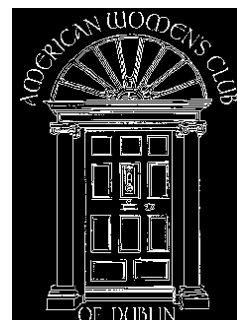


## IRELAND

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF DUBLIN

[www.awcd.net](http://www.awcd.net)

Founded in 1972, AWC of Dublin has almost 200 members. Its social and informational activities include working for the environment by cleaning up the beaches, making nature study walks and planting special trees in the memory of deceased club members. Its ambitious philanthropic work entails helping at an old people's nursing home and raising money for a children's hospice, a poverty reduction organization and houses in Asia.



### THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN WOMEN IN IRELAND

[aawireland@fawco.org](mailto:aawireland@fawco.org)

This 14-member club shows what can be accomplished with a few enthusiastic women. In 1997 it organized the FAWCO Conference; it has provided a FAWCO president and a FAWCO Foundation president.. The annual major events are a holiday luncheon and a weekend trip, a Hospice coffee morning, and a dinner and auction to earn funds.

## SCOTLAND

### ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN WOMEN OF ABERDEEN

[www.awaaberdeen.org](http://www.awaaberdeen.org)



The members of this club enjoy such games as Mah-Jongg, Bunco, golf and tennis. They donate trees through the Trees for Life organization in appreciation for the monthly speakers. They have participated in the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Walk and donate food and personal items to a local homeless shelter.

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF CENTRAL SCOTLAND

[www.awccs.org](http://www.awccs.org)

Situated in Edinburgh and surrounding areas, including Glasgow, the 100 members living in Central Scotland combine American events (a July 4<sup>th</sup> family picnic and a Thanksgiving dinner) with charitable fundraising. Monies raised go to such projects as Trees for All, the Gingerbread House, Action for Sick Children and The Yard.



## WALES

### AMERICAN WOMEN IN SOUTH WALES

[www.awsouthwales.com](http://www.awsouthwales.com)

Formed by a small handful of North American women living in Cardiff who were interested in banding together to promote social contacts, the exchange of information and charitable work, this group now comprises members living throughout South Wales. Its charitable work includes funding to the Ty Hafan Children Hospice and Noah's Ark Appeal, in addition to the Cardiff Women's Aid.



## REGION II

## DENMARK



### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF ARHUS

The Clean up the World information campaign is one of this club's important projects, as it relates information to its members on the environment and being part of the global effort to clean up local communities. By raising funds through the sales of American food products, donations are given to Women's Crisis Shelters in Århus.

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF DENMARK

[www.awcdenmark.org](http://www.awcdenmark.org)

The oldest American women's club in Denmark — founded in 1934 — it joined FAWCO the following year. The monthly newsletter, *The Chronicle*, announces a myriad of activities including a walking group, a quilt and craft group and Spiritual Exploration. Even the long-term residents are represented in 'Prods' — permanent residents of Denmark.



### U.S. WOMEN'S CLUB OF FYN (ODENSE)

[www.uswcf.dk](http://www.uswcf.dk)

The USWCF logo incorporates both the American and Danish flags together with the international symbol for women. The activities of this small club center on all the American holidays including an Easter egg hunt for children. Funds for charity are raised by an annual bake sale of American 'goodies' that are sold in a local shopping mall.





## FINLAND

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB IN FINLAND

[www.awc-fin.org](http://www.awc-fin.org)

FAWCO's most northern member started an innovative activity called 'Remembering Together.' This special interest group was inspired by a guest speaker who emphasized the importance of writing memories for one's children and grandchildren. Many members have been doing this exercise which is called 'backward voyage.'

## NORWAY

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S POTLUCK CLUB

Founded in 1995 by a group of American, British, Canadian, and Norwegian women living in the southern Norwegian city Kristiansand, this club is one of FAWCO's newest members. Besides celebrating the traditional American holidays, many members volunteer in a Women's Crisis Center.

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF OSLO

[www.awcoslo.org](http://www.awcoslo.org)

AWC Oslo is unique in that the majority of the members are married to Norwegians and therefore living in Norway long term. This allows a continuity that is comfortable and offers a secure, knowledgeable group for newcomers. Club members have been asked by the local merchants to help customers carve jack-o-lanterns at Halloween and make valentines in February.



## RUSSIA

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION OF MOSCOW

Founded in 1993 with the onset of the Russian Federation, this club has a membership of about 100 women. Many of the social and informational programs are centered on living in Russia, as in Go Moscow, Borscht & Beyond Cook's Tour and Survival Russian.

## SWEDEN

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF GÖTEBORG

[www.awcgothenburg.com](http://www.awcgothenburg.com)

"We don't live in America — America lives in us." This quote on AWC Göteborg's website describes the philosophy of its membership. The website is an excellent resource information for both members and "anyone who lives in, plans to move to, or simply wants to know more about Sweden and/or the city of Göteborg."



### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF KRISTIANSTAD

Membership in this small club is also a family membership, as it organizes such youth activities as the regular rental of sports facilities, the ordering of magazines as a group, and the publishing of a children's newsletter and music tapes. Other events include a Green Bazaar on Earth Day and a poetry reading on International Women's Day.

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF MALMO

[www.awcmalmo.com](http://www.awcmalmo.com)



AWC Malmö categorizes its activities as yearly, such as a Pumpkin Patch tour, an Easter egg hunt and a 4<sup>th</sup> of July barbecue. Its monthly events include a book group, a cooking club and Mom and Me; seasonal sports are ice skating, nature walks and yoga.

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB IN STOCKHOLM

[www.awcstockholm.org](http://www.awcstockholm.org)

Recently changing its name from AWC in Sweden, this club is the second oldest AWC in the world, having been founded in 1911. It boasts over 400 members and plans just about every activity one can imagine, including a Women in Business Group to support its working members and an annual Gallo wine-tasting fundraiser.



# REGION III

## FRANCE

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S GROUP OF LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON

[www.awglr.org](http://www.awglr.org)



The 100 members of this club live in Montpellier and the surrounding area in the southwest of France known as the Languedoc-Roussillon. The group organizes an effective voter registration program and solicits donations for a local association for battered women. In 2004 it became involved with a project in Sri Lanka called Beruwala Village. When the tidal wave swept over this village in December 2004, FAWCO members from all over the world contributed funds to build a home for the widows and orphans of the twelve fishermen killed in the tsunami.

### AMERICAN CLUB OF LYON

[www.groups.yahoo.com/group/AmClubLyon/](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/AmClubLyon/)

One of the only clubs in FAWCO that admits male members, AC of Lyon is open to all American citizens and their families living in the Rhone-Alps Region, as well as to people of other nationalities who have lived in the USA for at least two years. Its annual Presidents Day reception for VIPS at the City Hall highlights a different US President each year. The club lobbies for more fair treatment of US citizens abroad with regard to taxation; it fought to end the use of a European subcontractor hired by the US Post Office package delivery.



### ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN WIVES OF EUROPEANS

[www.aaweparis.org](http://www.aaweparis.org)



“AAWE is unique in that we are residing in France on a long-term basis. Our spouses are European, we have the right to work and our children to attend French schools. Our concerns on citizenship, bilingualism and dual cultures bring us together. Our need for friendship and the American heritage keep us together.”

## THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S GROUP IN PARIS

[www.awgparis.org](http://www.awgparis.org)

For nearly 50 years AWG raised funds for its scholarship program and supported over 100 French women in completing their graduate studies in the United States. Then, in 1999, the group began to raise funds for *L'Envol pour les enfants Européen's*, an organization that provides a place for critically ill children throughout Europe to participate in a summer camp located in the French countryside.



## REGION IV

### BELGIUM

#### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF ANTWERP

[www.awcantwerp.org](http://www.awcantwerp.org)



Founded in 1929, AWCA lives up to its motto, "may we never be hasty in judgment and always be generous," with a long list of charities that it supports through varied fundraising events. It has founded an AWC Antwerp Alumnae Register via the website and held an 'Antwerp Again' reunion in Chicago in 2004.

#### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF BRUSSELS

[www.awcb.org](http://www.awcb.org)

'The AWCB is one of the few American women's clubs overseas to own its own clubhouse. After many years of meeting in each others' homes and in rented quarters, the members set out in the early 1970s to purchase their own facilities. On the Club's 25th anniversary in 1974, their dream was realized, and only 13 years later, in 1987, the mortgage on the gracious house in the Brussels suburbs was paid for in full.'





## LUXEMBOURG

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF LUXEMBOURG

[www.awcluxembourg.com](http://www.awcluxembourg.com)



This club recently obtained quarters in the Hollerich neighborhood of Luxembourg. From there the members organize events and activities and prepare the monthly newsletter, *The Grapevine*; hints for living in their adopted county, *Living in Luxembourg*; and a cookbook, *A Matter of Taste*.

## THE NETHERLANDS

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF AMSTERDAM

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

A continuing thread of the last 56 years has been contact with the people of Opijen. As explained by one of the members, "Anyone who has been an AWCA member in May — any May since 1949 — knows our special tradition. Historically, it occurred on the American Memorial Day and now on May 4<sup>th</sup>, when Dutch people observe two minutes of silence at 8:00 p.m. to honor those who sacrificed their lives in warring times, so that we may live in peace and freedom. Together with the villagers of Opijnen, we lay flowers at the graves of eight American airmen buried in the churchyard cemetery."



### AMERICAN NETHERLANDS CLUB OF ROTTERDAM (ANCOR)

[www.ancor.fawco.org](http://www.ancor.fawco.org)



This club's new logo represents its international ambiance and its location in the largest port in the world. Its membership is comprised of 50% American citizens, 25 % Dutch and the rest a mixture of all nationalities. Monies received from fundraising events are given to Vrouwen Centrum Rotterdam, a shelter for mistreated women.

## AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF THE HAGUE

[www.awcthehague.org](http://www.awcthehague.org)

This energetic club offers a myriad of activities usually taking place in its own 11-room clubhouse, purchased in 1983. Its library is one of the largest English-language libraries in Holland. If asked, the club would say that its most successful fundraising method is “Whitney and Pamela,” two members who in the last few years have shown extraordinary stamina and talent to raise first 30,000 euros, then 100,000, and lastly 150,000, for Breast Cancer Awareness and Education in the Netherlands.



## REGION V

### AUSTRIA

#### AMERICAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VIENNA

[www.awavienna.com](http://www.awavienna.com)

One of the six founding members of FAWCO, the club has approximately 400 members from 49 different countries. This club fosters talented American students studying music in Vienna by annually awarding the Hannah Adler Music Scholarship, named after one of its founding members.



### GERMANY

#### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF BERLIN

[www.awcberlin.org](http://www.awcberlin.org)

Host to the FAWCO 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, this club was also the host for the first 'official' FAWCO Conference in 1932. Besides publishing *Berlin in your Pocket* for newcomers, this club has always offered many community and charitable services which include hospital visits, a US military widows' tea, and a Christmas party for a children's hospital.







## AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF COLOGNE

[www.awccologne.org](http://www.awccologne.org)

AWC of Cologne does not hold monthly club meetings but, instead, informal get-togethers at various locations in the area. It initiated a program called LAMBS, Learning about Mind, Body & Soul, which plans weekly lectures and discussions on health issues. To earn funds for charity, there is a change bag at each weekly coffee with the motto, 'small change makes big changes.'

## AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF DÜSSELDORF

[www.awcduesseldorf.org](http://www.awcduesseldorf.org)

AWC Düsseldorf publishes several books in its name as well as in cooperation with other German AWC's, such as *Discovering Düsseldorf*, *Day Tripping*, and *The Parent's Guide*. Christmas cards are specially designed each year, fast becoming a collector's item.



## AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF HAMBURG e.V

[www.awchamburg.org](http://www.awchamburg.org)



The well-used FAWCO phrase, "Bloom Where You Are Planted," was created by an AWC Hamburg member and is used as the title of the publication for newcomers. AWC also publishes *Hamburg in your Pocket* and *These Strange German Ways* and sells AWCH stationary and china mugs. A 'guardian angel' group assists newcomers in practical ways.

## AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF THE TAUNUS e.V. (FRANKFURT)

[www.awctaunus.org](http://www.awctaunus.org)

Instead of the traditional Gala Ball, this 500-member club, located in the surrounding areas of Frankfurt known as the Taunus, held a River Cruise as a fundraising event. Besides a cookbook, *Germany a la Carte* and *Recipe Notecards*, AWCT has written *Garbage ABC's* which provides an overview of the sometimes daunting topic of recycling and disposal of household trash.



# REGION VI

## LIECHTENSTEIN

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB IN LIECHTENSTEIN

[www.awcliechtenstein.org](http://www.awcliechtenstein.org)

This 30-member AWC is situated in the Principality of Liechtenstein, a mountainous area tucked between northeast Switzerland and Austria in the Rhine Valley. Of the 160 square kilometers, only 40% is habitable. Appropriately, its newsletter is titled *Borders* and appears monthly. It has also published a cookbook.



## SWITZERLAND

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF BASEL

[www.awcbasel.org](http://www.awcbasel.org)

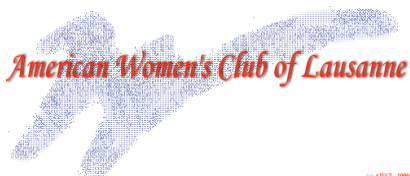


An English high tea with a speaker — ‘Give a Little Piece of your Heart’ — has been a consistent fundraising success for this club as well as its Bridge-a-Rama. Three helpful ‘links’ on its website are Babel Fish, Currency Converter and Other Conversions. The members reach out to the community with a seminar open to all on school choices in the region and a ‘clean-up-in-Basel’ for children.

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF BERN

[www.awcbern.org](http://www.awcbern.org)

For the first time AWC Bern has published its monthly newsletter, *The Facts and Functions*, almost exclusively online, allowing the money saved for other projects. Other ways of earning funds have been through American Food gift basket raffles. Profits from its 50th anniversary cookbook go to a housing project for the poor in Peru.



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### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF LAUSANNE

[www.geocities.com@awclausanne](mailto:www.geocities.com@awclausanne)

This very international club (only 1/3 of its members are American) offers a wide variety of activities, from badminton, vegetarian cooking, and scrabble to cycling and cinema in English. An innovative idea is a Nannies and Au-pair Social Club.



## AMERICAN WOMEN OF TICINO

About 100 members constitute this club, situated just north of the Italian border. Out of 14 submissions, it was the winner of the 2001 FAWCO Club Project Award for \$500. These funds went for new books for Book Nook, an English-language library open to the general public. The club publishes a guidebook, *Living in Ticino*.

## AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF ZÜRICH

[www.awczurich.org](http://www.awczurich.org)

With six weekly sessions each fall, this club's long-standing Living in Zürich program is designed for newcomers of all nationalities to help integrate them into the community. The newsletter, *The Round Robin*, includes an ECO corner each month; a recent workshop was on 'mobbing in schools.'



# REGION VII

## EGYPT

### THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF CAIRO

This 25-year old largely international women's group is one of the newest FAWCO members, bringing with it a new country with "more history, more languages, and more diversity." The association's activities include a Charity Holiday Bazaar with funds going to the Aging and the Elderly, Children, Education and the Prevention of Abuse and Violence.

## MOROCCO

### AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB OF CASABLANCA

[www.casablanca.org](http://www.casablanca.org)



To describe this international club in one word, one would have to say philanthropic. Most of the energy is used at the Annual Christmas Fair and Holiday Bazaar to earn money for a host of needy organizations, such as library books for a center for mentally and physically handicapped children; medicine and supplies to Coeur de Femme, a center for raising awareness and prevention of breast cancer; and hearing aids for three children, in addition to volunteer time at an orphanage.

## AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF RABAT

This second Moroccan club also centers on assistance to the needy, including groups for children with special needs and boys' and girls' orphanages. A newcomers guidebook, *The Great Rabat Cope Book* (or *How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Rabat*), and a *Cooking in Morocco* publication, is the means of funding the philanthropic efforts.



## SPAIN

### Barcelona Women's Network



### BARCELONA WOMEN'S NETWORK

[www.bcnwomensnetwork.com](http://www.bcnwomensnetwork.com)

Starting with just 13 founding members in 1997, this club has grown to over 100 members representing 28 nationalities. Its *Gateway to Barcelona* is a must for all newcomers to the area. Members and others are allowed to exhibit their business cards on the website under the Business Corner.

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF MADRID

[www.awcmadrid.com](http://www.awcmadrid.com)

A clubhouse in the center of Madrid with two employees enables this club to serve lunch daily and maintain a 2000-volume library. A monthly Bring-and-Buy of slightly used items helps to fund the costs of the clubhouse. A bi-lingual Spanish-American cookbook and a wall calendar with photos of Spain taken by members also generate income.



### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF SEVILLE

*Step into Seville*, the guidebook published by this club, helps newcomers settle in easily and enables the club to give funding to *Sonrisa de un Nino* and *Organato de Rochelambert El Buen Pastor*. A monthly Ladies Night Out is a popular activity.



# REGION VIII

## GREECE

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION OF GREECE

[www.awog.gr](http://www.awog.gr)

'AWay O Giving' has been adopted as a purpose of this almost 60-year old club, as Community Services is the heart of the organization. Activities and projects are both numerous and diversified to include education, health and social welfare for the people in Greece, particularly those in great need."



## ITALY

### INTERNATIONAL CLUB OF BARI

Located in the small town of Bari in southern Italy, the 17 members of this club describe themselves as follows: "We are a small club. Our social events, club activities and philanthropic activities are decided at each meeting. Our club activities change very often and our yearly donation is different almost every year."

### THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE OF FLORENCE (O.N.L.U.S.)

[www.ailoflorence.org](http://www.ailoflorence.org)



Founded in 1975 by a small group of American women, this club has grown to well over 200 members and, in 1998, achieved the Italian ONLUS legal status, which made it a non-profit organization for social usefulness. Special activities which are organized include Meet and Eat with Italians (meant for tourists visiting Florence), a job bank and a bilingual dessert cookbook, *La Dolce Vita*.

### AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB OF GENOA

[www.aiwcgenoa.fawco.org](http://www.aiwcgenoa.fawco.org)

Joining in 1976, AIWC was FAWCO's first associate member club, and an active one. It hosted the Interim Conference in Genoa in 1992 to coincide with the 400-year celebration of Christopher Columbus's discovery of America. The website includes information about the Ligurian coast of Italy as well as a helpful guide named *A Day in Genoa*.



## BENVENUTO CLUB OF MILAN

[www.benvenutomilano.net](http://www.benvenutomilano.net)

This association of over 400 women from 40 different countries serves the entire international community of Milan. Within the organization are two sub-groups, Americans in Milan (AIM) and Orientals Abroad (OA). The AIM group is concerned in sharing information about the USA to members within the club.



## AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF NAPLES

Although there are only 20 members in this club they organize many activities, including tours in and around the city of Naples, a welcome coffee with vendors in September, a Thanksgiving celebration and, occasionally, seminars. Philanthropic activities include giving funds to the Episcopal/Anglican Church.

## AMERICAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF ROME

[www.awar.org](http://www.awar.org)



Celebrating its half-century birthday in 2005, this 300-member club offers a monthly Fact Forum on facets of the city, a hiking group, a Supper Club (restaurant selected via email), and the Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild, which stitches friendship quilts to benefit community services. AWAR annually presents a Peace through Knowledge award to American students who have achieved distinction in the study of Italian culture and language at each of the four international high schools in Rome.

## AMERICAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB OF TORINO

To bring health issues to the forefront, this club concentrates on one health subject per year, publishing pertinent information in the monthly bulletin. It has a *Welcome to Torino Handbook* and gave funds recently for a ski chair to Sports di Pui, an organization which helps young children with disabilities to participate in winter sports.





# REGION IX

## KUWAIT

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF KUWAIT

Due to the security situation since the Gulf War of 1990, this club has struggled with difficult conditions at times. Happily, it has been able to hold the annual Charity Bazaar twelve out of the last fourteen years. Funds raised have been given to scholarship and educational awards, as well as the Bosnian Children's Relief Fund. The *AWL Yearbook* gives a retrospective look at the league, its members, activities and volunteer work during the last century.

## LEBANON



### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF LEBANON

Founded on Washington's Birthday in 1953, this club supports some 15 charities in any given year. In its own words, "because of the religious and cultural diversity within this small county, we make a concerted effort to distribute our donated goods and services across the entire religious and regional spectrum of Lebanon." These are as diverse as "heating oil to an isolated mountain village school, a TV/VCR and educational videos to a woman's prison and bed sheets for a home for the elderly."

## SAUDI ARABIA

### AMERICAN WOMEN OF THE EASTERN PROVINCE

This young 20-member club joined FAWCO as soon as it was founded in 1993. It holds semi-monthly meetings and has published a *Camel Country Cookbook*. With the American Business Association, it has sponsored the AWEP/ABA Golf Tournament for the last five years, and holds an annual dinner dance and raffle.



## KENYA

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF KENYA

[www.awakenya.org](http://www.awakenya.org)

Via their monthly newsletter, *Karibu*, this international group holds an annual Valentine's Gala, a Murder Mystery Dinner and Christmas Bazaar. Philanthropic activities include time and funds donated to a hospital program for the visually impaired, funds to rebuild a primary school and monthly donations of food staples to needy people. A successful fundraiser was a Wine, Cheese and Jazz evening.

## REGION X

## COLUMBIA

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF BOGOTA

[www.awcbogota.org](http://www.awcbogota.org)

With the only bilingual website within the FAWCO network, this club symbolizes its outreach to the local community in Bogotá. A very active Social Services group oversees the distribution of funds raised by the club through a Las Vegas Night, bingo and an annual Christmas Bazaar held at the US Embassy Residence. It sells a cookbook, *Bogotá Bounty Cookbook*.

## NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

### THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF CURAÇAO

[www.awc-curaçao.com](http://www.awc-curaçao.com)

Located in the southern part of the Caribbean, this club thanks all the local women and dignitaries who have helped it achieve its philanthropic goals by supporting the annual International Coffee. The club has published two cookbooks, *AWC of Curaçao's Favourite Recipes* and *The All American Bake Book*, and *How to Survive in Paradise*, a self-help guide to Curaçao.



## URUGUAY

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF MONTEVIDEO

[www.uruguay.usaembassy.gov/awc.htm](http://www.uruguay.usaembassy.gov/awc.htm)

Founded in 1917, the AWC of Montevideo is one of FAWCO's newest members. It is closely associated with the US Embassy and organizes many social service projects with a special emphasis on helping Uruguayan women who are victims of domestic violence. The bilingual cookbook is most beneficial to its members.

## WEST INDIES

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Monthly meetings cover a wide range of topics with an emphasis on learning more about this twin island state. Proceeds from a cocktail party with auction and jumble sale went to Christmas hampers for shut-ins and a scholarship program for Antiguan women, selecting women in health sciences.

# REGION XI

## AUSTRALIA

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S AUXILIARY TO THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, MELBOURNE

[www.awamelbourne.org](http://www.awamelbourne.org)

As an auxiliary of the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) in Melbourne, all funds raised go directly to the RCH to purchase equipment. This auxiliary, although formed the same year as FAWCO in 1931, did not become a member until 2000. They have 150 members and publish a cookbook and monthly magazine entitled, *AWAre*.



### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF PERTH

[www.awcperth.org](http://www.awcperth.org)

Founded in the 1960s, this club is extremely active, especially with American (holiday) activities for its 100 members — a jumble fair, a craft fair, and evening and low-cost events. One way it raises funds is to offer services from members to other members.



## THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SYDNEY

[www.americansociety.com.au](http://www.americansociety.com.au)

The 200-member club publishes a list of activities in its monthly publication, the *Southern Eagle*. A monthly mixer and Christmas cocktails at the Consul General's Residence are some of the social activities and, via various raffles, donations are given to children's activities in Sydney.



## CHINA



### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF SHANGHAI

This young club was founded in 1996 and joined FAWCO in 2003. Its 200 members have an active book club and special weekly summer activities called Shanghai Summer Tai Tai's.

## INDIA

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF BOMBAY (MUMBAI)

[www.awcbombay.com](http://www.awcbombay.com)

AWC of Bombay is an intimate group which provides a network of friendship and support with the purpose to improve its members' stay in India. The meetings and activities are very casual and relaxed, and once a month there is a joint meeting with a sister club, Mumbai Connexions.



## KOREA



### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF KOREA

[Www. awckorea.org](http://www.awckorea.org)

This 200-member club describes itself on its website as follows: "It doesn't take long for most Americans to realize that Kansas and Korea are more than slightly different. Most of us flourish, taking a constructive attitude toward that difference, and learning to cope with things Korean. We find that by embracing the differences (perhaps not always liking them, but at least willing to experience them) we can find wonderful opportunities for growth and happiness." In addition to a monthly newsletter for members, the club publishes a quarterly glossy magazine, *Airang*, which is sold on the open market, and operates, on a daily basis, a thrift shop, Second Hand Rose.

## NEW ZEALAND

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF AUCKLAND

[www.usaembassy.org.nz/usservices/usnz\\_associations](http://www.usaembassy.org.nz/usservices/usnz_associations)

A ladies luncheon held in March 1996 signaled the beginning of this club. The members describe themselves as some war brides married to GIs, some company transfers and some married to Kiwi's, all ranging in age from twenty to eighty. Joining FAWCO in 2005, this is FAWCO's newest member in Asia.

## PHILIPPINES



### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF THE PHILIPPINES

[www.awcphilippines.org](http://www.awcphilippines.org)

What do our members “have in common, other than a US passport? We have a desire to build a community — people you can contact for assistance, friends to share experiences with, and workers toward the common goal of making the Philippines a better place to live for all that are here.”

## THAILAND

### AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF THAILAND

[awcthailand.org](http://awcthailand.org)

Located in the capital city of Bangkok, this 250-member club holds a Holiday Ball as its biggest fundraiser. Publications include the Asian arts and culture magazine, *Savaddi*, which is published quarterly and staffed entirely by volunteer members, and a cookbook, *Even More Farang Favorites*. An innovative idea is a former member database that is maintained via their website.



Club Name	Country	Joined	Resigned	Rejoined
<b>Århus AWC</b>	<b>Denmark</b>	<b>1992-</b>		
<b>Aberdeen AWA</b>	<b>Scotland</b>	<b>1991-</b>		
Americans in Alsace	France	1993	2004	
Amman AWC	Jordan	1984	1985	
<b>Amsterdam AWC</b>	<b>The Netherlands</b>	<b>1971-</b>		
<b>Antigua &amp; Barbuda AWC</b>	<b>Caribbean</b>	<b>1992-</b>		
<b>Antwerp AWC</b>	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>1931</b>	<b>1960</b>	<b>1978-</b>
Athens AHA	Greece	1952	1958	
<b>Auckland AWC</b>	<b>New Zealand</b>	1991	1994	<b>2005-</b>
Bahamas AWC	Caribbean	1993	1996	'00-'02
Barbados AWC	Caribbean	1970	1976	
<b>Barcelona Women's Network</b>	<b>Spain</b>	<b>1998-</b>		
Barcelona AWC	Spain	1958	1970	
<b>Bari IWC</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>1992-</b>		
<b>Basel AWC</b>	<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>1952</b>	1967	1968
Beirut AWC	Lebanon	1954	1970	
Belgrade ALC	Yugoslavia	1933	1935	
<b>Berkshire &amp; Surrey AW</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>1995-</b>		
<b>Berlin AWC</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>1931</b>	<b>1954</b>	<b>1994-</b>
<b>Bern AWC</b>	<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>1986-</b>		
<b>Bogotá AWC</b>	<b>Columbia</b>	<b>2004-</b>		
<b>Bombay AWC (Mumbai)</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>1954</b>	<b>1962</b>	<b>2000-</b>
Bonn AWG	Germany	1986	1988	
Bratislava IWC	Slovakia	1993	1996	
<b>Bristol AWA</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>2002-</b>		
<b>Brussels AWC</b>	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>1949-</b>		
Budapest AWA	Hungary	1993	1995	
<b>Cairo Women's Association</b>	<b>Egypt</b>	<b>2004-</b>		
<b>CA - Southern England</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>1998-</b>		
<b>Casablanca AIWC</b>	<b>Morocco</b>	<b>1977-</b>		
<b>Central Scotland AWC *</b>	<b>Scotland</b>	<b>1993-</b>		
Chile AAC	Chile	1982	1988	
<b>Chilterns AWC</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>1993-</b>		
<b>Cologne AWC</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>1970-</b>		
Costa del Sol AC	Spain	1993	1995	
Cote d'Azur AIC **	France	1982	1997	
<b>Curacao AWC</b>	<b>Netherlands Antilles</b>	<b>1989-</b>		
<b>Denmark AWC (Copenhagen)</b>	<b>Denmark</b>	<b>1935-</b>		
<b>Dublin AWC</b>	<b>Ireland</b>	<b>1980-</b>		
<b>Düsseldorf AWC</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>1970-</b>		
<b>Eastern Province AW***</b>	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	<b>1954</b>	<b>1970</b>	<b>1995-</b>
FAWCO Alumnae (FAUSA)****	United States	2000	2003	
<b>Finland AWC</b>	Finland	2001-		
<b>Florence AILO</b>	Italy	1976-		
Frankfurt AWC	Germany	1962	1964	
<b>Fyn USWC</b>	<b>Denmark</b>	<b>1985-</b>		



<b>Genoa AIWC</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>1975-</b>		
<b>Göthenburg AWC</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>1987-</b>		
Graz IWA	Austria	1996	2002	
<b>Greece AWO</b>	<b>Greece</b>	1952	1968	<b>1989-</b>
<b>Hamburg AWC</b>	<b>Germany</b>	1935	1939	<b>1976-</b>
<b>Hertfordshire AC</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>2005-</b>		
<b>Ireland AAW</b>	<b>Ireland</b>	<b>1992-</b>		
<b>Kenya AWA</b>	<b>Kenya</b>	<b>1992-</b>		
<b>Korea AWC</b>	<b>Korea</b>	<b>1987-</b>		
<b>Kristiansand AWPC</b>	<b>Norway</b>	<b>2005-</b>		
<b>Kristianstad AWC</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>1991-</b>		
<b>Kuwait AWL</b>	<b>Kuwait</b>	<b>1980-</b>		
<b>Languedoc-Roussillon AWG</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>1987-</b>		
<b>Lausanne AWC</b>	<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>2001-</b>		
<b>Lebanon AWC</b>	<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>2000-</b>		
Liberia AWL	Liberia	1987	1987	
<b>Liechtenstein AWC</b>	<b>Liechtenstein</b>	<b>1994-</b>		
<b>London AWC</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>1931-</b>		
<b>Luxembourg AWC</b>	<b>Luxembourg</b>	1962	1975	<b>1985-</b>
<b>Lyon AC</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>1996-</b>		
<b>Madrid AWC</b>	<b>Spain</b>	<b>1956-</b>		
<b>Malmö AWC</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>1999-</b>		
Maracaibo AWC	Venezuela	1998	2000	
<b>Melbourne AWARCH</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>2000-</b>		
<b>Milan - Benvenuto Club</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>1978-</b>		
<b>Montevideo AWC</b>	<b>Uruguay</b>	<b>2005-</b>		
<b>Moscow AWO</b>	<b>Russia</b>	<b>1996-</b>		
<b>Naples AWC</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>1972-</b>		
New Delhi AWA	India	2001	2002	
New Delhi AWC	India	1952	1954	
<b>North American Connection</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>1998-</b>		
Oakville AWC	Ontario, Canada	1992	1994	
<b>Oslo AWC</b>	<b>Norway</b>	<b>1949-</b>		
Palermo Americans Abroad	Italy	1998	2004	
<b>Paris AAWE</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>1966-</b>		
Paris AWC	France	1931-	disbanded	
<b>Paris AWG</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>1953-</b>		
<b>Perth AWC</b>	<b>Australia</b>	1966	1976	<b>1982-</b>
<b>Philippines AWC</b>	<b>Philippines</b>	<b>1999-</b>		
Portugal IW (Lisbon)	Portugal	1992	1998	
<b>Rabat AIWA</b>	<b>Morocco</b>	<b>1996-</b>		
<b>Rome AWA</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>1958-</b>		
<b>Rotterdam ANCOR</b>	<b>The Netherlands</b>	<b>1976-</b>		
Salonika AWC	Greece	1958	1968	
Salzburg AIWC AAS	Austria	1989	2003	
Salzburg WIN	Austria	2000	2001	
<b>Seville AWC</b>	<b>Spain</b>	1958	1970	<b>2001-</b>
<b>Shanghai AWC</b>	<b>China</b>	<b>2000-</b>		
South Australia AWA (Adelaide)	Australia	1993	1994	

<b>South Wales AW</b>	<b>Wales</b>	<b>1997-</b>		
<b>Stockholm AWC*****</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>2001-</b>		
<b>Surrey AWA</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>1985-</b>		
<b>Sydney American Society*****</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>1998-</b>		
Teheran AWC	Iran	1974	1976	
<b>Thailand AWC</b>	<b>Thailand</b>	<b>1974-</b>		
<b>Thames Valley AWC</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>2003-</b>		
<b>The Hague AWC</b>	<b>The Netherlands</b>	1931	1966	<b>1981-</b>
<b>The Taunus AWC (Frankfurt area)</b>	<b>Germany</b>	1976	1978	<b>1990-</b>
<b>Ticino AW*****</b>	<b>Switzerland</b>	1983	1990	<b>1992-</b>
<b>Torino IWC</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>1978-</b>		
Ulster AWC	Northern Ireland	1992	2002	
Valencia AWC	Venezuela	1989	1990	
Vercelli BIC	Italy	1987	2002	
<b>Vienna AWA</b>	<b>Austria</b>	1931	1939	<b>1987 -</b>
Warsaw - American Friends	Poland	1989	2002	
Zaragoza AWC	Yugoslavia	1962	1964	
<b>Zürich AWC</b>	<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>1931-</b>		

Notes to List: **Bolded** Clubs are current members (as of November 2005)

**AWC of London** and **AWC of Zürich** are the only clubs that have been continuous members of FAWCO, i.e. since 1931

#### **Growth in Membership:**

2005 – 78 clubs

2001 – 79 clubs

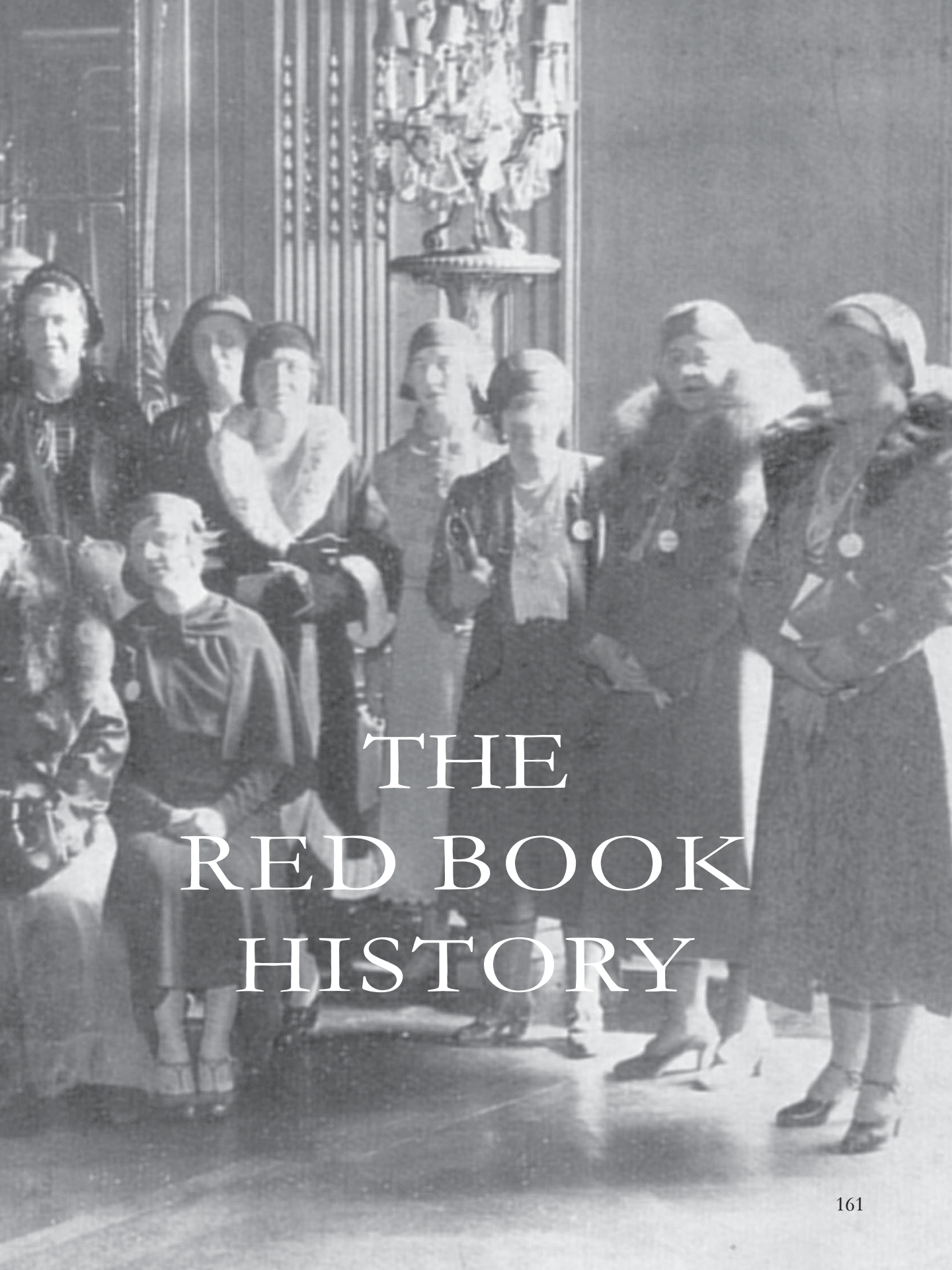
1991— 43 clubs

1981— 23 clubs

- \* formerly AWC Edinburgh
- \*\* formerly AWHE Cannes
- \*\*\* formerly named AWC Abqaiq, AWC Dhahran, AWC Ras Tanura
- \*\*\*\* became the Alumnae Association of FAWCO as of 2003
- \*\*\*\*\* formerly named AWC of Sweden
- \*\*\*\*\* AW Sydney joined with American Society in 2002
- \*\*\*\*\* formerly AWC of Lugano







# THE RED BOOK HISTORY

## LONDON 1931

The Federation of American Women's Clubs in Europe that came into being in the spring of 1931 evolved later into The Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas, Inc., or FAWCO.

The growing threat of another war in Europe was one of the many social and political circumstances which contributed to the Federation's emergence. Like all ideas, it started with a dream put into reality through practical application by the right person at the right time. Credit for actual creation of the organization goes to American-born Caroline Curtis Brown who was president of the American Women's Club in London. It was her conviction that enlightened women, working cooperatively throughout the world, could do much to help achieve permanent international peace, and that this was especially true of American women living abroad who had acquired special experience in living in foreign lands among foreign people and foreign customs. Their American clubs provided not only a home away from home but, she felt, also served to promote sympathetic awareness of the needs and problems in countries other than the United States.

An idealist who possessed practical driving energy, Mrs. Curtis Brown had made her own London club outstanding with a membership of some 1500 people, a magnificent clubhouse and a thriving community service program. With equal dedication, she worked to bring the Federation into being.

Early in 1931, supported by her colleagues and encouraged by other American women's club leaders in Europe, especially the Berlin club president, Mrs. Curtis Brown invited some ten of the existing European clubs to send representatives to London to discuss her Federation concept: an association of American women's clubs to work towards international goodwill and the preservation of world peace, to help one another solve problems common to them all and to aid women whose citizenship rights were being ignored or restricted.

Clubs in Antwerp, Berlin, The Hague, Paris, Vienna and Zürich accepted her invitation with enthusiasm. A preliminary planning conference met in the London clubhouse in May 1931. Out of this meeting, attended also by a number of distinguished foreign guests and well reported by the press, came the determination to establish some form of organization. Berlin was chosen as the site for a working conference dedicated to bringing it into being.

## I CONFERENCE BERLIN 1932

Exactly one year later, in May 1932, representatives from the clubs of Antwerp, Berlin, The Hague, London, Paris, Vienna, and Zürich, meeting in Berlin, brought The Federation of American Women's Clubs in Europe into being, electing Mrs. Curtis Brown as its first president and establishing two years as the term for all its officers, with the Headquarters address that of each president. The Federation's Charter specifically stated as its primary objective the furtherance of international peace. It also guaranteed the autonomy of each member club with

regard to its internal operations. An annual meeting was established with a different club to act as Conference host each year. In this early period, the Federation was mainly concerned with 'big' issues: furtherance of international peace (with the growth of totalitarianism in Europe in the background), the Equal Rights Bill in the United States and citizenship status for American women married to foreigners. The more immediate issues concerned the education of American children in Europe and a scholarship program.

## II CONFERENCE VIENNA 1933

Vienna hosted the 1933 Conference during which an ugly demonstration by Hitler's military forces and a demonstration by the Austrian Landwehr created an atmosphere of tension that emphasized the importance of the Conference's themes: disarmament and the need to educate children to think tolerantly and to develop an international outlook.

The American Literary Club of Belgrade joined the Federation during this Conference. With a membership of only 14, it established the inclusion of small clubs — such giants as London had 1400 members and Paris, 1300 — in taking part in promoting the Federation's objectives.

## III CONFERENCE PARIS 1934

In 1934 representatives of the eight member clubs convened in Paris. Ways to maintain peace again dominated their discussions. It was agreed that, in order to obtain world harmony, the education of peace-loving attitudes in children was essential and required unbiased history books. Birth control was discussed and emphatically advocated.

Conference headquarters was the lovely Paris clubhouse on Rue Boissière. Louise Connett of Paris was elected as the Federation's second president.

## IV CONFERENCE THE HAGUE 1935

This Conference at the Hotel des Indes marked a definite advance in the Federation's activities. Three new members, Denmark, Hamburg and Oslo, had joined, bringing the membership to eleven.

Adherence to the World Court of Justice was strongly urged as a means for strengthening machinery to obtain peace.

Again arms reduction was advocated, and objections were voiced against the then common practice of military training for the young.

The problem of the citizenship status of American women married to foreigners was introduced and its often-ambiguous character emphasized.



The publication by Scribner in 1935 of James Truslow Adams's history for American children, *Record of America*, was hailed as an achievement as the Federation felt it had played an important part in bringing about "this commendably unbiased version of American history."

1935 saw the birth of the Federation's publication, *The Bulletin*, a quarterly which immediately met approval for its high literary standards and stimulating content. To finance it, a temporary head tax was introduced during the Conference as the Federation's dues were not sufficient to cover operating expenses adequately.

As the Conference closed, Mrs. Gasque of London offered to donate \$1,000 a year to the Federation's scholarship fund. This was continued for two years only, but made it possible to launch two promising American candidates on their studies in Europe. Between the 1935 and 1936 Conferences the name was changed to The Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas in order to permit clubs beyond the boundaries of Europe to become members.

## V CONFERENCE COPENHAGEN 1936

Hosted by a two-year-old member club at the Phoenix Hotel, this Danish Conference was rated most successful. Credit was attributed in large part to the stimulating presence of the Honorable Ruth Bryan Owen, the American Ambassador to Denmark.

The Equal Rights Bill and the problem of education for American children residing in Europe were the principal topics of discussion.

The Federation elected a member of the London Club, Mrs. James B. Mennell, as president for the ensuing two-year term.

1936 was a bad year for the Federation. The international scene had become extremely somber, precipitating the return of many Americans to the United States. As numbers decreased, so did club memberships. Even the Paris club was forced to close its splendid clubhouse.

## VI CONFERENCE ZÜRICH 1937

The Federation's sixth Conference at the Hotel Baur au Lac in Zürich was marked by the adoption of the acronym FAWCO.

In addition to discussing the dilemma of the stateless woman, resulting sometimes from an American's marriage to a foreign citizen, attention was drawn to FAWCO's past achievements. President Connett summarized them: the ongoing scholarship program, the Truslow Adams history book, the excellent quarterly *Bulletin* and other intangible benefits, particularly warm, broadening friendships crossing national boundaries.

Documentary evidence of these achievements was presented in meticulously compiled scrapbooks. The work of Mrs. Seavern of London, these beautifully bound records of FAWCO's early history are today one of the Federation's highly valued assets.

## VII CONFERENCE HAMBURG 1938

This was a critical year and The Hague, Paris and Vienna were unable to send delegates. For those who did attend it was a memorable experience, not all of it happy to recall.

German officialdom offered sumptuous entertainment in support of the Hamburg club's efforts. Included were numerous specially arranged outings, theater and opera performances and excursions to Berlin and Potsdam. The FAWCO delegates found themselves ill at ease despite such lavish hospitality. Militarism was blatantly displayed. "Heil Hitler" greetings and terrifying rumors were rampant. The general conformity in the name of efficiency was oppressive and dispiriting.

The Conference itself had cheering aspects. The scholarship program was continuing to hold its own through generous donations from individual club members. Child-labor regulations, the Equal Rights Bill, and the education of American children abroad were discussed. A suggestion that every FAWCO club hold a yearly Peace Luncheon, perhaps to coincide with November 11th memorial services, was presented.

Mary Volkmann of Zürich, the new president, stimulated the delegates with her acceptance speech which emphasized the social responsibilities of Americans living in foreign lands.

## VIII CONFERENCE LONDON 1939

Despite mounting international tensions, FAWCO managed to hold its scheduled Conference in the London clubhouse. Ten clubs participated.

A highlight of the Conference was a report about a successful lecture tour throughout the United States by Helen Hiatt, FAWCO's second scholarship candidate. The suggestion that a similar scholarship sometimes be given to a European for study in the United States was not generally supported.

The problem of indigent and helpless Americans stranded abroad was discussed. It was recommended that the American government provide its Consulates with funds for such emergencies.

Stockholm was scheduled to host the FAWCO Conference in 1940 and Oslo in 1941. With the declaration of war, all plans had to be abandoned. (Ed. Note: As Oslo was considered too much like Stockholm — as well as far from the rest of Europe—Mrs. Morgenstjerne, AWC Oslo and the Federation vice president, suggested on September 15, 1939, 13 days after war was declared, that perhaps Berlin could host the Conference in 1941. In the correspondence between the officers at this time, there is no reference to the impending war except for a remark on September 10th, "what a peaceful world we live in!")

## THE WAR YEARS

FAWCO President Volkmann left Switzerland for the United States in the summer of 1939, entrusting the Federation's affairs to Vice President Morgenstierne. Current documentary material was sent to Oslo including, it appears, the detailed minutes of the 1939 London Conference.

At that time no one could have foreseen the Nazi occupation of Norway and, despite efforts since the war, no trace of this FAWCO material has been found. Mrs. Morgenstierne just managed to escape being deported during the occupation and died of leukemia on December 26, 1946. The great bulk of FAWCO's archives had fortunately been kept in London where, happily, they escaped destruction. What is known of the 1939 conference was contained in a condensed version of the conference minutes among the Zürich files, together with the *Bulletin* report.

The Zürich club continued to be active, as Switzerland was not at war, especially in helping the Red Cross and later the International Red Cross in prisoner-of-war work. After 1943, a large number of American flyers landed or parachuted from disabled planes; AWCZ provided kits for them. A few of the escapees were helped across the border by Americans living in Switzerland.

From 1939 until well after the war's end, FAWCO endured a decade of darkness. The war years passed slowly and fearfully, especially for those forced to remain under Nazi rule. Despite occupation of their countries, the clubs in Copenhagen, The Hague and Oslo managed to maintain a sort of identity. Meetings were held in secret; club moneys were taken out of banks and entrusted to individual members. Club records became a hazard and, for the most part, were destroyed.

Four years after the war ended, Mary Briner of the Zürich club, assisted by Mrs. Blattner, opened correspondence with those FAWCO clubs surviving the war and with newly-established American women's clubs interested in international activities.

## THE POSTWAR ERA

### IX CONFERENCE COPENHAGEN 1949

Copenhagen hosted the first postwar conference at the Codan Hotel in October 1949. Eight clubs accepted membership in FAWCO but only six were able to send delegates: Berlin, Brussels (a newly-organized club), Copenhagen, Oslo, Stockholm, and Zürich; Antwerp and London were unable to do so. What this small group lacked in numbers, however, was more than made up for by abundant vitality. (Ed. Note: After the war the Berlin club was open only to wives of American officers and women connected to the military government. The Conference delegates decided to accept this group as a continuation of the old pre-war club.)

Both old and new problems were faced: how to prevent another world war; how to maintain



the precarious peace. Arms limitation was urged as well as measures to prevent the spread of communism and fascism.

Socialized medicine, recently established in Denmark, and the unfavorable criticism of it from American quarters, was discussed, as well as the problem of double taxation for Americans living abroad.

The Conference urged the clubs to focus on a more international perspective and to foster friendship with other clubs in their host countries.

In 1949, finances were a primary problem. FAWCO's prewar assets, some \$460 including scholarship funds, were frozen in Barclay's Bank in London. The Federation's membership dues were minimal at the time with little hope for any substantial increase in the immediate future. As a temporary measure, the voluntary dollar fund was reintroduced whereby individuals could donate to FAWCO. This system was first used in 1936 to implement the scholarship fund.

For the sake of economy, no formal publication for interclub communication was undertaken. Instead, a Round Robin exchange of newsletters between all the FAWCO clubs was instituted until finances would permit something better.

FAWCO conferences were re-scheduled to meet biennially instead of yearly, shortage of funds being the determining reason.

Mary Briner of Zürich was elected president for the two ensuing years. The next conference was scheduled for Stockholm in 1951.

In 1950 Mrs. Briner was urged by the president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in the United States to invite clubs of other nationalities to join FAWCO and make the Federation truly international; the idea was rejected.

## X CONFERENCE STOCKHOLM 1951

The Conference took place at the Grand Hotel. The Athens club had joined, bringing the Federation membership up to nine.

The financial situation was given top priority. Barclay's Bank still refused to release the prewar funds. Again the voluntary dollar fund was suggested, but rejected. Instead, FAWCO dues were raised from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per club per year (before the war they had been \$10.). Delegate fees were introduced and fixed at \$2.00, the money to go toward the Conference expenses of the host club.

Club problems in general were also discussed at length: money-raising projects, libraries, club rooms, social programs, children's education and scholarships. Hope was expressed that FAWCO itself might soon be in a financial position to re-institute its scholarship program

As a way of maintaining close contact with club women in the United States, it was recommended that individual clubs take out membership in both the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the National Council of Women of the United States. Since a publication was still not possible, *The Federation News Exchange* was introduced. It was an improvement on the

Round Robin letters in that the material of individual clubs was assembled at a central point and then redistributed.

Inez Hoyer of Oslo was elected president and Brussels chosen to host the 1953 Conference.

## XI CONFERENCE BRUSSELS 1953

Despite FAWCO's financial insecurity, its membership had increased to fifteen when the Conference convened in Brussels at the Hotel Gallia & Britannique. This was a particularly forceful Conference; great optimism prevailed at the meetings despite the as yet unsolved financial problems. They were given a slight boost by raising membership dues to \$10 per club.

The Brussels club gave an interesting report about its own special fund-raising project: *Hints for Living in Brussels*, a club-edited booklet, had not only won much praise but also provided a steady source of income for the club.

At this time members voted to re-establish the FAWCO *Bulletin* on a modest scale. Two issues were to be printed each year. Member clubs were urged to assist in its financing by obtaining advertising for it. It was agreed that FAWCO should work co-operatively with other interested groups to achieve absentee-voting privileges for US citizens residing abroad. As the status of American women married to foreign nationals was still ambiguous in many countries, further study of their problems was urged.

The fact that many FAWCO clubs raised substantial sums each year for scholarship purposes was reported at the Brussels Conference and warmly applauded. Marge Ganseman of Brussels was elected president and Zürich chosen as the site of the 1955 Conference.

## XII CONFERENCE ZÜRICH 1955

Once again delegates met at the Hotel Baur au Lac. The president stressed the widespread dedication of FAWCO clubs to welfare projects: the combined philanthropic contributions exceeded \$25,000 yearly.

FAWCO clubs numbered sixteen, with four new non-European clubs: Abqaiq, Beirut, Bombay and Ras Tanura (Saudi Arabia). With growing FAWCO membership, keeping in touch and learning from each other became even more important. Mrs. Ganseman urged that FAWCO members regularly exchange their publications and provide the *Bulletin* with a yearly summary of their activities.

It was reported that Barclay's Bank had finally released the Federation's pre-war funds and that they were deposited in a Zürich bank and earmarked for scholarship aid. This good news was added to when Patricia Moore, Dhahran's representative, announced that her club wished to donate profits from cookbook sales to FAWCO's scholarship fund. The two amounts totaled some \$900 which was to be donated to the Carrie Chapman Catt Memorial Fund to be

used at the Fund's discretion. Carmela Renner, the African widow of a doctor, was awarded the scholarship money and used it to great advantage for social work in Sierra Leone.

The question of absentee voting in American elections aroused great interest at the Zürich Conference. A special Citizenship Committee was appointed to work on this project and to keep members informed of its progress.

It was agreed that FAWCO should undertake a fund-raising venture, a FAWCO cookbook. Recipes were to be provided by members of individual clubs so as to include a great variety of national dishes.

Patricia Moore of Dhahran was elected president and Athens chosen as the site of the next Conference.

### XIII CONFERENCE ATHENS 1957

At this Conference, held at the Hotel Grand Bretagne and the Y.W.C.A., two member clubs — the American Women's Organization of Greece and the Hellenic-American Women's Club — jointly served as hostesses. For the first time an observer (from Madrid) attended a conference, establishing a precedent of inviting observers from non-FAWCO clubs.

It was reported that the sales of the FAWCO *International Cookbook* were very encouraging.

There was an appeal for help in obtaining advertising for the *Bulletin*. Delegates decided to enlarge the format to help attract advertisers, stipulating that the deficit incurred not exceed \$500.

A Mutual Aid project was put into effective operation when the Conference delegates allocated \$200 of Federation funds to be used to aid victims of the calamitous Thessaly earthquake. A number of FAWCO clubs also made donations, bringing the combined contribution to around \$900.

Absentee voting in US elections was again on the agenda, as well as the matter of the preservation and storage of FAWCO's archives. Recommendations included bookbinding of conference minutes and a metal locker for safe storage.

Club programs were discussed, also program planning, club publications, and sponsorship of teenage groups.

To clarify the position of the FAWCO representative, delegates urged that she should be a member of the club's executive committee, but not an officer of her club, lest she be faced with conflicting duties.

President Moore reported on her extensive travels during her administration, considering personal contact a means of vitalizing the Federation.

The highlight of the social program was an audience with Queen Frederica of Greece. The Conference elected Gertrude de Gallaix of Paris the new president and chose Paris as the next Conference site.



## GROWTH IN STATURE

This was a period of looking outward. While avoiding political issues, FAWCO concerned itself with problems of individual, cultural, educational and welfare activities, at the same time affiliating itself with international organizations and women's groups. In addition to continued interest in citizenship rights and dual-nationality problems, attention was turned to the changing pattern of family life, the generation gap and intra-club help and cooperation.

A Federation organ, *FAWCO Review*, was started, and The FAWCO Foundation (the fundraising sister organization) established. Many ideas, inspired by one club, were picked up by FAWCO as a whole, and then in turn taken up by other clubs. Some of them, such as the adoption of the Peace through Knowledge plan, the exchange of local bulletins and the acceptance of associate members in clubs, became part of almost every FAWCO club. Members of the various FAWCO clubs who faced a transfer to another city saw their way eased by an introductory letter to the new club.

New, prestigious and large clubs joined the Federation.

## XIV CONFERENCE PARIS 1959

The 14th Conference of the Federation took place at the Grand Hotel in Paris in May. Of the eighteen member clubs only thirteen were able to send representatives.

Fundraising was discussed at length, since financing the Federation and the publication of the *FAWCO Review* were difficult. Volume II of FAWCO's *International Cookbook* was on sale and proving profitable, and a new project proposed by AWC of Denmark was decided on for profit-making, a hand-sized reminder book called *Jot and Blot*.

The Citizenship Committee reported its conviction that the only viable solution to the problem of absentee voting was establishing uniform State voting qualifications. Such uniformity could be brought about only within the USA, and the League of Women Voters was working on this program.

The most important discussions at this Conference concerned scholarship awards. AWG Paris attached great value to scholarships; they were the club's only welfare project and upwards of \$3,000 was awarded each year. It was pointed out by one of the speakers, Dr. Dorothy Leet of the American Education Center of Paris, that one approach to choosing scholarship candidates would be through the Fulbright organization, adding that a member of the local club might profitably serve on the Fulbright Committee of her host country.

David Schonbrun, CBS Paris Chief, was among the Conference's memorable speakers. He envisaged a new role for a united Europe of 160 million people as a third major power and peace-keeper in a troubled world. Ruth St. John of The Hague was elected president for the next two years and AWC The Hague offered to host the 1961 Conference.

## INTERIM MEETING ROME 1960

Confidence in the Federation's strength led to the introduction of an Interim Meeting, the first yearly get-together since FAWCO's reactivation in 1949. Only the Federation's executive groups were involved in the meeting, which was highly successful. Unfinished Paris business was completed and preparations for The Hague Conference made.

## XV CONFERENCE THE HAGUE 1961

Sixteen member clubs sent their delegates to the May Conference in The Hague at the Kurhaus Hotel.

Alicia Paolozzi of Rome gave an enlightening talk about the People-to-People Program initiated during the Eisenhower administration and strongly supported by President Kennedy. Its purpose was the promotion of good relations between the United States and other nations on a personal, non-governmental exchange level. President Kennedy was quoted as saying, "American women speak for our country more directly and more personally than any other representatives sent abroad by the U.S.A."

At this Conference it was decided that the time had come for FAWCO to broaden its scope by associating with international activities while continuing to serve the more immediate needs of its members. Cooperation with the People-to-People Program, with the Peace Corps and, in particular, with the National Council of Women of the United States was proposed.

Extending FAWCO's activities had to involve financial outlay. In May of 1961 FAWCO's bank balance amounted to nearly \$4,000, but income sources were not assured: the *Jot and Blot* books had not been an outstanding success; the proposed commercial publication of Volume I of the *International Cookbook* had met with obstacles; per capita dues had not proved acceptable as yet (twelve member clubs opposed this plan). A continuation of voluntary contributions was urged, the means of obtaining funds for them left open.

The Conference voted to publish a brochure explaining the Federation's aims and past achievements in order to help make FAWCO known and to increase its prestige.

Four out of the five postwar presidents of FAWCO were among the delegates who attended The Hague Conference and served as an advisory board. (During this term, with Elizabeth Tiné of Rome as president, the past presidents were designated as Counselors, a title they have retained.)

## INTERIM MEETING BRUSSELS 1962

In 1962 the Interim Meeting of FAWCO Officers was held in Brussels. In addition to preparing plans for the 16th Conference, the Interim Meeting concerned itself with implementation of the 1961 Conference recommendations.

It was decided unanimously to seek voluntary contributions as the principal means of resolving the Federation's need for funds. Fifty cents 'per capita' of each club's membership was proposed as the desired goal, with FAWCO's president to be informed yearly of anticipated contributions. It was also voted to continue promoting FAWCO's *International Cookbook* and the *Jot and Blot* memorandum books.

Furthering the 1961 decision that FAWCO join in the larger work of the world, it was voted that FAWCO be affiliated with the National Council of Women of the United States. Through this affiliation, FAWCO automatically became associated with the International Council of Women and the United Nations non-governmental organizations.

## XVI CONFERENCE MADRID 1963

The Federation's 16th Conference took place at the Castellana Hilton Hotel in Madrid, with "FAWCO in the World Community" as its theme. Of the 19 member clubs, 15 sent representatives to Madrid.

For the benefit of newcomers, President Tiné outlined FAWCO's basic aim: peace through harmonious relationships with other people. She said, "Peace is to work for, not to fight for." She emphasized the value of the Federation's association with the National Council of Women, especially endorsing its vigilance as regards human rights and the status of women.

Constitutional changes were adopted in 1963 enlarging FAWCO's membership possibilities. Recommendations included:

- 1) Encouraging associate memberships for non-Americans in FAWCO member clubs.
- 2) Cooperation in established local community service projects rather than always introducing American methods.
- 3) Appointment of a committee to investigate cooperation with international organizations such as UNICEF and the Peace Corps, possibly aided by FAWCO's US Liaison.
- 4) Contributions to local US Consulates to be used on behalf of needy Americans stranded abroad, investigation having shown that no such funds are available.

Alleged injustices inherent in the Nationality Act were discussed. Pursuit of voting rights for overseas Americans was urged and, once again, it was pointed out that individual State qualifications result in many voters being disenfranchised.

The Conference's two major speakers were women. Both discussed the present status of women. Matilde Medina, Assistant Director of the Fulbright Committee in Spain, told of revolutionary changes in the status of women in her native Spain; while still primarily homemakers, Spanish women are entering the professions and business in increasing numbers. Katie Louchheim, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, made a global survey of this century's progress by women towards attaining equal status with men.

Panel discussions were introduced and proved popular. The Conference probed how to strengthen the FAWCO spirit within its member clubs, resulting in suggestions that a club's FAWCO representative be a member of her club's executive board; that she serve a two-year



term aided by a working committee; that more emphasis be placed on club publications exchange; that, in addition to the club's delegates, more members be encouraged to attend the biennial FAWCO conferences; that club stationery carry the legend 'Affiliated with FAWCO;' and that FAWCO's officers visit different clubs between conferences. Elizabeth Bagney of Madrid commented that the most effective way to stimulate interest in FAWCO was to host a biennial conference while President Tiné reported that the Rome club's special FAWCO fundraising functions had developed an increasing interest in the Federation's objectives and achievements.

On the financial front, FAWCO dues became more realistic: \$10 annually for smaller clubs, \$20 for the larger ones, but still far below the Federation's needs. Voluntary contributions had been made by only half the member clubs but it was decided to continue requesting them rather than introduce an overall fund-raising project again.

The *Review* Editor, Anna Brady of Rome, resigned, suggesting that an editor should live in the same city as the president. She urged the adoption of a newsletter instead of the present format, which she termed very expensive and not self-supporting.

Gertrude Kunstenaar of Zürich, an experienced journalist, was appointed editor and it was decided to continue the *Review* in its current format.

FAWCO's US Liaison, Alicia Paolozzi, reported on a speech given by Rachel Carson, author of *The Silent Spring*, at the New York Conference of the National Council of Women, and the Council's recommendation to urge women to take action to check "man's irresponsible use of nature's bounties."

Marcia Hale of Zürich was elected president and London's invitation to hold the 1965 Conference was enthusiastically accepted.

## INTERIM MEETING COPENHAGEN 1964

Following the precedent set by the two previous administrations, an Interim Meeting was held at the Codan Hotel in Copenhagen in March. In addition to the Federation officers, it was attended by various FAWCO committee chairs. Plans for the London Conference were finalized and its theme determined: "FAWCO's Inter-Community Climate of Accord."

Finances were discussed again, as well as the possible establishment of a common FAWCO project. Three locally successful, non-money making projects were recommended for consideration:

- 1) Peace Through Knowledge, conceived and implemented by Madrid AWC.
- 2) School to School programs presented by Frankfurt.
- 3) An Educational Rhythmic Program for Handicapped Children, carried out by Zürich.

An International Cultural and Services Committee was established to investigate these and other appropriate philanthropic initiatives for FAWCO.

## XVII CONFERENCE LONDON 1965

The 17th Federation Conference convened on April 4th in the London clubhouse and the Carlton Tower Hotel. President Marcia Hale, emphasizing FAWCO's role as a clearing house, advocated the adoption of a common FAWCO enterprise to consolidate the objectives of individual member clubs. Progress reports were made regarding investigation and action.

- 1) Dual-Nationality Citizenship status: Gertrude de Gallaix of Paris had collected much valuable information regarding marriages between Americans and nationals of other countries, in preparation for further study of the nationality problems of children of such marriages.
- 2) Citizenship Rights for Overseas Americans: Genevieve Garzero of Rome had conducted an inter-club survey which disclosed a great need for simplified and uniform means of obtaining voting rights. While no obvious progress had been made, Mrs. Garzero reported that some encouragement might be derived from the experience of Washington, DC citizens. Their long quest for voting rights had been rewarded in 1964, having, however, required a constitutional amendment. Mrs. Garzero urged all overseas Americans eligible to vote to exercise their right and proposed that FAWCO persist in its efforts to obtain voting rights for all overseas Americans.
- 3) FAWCO relations with organizations in the United States: Alicia Paolozzi of Rome, FAWCO's US Liaison, reported as the FAWCO delegate to the National Council of Women of the United States and also as delegate of the National Council to the United Nations. She felt that an international undertaking could help attain greater prestige for FAWCO, particularly since 1965, the 20th anniversary of the United Nations, had been proclaimed International Cooperation Year. Mrs. Paolozzi also reported that the possibility of a FAWCO foundation to receive tax-exempt donations was under study.
- 4) As a specific FAWCO project, Marge Ganseman of Brussels recommended the adoption of a philanthropic project which, while benefiting others, would also unite the clubs. The Conference consequently adopted Peace Through Knowledge as the FAWCO project, with each member club left free to determine its own means for implementing it.

*What is FAWCO?*, a newly printed brochure to publicize FAWCO's purpose and achievements, was presented and a new type of member club introduced: the Association of American Wives of Europeans (AAWE) of Paris. One of its objectives is the recognition of the values of a dual-cultural heritage and multilingualism, and it has been most cooperative with the FAWCO investigation of dual-heritage children, initiated by Gertrude de Gallaix in 1964.

Mary Mag of Rome was elected president and Rome was chosen to host the next Conference.

## 1966

FAWCO's depleted treasury rendered impractical an Interim Meeting in 1966, but the presidential newsletters (replacing the *Review*, found prohibitive in price to publish) served as a

direct link between headquarters and the individual members of FAWCO clubs. One issue called attention to the courageous stand taken by the National Council of Women of the United States on the civil rights issue. Another reported on President Mag's Far East travels; in her contacts with women's groups she was impressed by the spectacular progress made by women in the Orient in recent years, their entrance into professions and their frequent elevation to high political office.

The Federation's inner administrative structure was strengthened by the Administrative Guidelines introduced by the president.

In order to help young people in host countries learn more about America, and for American children abroad to learn more about their host country, the Peace Through Knowledge project (founding American libraries in host-country schools and host-country libraries in American schools abroad) was strongly encouraged during this period.

An important event in Federation history took place in 1967 with the establishment of The FAWCO Foundation. Undaunted by the negative results in obtaining a tax-exempt status for FAWCO as a non-profit organization, President Mag continued her efforts. At the 1967 Conference she could report a successful solution; a sister organization having for its sole purpose "the raising and distribution of funds for charitable, scientific or educational purposes or for the prevention of cruelty to children." Meeting the legal requirements, The Foundation funds can be disbursed to the Federation or to any of its member clubs for use in qualified projects.

## XVIII CONFERENCE ROME 1967

The 18th Conference assembled at the Parco dei Principi Hotel in Rome on February 27, 1967. President Mag reported on The FAWCO Foundation (its board was chosen from among the newly-elected Federation officers). She explained that the major task — raising funds — lay ahead and that modest initial contributions amounting to \$200 had been received. The Foundation made its first grant to aid the victims of the Lisbon floods.

Genevieve Garzero of Rome, FAWCO's Citizenship Status chairman, reported that efforts exerted by the League of Americans Residing Abroad (LARA), by the bipartisan committees on absentee voting in London and Paris and, not least, by FAWCO, were beginning to have a noticeable effect. The complex problem of franchise for Americans abroad was now a frequent subject of debate in Washington. If voting rights were not extended by individual States, they would have to be obtained through the Federal Government, a Congressional bill, or a lawsuit ruling by the courts. More progress was to be expected, as the number of those participating actively in their own particular civil-rights campaigns increased. Mrs. Mag urged all Federation clubs, as well as their individual members, to press their Congressmen for help in exercising their voting rights as American citizens residing abroad.

It was suggested that regional divisions of FAWCO's member clubs might result in greater inter-club cooperation and overall unity. A speech by the General Secretary of the National Council of Women in Italy was read, expressing her gratitude to Americans for the help and encouragement received by Italian women in their struggle for improved citizenship status.



A memorable event of this Conference was a special audience with Pope Paul VI in the Vatican. Pope Paul declared that FAWCO's work in pursuit of international peace and understanding between Americans and host countries was to be greatly praised.

At the close of the Conference, over her protests that a second term was unprecedented and undesirable, Mrs. Mag was re-elected president. Brussels' invitation was accepted for the 1969 Conference.

## WIDENING THE SCOPE

With the Federation firmly established and the financial situation somewhat improved through increased voluntary contributions by member clubs, attention was given to the issues of importance in the United States and elsewhere: problems of youth, education, ecology and emergency relief for natural disasters. An individual FAWCO membership was offered to a few selected individuals. Recognition was given to the importance of a positive relationship with the host countries in all areas.

### 1968

No Interim Meeting was held in 1968 due to the continued precarious financial situation. The president maintained contacts with members through presidential newsletters which had been published regularly since 1963. During this period the FAWCO Pamphlet Series was introduced. Its first publication, *FAWCO Today*, written by Joyce Ahrens and Mary Mag in January 1968, was followed by others written by individual club members and edited by FAWCO's editorial staff. Succeeding pamphlets were devoted to Peace Through Knowledge, Bilingualism, Fundraising, Scholarship, the Clubhouse and other subjects.

Most individual States had failed to facilitate voting for overseas Americans (as per a 1968 Congressional investigation). To clarify the issue, Mrs. Robert Rennie of London corresponded with officials in every State to determine what voting facilities currently existed for the US citizen abroad.

It was also during the Interim period that the National Council of Women of the United States invited each member organization to nominate candidates for recognition of work carried out in the field of human rights. In 1967 Gertrude de Gallaix, FAWCO's candidate, was chosen to receive the National Council's Woman of Conscience award for her outstanding achievements in Franco-American relations. A member of both AWG and AAWE Paris, Gertrude de Gallaix had dedicated herself over the years to problems pertaining to dual-nationality, bilingualism and the education of young Americans resident abroad.

## XIX CONFERENCE BRUSSELS 1969

Opening the 19th Conference at the Hotel Hilton on March 9th in Brussels, Mrs. Mag said in her presidential address that "we must face the urgent problems that the United States is

facing today.” She quoted James Thurber: “Not to look back in anger, nor forward in fear, but around us in awareness.” Clubs should, she felt, examine the amount of money spent on assisting others in comparison to the amount spent on amusing themselves.

The Conference keynote address by Antonia Chayes, Dean of Jackson College for Women, Tufts University, dealt with “The Rebellion of Youth,” and the main panel discussion was devoted to “Bridging the Generation Gap.” Delegates heard the views of both students and the older generation.

Following the report of the FAWCO US Liaison Officer, Mrs. Peter van Brunt, on various international conferences, FAWCO voted to join Women United for the United Nations.

A report on The FAWCO Foundation was given by its president, Mrs. William McEwan of London, stressing its two committees — fundraising and awards — and its essential connections in the USA. Three Foundation awards had been made to date. A brochure explaining The Foundation, as well as the Federation, was planned for the immediate future.

Club relationships with host countries were discussed, as well as inter-country hospitality. During a visit to the royal palace, Queen Fabiola greeted and conducted the FAWCO group on a tour through a section of the palace.

Sonia Mincbere of Paris was elected president and Paris chosen to host FAWCO’s Conference in 1971.

## INTERIM MEETING PARIS 1970

The Interim Meeting was held in Paris in March. Present were the executive officers and the co-chairmen of the Conference Planning Committee.

The 1971 Conference theme, “The Role of Women in the World of Tomorrow,” was chosen. *The FAWCO History*, a condensed version of events past and recent, compiled by Ruth White, FAWCO Archives chairman, and edited by Anna Brady, Rome, was presented.

Overall FAWCO policy was discussed. President Mincbere recommended that all future administrations make every effort to hold an Interim Meeting.

## XX CONFERENCE PARIS 1971

The 20th Conference was held in March co-hosted by AAWE and AWG Paris. Guest speakers covered timely topics such as Problems in the Universities, Ecology and Drugs.

The Peace Through Knowledge program was terminated as a FAWCO project, having performed its role. The possibility of international clubs being accepted as associate member clubs of FAWCO was raised. Further study on the advisability of establishing special membership categories for clubs or individuals presently ineligible for membership was recommended.

The first FAWCO Foundation scholarship was awarded at this time. Elizabeth Sita of AWC Brussels was elected president and Zürich chosen to host the next Conference.

## INTERIM MEETING BRUSSELS 1972

At this Interim Meeting in March 1972, the continued interest in allowing international clubs to become associate members of FAWCO was discussed, as was FAWCO policy and the projected changes in dues and contributions.

The FAWCO Board and the co-chairmen of the Conference Planning Committee decided on “The Family-Future-Shock — The Emergency Pattern,” as the Conference theme.

## XXI CONFERENCE ZÜRICH 1973

The Hotel Atlantis of Zürich was the scene of the 21st Conference in March 1973. The Conference theme was developed through panels (educating children abroad, life style in Denmark), speakers (drug production and the role of the UN, the feminist issue in the State Department and the role of women in today's world), and discussions.

In view of the growing sentiment to extend FAWCO membership to clubs with less than the present constitutional requirements as to the proportion of Americans to non-Americans, and to limited numbers of individuals, it was decided that an appropriate constitutional amendment be prepared for the 1975 FAWCO Conference.

Elizabeth Bagney of AWC Madrid was elected president and Copenhagen chosen as the next Conference site.

## TURNING ATTENTION TO OURSELVES

During this period FAWCO's geographical area spread, with several non-European clubs joining. Regional meetings took on an important role in inter-club relationships.

Whether working on energy conservation, raising children abroad, or ways of obtaining employment, the clubs were finding a new sense of unity. The category of FAWCO Associate Membership was established to accept clubs with a sizable non-American membership.

The possibility of allowing member clubs with mixed male/female membership was broached for the first time, and although shelved for later consideration, opened the way for a possible future innovation. In the meantime, cooperation with the Federation of International American Clubs (FIAC) was becoming a reality, as well as support of other organizations of Americans abroad.

The two years following the Zürich Conference were devoted to implementation of some ideas which were becoming clearer every month, namely that the women belonging to the various FAWCO clubs can consider themselves as members of the 51st State. Committees formed in Zürich worked on such issues as the orientation of the family living overseas, education for women, citizenship rights and, foremost, the ways and means of self-realization as women, in light of the coming International Women's Year in 1975.



## INTERIM MEETING MADRID 1974

The Interim Meeting in Madrid, held in the AWC clubhouse in March 1974, was open to AWC Madrid members. In addition to Conference planning, the Interim Meeting concerned itself with the progress achieved in various areas and with trying to project the FAWCO image to the local club members.

## XXII CONFERENCE COPENHAGEN 1975

The 1975 Conference opened with President Bagney pointing out the rapid changes which have occurred for women in general and American women abroad in particular. She stressed the necessity for concentrating on deepening awareness of each individual, of herself and her ability to exercise her options as a woman and as an American overseas.

Workshops on "Women Alone" and "Members Under 30" were held, with panel discussions on "Relating to the Host Country" and "Women of the 51st State," in addition to key-note speeches, committee reports and discussions in line with the Conference's theme, "The Aware Woman Overseas."

The FAWCO Foundation awarded three scholarships. A high point of the social program was an audience with Queen Mother Ingrid of Denmark. Associate member clubs were invited to join the Federation after the Constitutional change was approved, and AIWA Genoa joined immediately as the first associate member club.

Edith Beyer of Copenhagen was chosen the next FAWCO president and Rome the site of the 23rd Conference.

## INTERIM MEETING DÜSSELDORF 1976

The two years in between the conferences were devoted to further investigation of the idea of widening the possibilities for FAWCO women.

The Interim Meeting was held in Düsseldorf in 1976. The structure for the Rome Conference was discussed, deciding to focus on the status of FAWCO members both as women and as Americans overseas.

## XXIII CONFERENCE ROME 1977

The Conference at the Hotel Villa Pamphili was opened by President Beyer, with workshops, panels, speeches and discussions following. Women's legal status, employment and opportunities were some of the highlights.

For the first time, members of the Federation of International American Clubs (FIAC) were

FAWCO's invited guests at a luncheon. In his speech President Milton Lehr urged cooperation between the two organizations. A joint cable was sent to Senator Bartell of Oklahoma urging a one-year delay in the effective date of new tax legislation for overseas Americans.

A special social event was a visit to Donna Vittoria Leone, wife of the Italian president, in the presidential palace, the Quirinale.

Shirley van Ooijen of Amsterdam was elected president and London chosen as the site of the next Conference.

## INTERIM MEETING AMSTERDAM 1978

The meeting was held at the Sonesta Hotel. The 1977—79 years were devoted to internal changes to make FAWCO more effective organizationally, and to a vigorous pursuit of Conference goals. President van Ooijen encouraged and attended two of the three regional meetings held and opened the Interim Meeting to the FAWCO representatives, which provided valuable forums of exchange and contact between the local club members and FAWCO officers and chairmen.

This administration gave top priority to citizenship issues and the clubs responded very actively. Cooperation with other overseas groups on these issues was energetically pursued. The president attended two annual conventions of the Federation of International American Clubs (FIAC) in Spain and in Portugal, and participated both years on a special FIAC panel.

Success was reported in raising funds for special projects.

## XXIV CONFERENCE LONDON 1979

President van Ooijen opened the Conference at the Kensington Close Hotel with an overflow audience. Indeed, it had been necessary to close registration to observers. In addition to the delegates of 22 member clubs (out of 23), four women attended as visitors from non-member clubs. The Conference theme, "FAWCO in Action," was in evidence all week. Four Italian clubs presented a panel on Raising Children Abroad; four professional women conducted a panel on Estate Planning. The workshops dealt with: Leadership and Club Administration; Reverse Culture Shock; Cross-cultural Children, College in the USA and Women and Work.

Mindful of the Equal Opportunities Act, delegates discussed male membership in FAWCO clubs. Headquarters had requested a consensus from the clubs and reported: several clubs had already accepted men; there had been no wave of male applications; no club was willing to change its name. In short, there was no urgency to undertake a constitutional change for FAWCO at this point. In the meantime, it was clearly seen that cooperation with men's clubs as well as with all American organizations striving for equal opportunities for Americans abroad was most beneficial.

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The Conference voted to affiliate with the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), headquarters in Washington, DC, as an associate member; to change FAWCO's affiliation with the National Council of Women (NCW) from an organizational one to an individual membership for the FAWCO president, and to support passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

The FAWCO Foundation reported sufficient funds to be able to award three scholarships that year.

The 1979 Resolutions included: giving special attention to overseas children, supporting legislation for equitable treatment of Americans overseas, working for energy conservation, encouraging member clubs to support women living and working overseas and striving to improve the American image abroad and the overseas-American image in the States.

Agnes Stephenson Coppin of Brussels was elected president and Paris was chosen as the site of the next Conference.

## INTERIM MEETING HAMBURG 1980

The Interim Meeting was held at the Atlantic Hotel in Hamburg with 15 clubs represented, giving it the status of a mini-Conference. The question of holding Conferences in resort areas or cities without a FAWCO club was discussed and those attending were asked to report on possibilities for the next interim.

Plans were made for the 1981 Paris Conference marking FAWCO's golden anniversary.

## XXV CONFERENCE PARIS 1981

The Paris Conference, at the Hotel Penta, celebrated the 50 years since FAWCO was founded. The theme was "Opportunities and Challenges" and the keynote speaker was television news analyst Christine Ockrent on the subject of career opportunities for women in Europe today. Olivia de Havilland was an honored guest.

President Coppin reported that during the 1979—81 administration prime importance was given to the resolutions adopted at the London Conference. The Raising Children Abroad Committee, which generated sub-committees in many clubs, provided solid information and statistics for them. FAWCO member clubs enthusiastically raised funds and made substantial contributions to The FAWCO Foundation Scholarship Fund, enabling it to offer four awards totaling \$8,000 in 1980 and five awards totaling \$11,000 in 1981 to children of overseas families for study in the United States.

The Citizenship Committee kept members informed about legislation pending in Congress. Kathy Webster, Brussels, reported that special attention was given to the question of transmission of citizenship to children born abroad of one American parent.



Increased cooperation with other overseas organizations and with the FAWCO US Liaison was emphasized to further the interests of FAWCO members in the fields of taxation, citizenship and Medicare, and communication was established with other American associations overseas.

President Coppin participated in a panel at the FIAC Convention in 1979 where representatives of six associations of overseas Americans discussed common interests in the fields of legislation and taxation. In addition to FAWCO, the other participants were the Federation of International American Clubs, Association of Americans Resident Overseas, American Citizens Abroad, European and Mediterranean Council of American Chambers of Commerce and the US and Overseas Tax Fairness Committee. The group sent a letter to President Jimmy Carter addressing the issue of equitable treatment for American citizens abroad.

Groundwork was laid for the incorporation of FAWCO, since it was felt that the organization had grown to the point where the legal status of corporation was advisable, thus paving the way to become a non-profit organization for tax purposes. At the Conference the delegates voted in favor of incorporation.

Conference workshops dealt with "The International Family — Raising Children Abroad," dual-national marriage and "Where Are Your Roots?" Other workshops were on employing your talents abroad through continuing education, through work, paid or volunteer; and becoming acquainted with your host-country nationals. A panel moderated by Patty DeBono, Brussels, discussed coping with disasters abroad

A number of tip sheets on energy conservation were circulated to all the clubs. Two new clubs, AWC Dublin and AWL Kuwait, were welcomed, and three regional meetings were productive for inter-club exchanges. The resolutions adopted at the Conference were:

- 1) To focus on the dissemination of information compiled by FAWCO.
- 2) To promote the well-being of the individual and society.
- 3) To continue support of legislation aimed at redressing the inequitable treatment of Americans overseas.
- 4) To continue studies in the field of continuing education and to emphasize a positive image of Americans abroad.

Elaine Senigallia of Rome was elected president and Brussels was chosen as the next Conference site.

## EXPANSION AND EVOLUTION

The period 1981 to 1991 was one of development and change. The number of clubs increased from twenty-three to forty-four. FAWCO was incorporated and tax-exempt status obtained.

Associate member clubs were no longer 'second-class citizens'; an amendment granted all clubs the same vote and the American members of associate clubs were made eligible for elective office in the Federation.

New importance was given to the role of FAWCO representatives who had first been invited to an Interim Meeting in 1978 and had had a brief meeting, for the first time, at the London Conference of 1979. In 1983 there were four scheduled reps' meetings at the Brussels conference and for the first time one meeting (plus a second by request) of club presidents. Regional meetings were encouraged and several were organized in 1988 and 1989.

The FAWCO Foundation increased the number of scholarships awarded from three in 1979 to eleven in 1991. The FAWCO Relief Fund (originally called the Disaster Relief Fund) made a number of donations.

## INTERIM MEETING LUGANO 1982

The first FAWCO meeting to take place in a resort city without a hostess club was held at the Hotel Commodore in Lugano. Aimee Crane Gloeckner, an individual FAWCO member, set up the meeting with the assistance of Susan Monnier, Basel, and Beverly Weiss, Zürich, and their clubs.

This Interim Meeting was opened to all who wished to attend so that, including officers, committee chairmen, reps, club presidents, counselors and observers, there was a total of 110 participants, the largest Interim Meeting held so far. In explaining the reasoning behind this change, President Senigallia pointed out that two years is a long time between meetings, especially with a rapid turnover in club membership, and the FAWCO image inevitably becomes dimmer with the passage of time.

A straw vote was taken on the question of admitting clubs with male members and the consensus was in favor, with a final decision to be taken at the Conference. Arrangements for the first FAWCO tour, to Thailand, were described, and two scholarships totaling \$5,000 were awarded by The FAWCO Foundation.

The representatives urged that meetings be scheduled for them at the Conference and, on their recommendation, Second Vice President Muriel Bremner of Dublin was named as liaison between them and the board.

President Senigallia suggested that an amendment be proposed at the Conference allowing associate clubs the same vote as regular clubs since they pay the same dues but have only one vote, while regular clubs have two, and permitting American members of associate clubs to be eligible for elective office in FAWCO.

## XXVI CONFERENCE BRUSSELS 1983

The Hotel Sheraton in Brussels was the setting for the 26th Conference; the theme was "Communication." The keynote speaker was Jehan Sadat, widow of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. Other speakers were Jean Gerard, US Ambassador to UNESCO and Herman de Croo, Belgian Minister of Communications.

President Senigallia reported that a special effort had been made to get information to the member clubs and through them to individual members. Four issues of a new publication, *The FAWCO Forum*, designed as a readable small newspaper, as well as four newsletters, were sent to officers, committee chairmen, counselors, representatives, and for distribution to clubs' executive boards. Letters of welcome, with information on what a rep should know and do, were sent to all new representatives.

Beverly Morisset, Brussels, editor of *The Handbook for the American Family Abroad*, distributed copies to delegates to take back to their home clubs to serve for fund-raising. The Education Committee on Children Abroad issued a pamphlet with the results of their survey on bilingualism among American children educated abroad, while information compiled by Georgiale Granger, Düsseldorf, on obtaining advanced degrees, and a report on financial aid for students by Lee Iacovoni, Rome, were published in *The FAWCO Forum*.

A joint letter by President Senigallia and Citizenship Committee Chairman Kathy Webster, Brussels, on the transmission of citizenship to children, was sent to the members of the Cabinet Task Force on Immigration. The Citizenship Committee also distributed a revised and expanded version of the citizenship information outline provided at the Interim Meeting.

The question of admitting new clubs with male members as discussed at the Interim Meeting was considered. It was agreed that member clubs are autonomous and FAWCO cannot dictate internal membership rules.

Two new clubs, AAC Santiago, Chile, the first South American club, and the Association of American Wives and Husbands of Europeans in Cannes joined FAWCO; two former members, Perth, Australia, and The Hague, rejoined. FAWCO Secretary Marilyn Clarke, Rome, announced that membership now stood at twenty-nine clubs representing 7,000 women in sixteen countries.

Emphasizing the new direction in FAWCO policy, there were four meetings of the FAWCO reps, not counting their meeting with the officers as the Board of Representatives. For the first time at a FAWCO Conference, there were two meetings of club presidents, one scheduled and a second by request.

Gloria Fischel, Amsterdam, announced that the FAWCO tour to Thailand was a great success, thanks to the hospitality of AWC Bangkok. Forty-five members, representing seventeen clubs, took part in the tour. A second FAWCO tour was planned to Kenya.

Conference workshops dealt with facing life transitions overseas; women and work; how to design and conduct a workshop; growing older overseas; introduction and orientation for new members; and stress management.

Looking toward the future, a panel on "New Directions: Young Women and FAWCO," moderated by Virginia Roth, Rotterdam, explored future relations between member clubs and the Federation, as well as what members want from their clubs and the clubs want from FAWCO during its second half-century. Like all organizations, FAWCO should examine its aims and purposes at regular intervals.

A humorous panel called "Making Ends Meet — Italian style," moderated by Carol Bordoni, Genoa, offered outrageous and hilarious suggestions for fund-raising.



Five scholarships, totaling \$10,500 were awarded by The FAWCO Foundation.

The Conference resolved:

- 1) To give special attention to improving communication.
- 2) To help the adaptation of women transplanted from one culture to another.
- 3) To give special attention to member women working or attempting to work.
- 4) To support women in their efforts toward continuation of their education.
- 5) To continue concern for the education of overseas and dual-national children.
- 6) To reinforce awareness of all legislation, whether from America or a host-country, affecting those living abroad, and to support appropriate US legislation.

Nearly 500 people attended the gala dinner at the Conference where Jehan Sadat spoke on "Peace, Women and Children."

Muriel Bremner of Dublin was elected president and Düsseldorf was chosen as the site of the next Conference as a cooperative effort of AWC Düsseldorf and AWC Oslo.

## INTERIM MEETING DUBLIN 1984

The 1984 Interim Meeting was held at the Berkeley Court Hotel in Dublin. There were twenty-one clubs present, a record for an Interim.

Following a panel on the advantages and disadvantages of large Interim Meetings, as compared to those restricted to officers, chairmen and reps, the Interim participants decided overwhelmingly in favor of the extended meetings. A straw vote on proposed single-slate elections instead of the customary double slate was defeated.

A voter registration workshop was held by Dean Ferrier and Kathy Webster of the Citizenship Committee to teach participants how to help voters apply for a federal absentee ballot. A strong message from the membership was sent to Washington endorsing pending anti-handgun legislation.

Four FAWCO Foundation awards were granted, totaling \$8,500.

## XXVII CONFERENCE DÜSSELDORF 1985

"The International Woman in a Changing World" was the theme of the joint Oslo-Düsseldorf Conference, the first conference sponsored by two clubs working at a distance in well-planned cooperation. The agenda included a panel discussion on coping with technological, political and social change, and among the workshop topics were: the multiple roles of women; volunteerism; cultural adaptation; the use of computers; and speaking in public.

President Bremner pointed out the three main priorities of the 1983—85 Board:

- 1) To foster strong working relationships between FAWCO headquarters, its administrative branches and the member clubs.
- 2) To respond to the interests and needs of Federation members.

3) To focus on FAWCO's role nationally and internationally.

In accomplishing the first objective, the administration extended the responsibilities of the vice presidents and appointed a liaison officer for the counselors. New emphasis was placed on the role of the club representative, with increased communication between her and headquarters. Club presidents, as well, became an active unit in regional meetings as well as at the Conference.

Following the suggestion of the previous administration, an amendment was passed granting associate member clubs the same voting rights as regular clubs and enabling American members of associate clubs to be eligible for elective office in FAWCO.

In 1984 a *Social Security Benefits Overseas* pamphlet by Blue Breese, Brussels, was published, and in 1985 a supplement on *Social Security Benefits for Self-Employed Women Overseas* was added.

A new brochure, designed and written by Jacqueline Isler of Zürich, Public Relations Chairman, was distributed to member clubs, to other American overseas organizations and to various US government departments.

Three new committees were formed: Women and Home, Women and Work and University Liaison for Students

With the approach of the 1984 national elections, Dean Ferrier and the Citizenship Committee launched the largest voter registration campaign in the Federation's history. Every member club was provided instructions and guidance, in addition to the members who had attended the Interim voter registration workshop. Dean Ferrier announced that the campaign had been highly successful and that an increase in overseas voter registration had been noted.

FAWCO, in the person of President Bremner, met with two other non-partisan organizations, FIAC (Federation of International American Clubs) and AARO (Association of Americans Resident Overseas) to form a council (CARO) cooperating on behalf of overseas Americans, with the shared concerns identified as taxation, voter-registration, citizenship rights, Medicare and Social Security.

With the accomplishment of FAWCO's incorporation, negotiations were begun to obtain tax-exempt status.

Three new clubs joined FAWCO: AWC Luxembourg, AWC Surrey and the US Women's Club of Fyn, Denmark. Also attending the Conference were guest observers from Bonn and Bern whose clubs joined FAWCO shortly afterward.

Resolutions and Recommendations adopted were:

- 1) That FAWCO give special attention to the International Woman in a changing world.
- 2) That FAWCO give special attention to improving communication and cooperation among the member clubs.
- 3) That FAWCO foster international relations, recommending that a disaster relief fund be established to be administered in emergency situations and that an international relations committee be established to work with organizations promoting goals similar to FAWCO's.
- 4) That FAWCO continue to encourage improved liaison between US citizens abroad and the US government.

- 5) To reinforce awareness of all legislation, American and host country, affecting those living abroad, and to support appropriate US legislation.
- 6) That FAWCO encourage awareness of the problems of child pornography and the abuse of women and children.
- 7) That FAWCO continue its concern for the education of American and dual-national children residing overseas.

Virginia Roth, Rotterdam, was elected president and Madrid was chosen as the next Conference site.

## INTERIM MEETING CASABLANCA 1986

FAWCO's first meeting outside Europe was held at the Hotel Safir in Casablanca, Morocco. The warm invitation of AWC Casablanca and the prospect of a visit to a country unfamiliar to most members were irresistible and there was a large and enthusiastic attendance. Social events included a reception at the Consul General's home, a tea at the US Ambassador's residence in Rabat, a gala dinner with the members of the hostess club wearing magnificent caftans, and dinners with Moroccan specialties at members' homes. After the meeting many participants took tours of Morocco arranged by AWC Casablanca.

## XXVIII CONFERENCE MADRID 1987

The theme for the Conference, held at the Hotel Melia Castillo, was "Reaching Out." It was also the subject of a panel discussion led by Carol Bordoni, AIWC Genoa, who emphasized that "FAWCO is reaching out, not to grab but to give." The panelists discussed reaching out to so-called silent club members, to newcomers, students and the host community. The procedure used by the US military to assist new arrivals was also described.

President Roth reported that during this administration six Executive Board meetings were held in addition to those in the framework of the Interim and Conference, the first time any board has been able to spend so much time together as a team.

Reaching out became a reality when, for the first time, the FAWCO Disaster Relief Fund was used to help victims of the earthquake in Mexico. At this conference it was decided that the first vice president should be responsible for disbursing the funds and the name should be the FAWCO Relief Fund.

Membership Extension Chairman Elaine Senigallia, Rome, announced that six clubs had joined since the last Conference: Bonn, Bern, Korea, Languedoc-Roussillon, Liberia and Vercelli. She brought up the question of whether FAWCO should limit its membership numerically or geographically, which had been discussed previously at the Interim. The consensus was that there should be no limitations on FAWCO membership, and it was hoped that regional groups might eventually be formed for distant clubs, although at the time there was no region that



could logically include even two of the non-European clubs.

In regard to distance and postage costs, a suggestion was made that a new system be set up for the interchange of club bulletins, which grows increasingly expensive. A survey by Treasurer Georgia Regnault estimated that postage costs to each club for these exchanges came to between \$100 and \$200 per year. It was recommended that a minimum of four issues per year be sent out. A report on "Family Safety and the Environment," problems of pornography, prostitution and child molestation, was presented by AWC Oslo with recommendations on how to protect children.

Helen Hoogerduyn, The Hague, announced that the FAWCO Resource Center file was completed. The *Resource Center Index* listing the documents was distributed and copies of the material could be ordered at a nominal cost.

The workshops included A Crisis of Values in Contemporary Culture by Bishop Javier Martinez Fernandez; Witnessing the Birth of Cultural Values in Elementary Schools; Speak Up! How to Speak in Public; and At the Crossroads.

Seven FAWCO Foundation awards, amounting to \$10,000 were granted.

It was resolved that FAWCO:

- 1) Implement strong bonds among member clubs with special emphasis on those outside Europe by establishing a sister-club program.
- 2) Foster the spirit of voluntarism within member clubs.
- 3) Encourage action on the part of member clubs against the threat of terrorism.
- 4) Address itself to the problems of students educated abroad who are attending universities in the United States.
- 5) Increase efforts to bring pressure to bear on US legislators regarding the needs of the American community abroad.

Georgia Regnault, The Hague, was elected president. It was decided to have the new administration select the site of the next Conference.

## INTERIM MEETING LUXEMBOURG 1988

The Hotel Intercontinental in Luxembourg was the site of the 1988 Interim Meeting, the first FAWCO meeting to be held in Luxembourg. Goteborg and Vienna were welcomed as new members. The US tax-exempt status was granted, making FAWCO a 501(c)(3) organization. The Sister Club program was initiated and eight FAWCO Foundation awards, totaling \$14,000, were granted.

## XXIX CONFERENCE ZÜRICH 1989

"Changing Profiles" was the theme of the Conference held at the Hilton International Hotel in Zürich/Glattbrugg. The theme illustrated the change in the make-up of the member

clubs: more internationalism through associate members, difficulty in recruiting volunteers for club positions and an increasing number of working women arriving overseas.

Four more clubs were welcomed to FAWCO: AWOG Athens which rejoined, AWC Curaçao, AWC Salzburg and AWC Valencia (Venezuela), as well as the two welcomed at the Interim. FAWCO boasted forty-two clubs, at least one on every continent.

President Regnault reported that during her term of office she had met with twelve member clubs and was present at six regional meetings. She also attended a meeting of CARO (Council of Americans Resident Overseas). The FAWCO Board met with The FAWCO Foundation; these meetings were designed to improve the lines of communication between the two elements of FAWCO.

First Vice President Margaret de Maura, Madrid, described the Relief Fund donations to the Lumpa Women's Development Association in Sierra Leone, channeled through WOE (Women Overseas for Equality), an international women's organization based in Brussels.

The revised and expanded *Handbook for the American Family Abroad*, edited by Joy Staudt, Luxembourg, was distributed. It was agreed that since it is a very useful guide for new arrivals, it should be sold by clubs as a fund-raising project.

*University Education in the United States: a College Planning Guide* was completed by the Education Committee with Petre Kladstrup, AWG Paris, as chairman and with the sponsorship of AT&T.

The first edition of *The FAWCO Fund-raising Book*, written by Nancy Thornley, Rome, was presented to each club. It described the variety of FAWCO events as well as the outlay required and profit realized.

The sister-club program was begun, under the chairmanship of Inez Scheller, Copenhagen; twenty-two clubs were taking part.

Letters were sent as part of a letter-writing campaign in an effort to stop the closing of such important US Consulates as in Antwerp and Genoa

The Citizenship Committee continued its efforts to reduce the prior residency requirements to two years in order for a US citizen parent married to a non-citizen to be able to transmit citizenship to his/her child. Denise Liebowitz, Brussels, reported on FAWCO's efforts to change State Department regulations not permitting US citizens overseas to hold FSN (Foreign Service) positions.

A panel on "Changing Profiles" dealt with associate membership within clubs, voluntarism and FAWCO in the future. Workshops were held on Communicating across Generations; A Sense of Belonging — How Clubs Can Help; Living with Terrorism; Eating for Health; and Partners and Organizations.

Nine scholarships, amounting to \$18,000 were awarded by the FAWCO Foundation.

The Resolutions adopted recommended that FAWCO:

- 1) Increase awareness of worldwide issues by establishing an ad-hoc committee on the environment.
- 2) Develop further its global potential by setting up a regional structure to accommodate both present and future member clubs.

- 3) Modernize its communication system by providing Headquarters with paid assistance and by preparing a promotional video on FAWCO.
- 4) Address the concerns of individual members.
- 5) Continue its efforts on behalf of United States citizens abroad.

Kay Miller, Brussels, was elected president and Vienna was chosen as the site of the next Conference.

## INTERIM MEETING BRUSSELS 1990

The 1990 Interim Meeting was held at the SAS Royal Hotel in Brussels.

Membership Co-Chairmen Brooke Givot, Dublin, and Ellen Baur, Zürich, announced that the American Women's Club of Nairobi, Kenya, had joined and that AWC Taunus, a former FAWCO member, had rejoined.

Guidelines for affiliate membership, available to clubs outside Europe which otherwise qualify for regular or associate membership, were presented by Dorothy Childers, AWC Oslo. This was a one-time trial membership, limited to two years, with dues equivalent to a single individual membership. FAWCO information is supplied and members are welcomed as observers at conferences, but such membership did not include voting rights; the members of affiliate clubs could not hold elective office in FAWCO; and their children could not apply for FAWCO Foundation scholarships.

Pan Hottinger, Madrid, presented the newly-revised Administrative Guidelines including those for affiliate membership.

President Kay Miller announced that FAWCO was part of a steering committee planning the July 1990 World Conference of US Citizens, to be sponsored by: American Citizens Abroad, The Association of Americans Resident Overseas, Democrats Abroad, Republicans Abroad, The European Council of American Chambers of Commerce and FAWCO.

The Conference Sites Committee was made a standing committee instead of a temporary one meeting only at Conferences. An Environmental Committee was formed under the chairmanship of Maryrose Walsh, Madrid, in accordance with one of the resolutions of the 1989 Conference. Phyllis Michaux, AAWE Paris, suggested that FAWCO might form a committee to help elderly citizens too old or too poor to relocate in the United States. Andrea Bowman-Moore, also AAWE Paris, offered to write up a proposal for such a committee to put before the Executive Board.

Arrangements have been made to promote FAWCO by a professionally produced video by Brynn Bruijn, The Hague, to be ready in time for the Vienna Conference.

The theme of the 1991 Conference at the Hilton Hotel in Vienna is "The Environment — What on Earth Can We Do?"



## THE ONLINE WORLD AND ITS REGIONS

The last decade of the 20th century might be termed revolutionary, and not only in regard to technical advances in communication within FAWCO. Long-standing problems of citizenship (especially of children) were resolved and new problems tackled. The State Department conceded our right as citizens to hold a job in a United States Embassy or Consulate. A FAWCO committee consulted with the Director of the US Census Bureau to discuss the difficulties of including private Americans living abroad in the next census. The importance of absentee ballots was highlighted by the election in 2001.

Conferences were held outside Europe — two in Africa and one, exceptionally, in the United States, hosted by the FAWCO Alumnae. FAWCO became a non-governmental organization at the United Nations and was granted special consultative status in the Economic and Social Council of the UN. Seven FAWCO delegates attended the UN's Fourth Conference on Women in Beijing, China.

With more than seventy clubs, new methods were sought for promoting interaction between FAWCO and its members. One answer was regionalization, keyed to geography. Member clubs were divided into thirteen regions, each headed by a regional coordinator, the link between the Federation and the individual clubs. Regional meetings became frequent. E-mail was a solution to the problem of high mailing costs and online board meetings saved time and travel expenses.

The Resource Center in The Hague went into honorary retirement. Publishing was deemed to be an 'anybody can do it' activity and circulation among clubs kept members in touch with what the other clubs were doing. The FAWCO website became a virtual clubhouse. Its address is <http://www.fawco.org> and it is accessible by all members.

### XXX CONFERENCE VIENNA 1991

President Kay Miller opened the first session of the 1991 FAWCO Conference at Vienna's Hilton Hotel with an update of the recent decision of the Board to continue its support of the women's group in Sierra Leone, Africa. She urged the audience to continue its donations and reminded them that these donations were tax deductible. In regard to finances, President Miller pointed out that at present FAWCO's operating budget is inadequate and recommended the establishment of a fund-raising entity as a standing FAWCO committee.

A highlight of the Conference was the presentation of the slide-show/audio-visual project created by photographer Brynn Bruijn, with pictures of FAWCO clubs around the world. President Miller reminded the audience that this PR project was possible thanks to the sponsorship of AT&T. It was greeted with enthusiastic applause.

Eleanor Hofmanner, The FAWCO Foundation president, reported on the decision to help the American Women's League of Kuwait get back on its feet after the Gulf War and be in a position to distribute funds where most needed in that country. Contributions were gratefully

accepted.

*The Years of FAWCO from 1931 to 1991*, a new edition of the FAWCO history by Elaine Senigallia, Rome, was distributed to all Conference participants.

Rebecca Tan, Coordinator of the US Citizens' Concerns Committees, reported on the World Federation of Americans Abroad, of which FAWCO is one of six founding members. The report, including a section on US Laws and Legislation by Kathleen de Carbuccia, AAWE Paris, concerned itself primarily with these problems of children's citizenship:

- 1) Children being refused US citizenship because parents do not fulfill the residency requirements;
- 2) Children having different citizenships within one family due to the present laws.
- 3) Children adopted overseas unable to be US citizens without being naturalized in the States.

In addition, the summary included the loss of US nationality, reported on by Michael Adler, AAWE Paris; the problem of hiring US residents abroad by American diplomatic services, brought up to date by Denise Liebowitz, formerly of AWC Brussels; and voting from overseas by Dean Ferrier, AAWE Paris.

Treasurer Paula Daeppen announced that it was the recommendation of the Board that FAWCO must generate more income in order to serve its growing number of member clubs. The Board proposed that, for the first time in ten years, dues should be increased by 25%. It was also recommended that fund-raising be increased and that income be generated by advertising in the FAWCO newsletter.

An updated *FAWCO Resource Manual*, termed a substantive organizational tool, was distributed to the reps to take back to their clubs. The 158 pages covered every activity of member clubs.

Ann Day, AWA Vienna, was elected FAWCO president and Casablanca's invitation to hold the next Conference was enthusiastically accepted.

After the last tap of the gavel, a number of Conference participants took advantage of Vienna's location and went on to Budapest, for many, their first visit to Eastern Europe.

## INTERIM MEETING GENOA 1992

FAWCO's 1992 Interim coincided with Genoa's celebration of the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of America — a special year for Americans in the great navigator's home town.

It was announced that the Relief Fund for the Kuwait club had grown to approximately \$2500. FAWCO Foundation President Eleanor Hofmanner reported that The Foundation had received a total of \$27,404, enabling it to grant an additional award that year for Students with Special Challenges.

The Citizens' Concerns Committee announced that a State Department Authorization Bill had finally lifted the prohibition on the employment of US citizens in positions in US Embas-

sies and Consulates.

The Employment Committee, chaired by Vicki de Klerk-Rubin, AWC Amsterdam, introduced a new FAWCO book called *American Women and Work Overseas*, that was to be published within a few months. It was reviewed by the International Labor Organization which found it “a scholarly piece of research.”

## XXXI CONFERENCE CASABLANCA 1993

There were thirty member clubs out of 54 that met at the Sheraton Hotel for the first FAWCO Conference to take place in Africa (an Interim Meeting had been held in Casablanca in 1986). The theme was “Women and Family: Adapting to a Changing World.”

President Ann Day spoke of the regional meetings during the fall. One was in Hamburg where 39 women from seven clubs met to discuss issues such as marketing your club and activities policies. Another was in Copenhagen where the three FAWCO clubs in Denmark held the first Danish-club workshop and agreed to share activities and information regularly. The third was an Asia-Pacific Conference hosted by the AWC of Thailand and attended by three FAWCO clubs and three other clubs from the region. Although not a regional, the purpose was the same — to bring together representatives from a specific area to discuss cooperation and exchange ideas.

She also spoke about the lines of communication between The FAWCO Foundation and the Federation, which had become open and beneficial. Regular meetings of both boards were held at both the Interim and the Biennial Conference and a Foundation representative attended part of the fall Federation board meeting.

Kathleen de Carbuccia, AAWE Paris, a delegate to the World Federation of Americans Abroad of which FAWCO is a founding member, described WFAA as an umbrella organization, the purpose of which is to encourage changes in US laws to the advantage of countless (and uncounted) Americans living abroad.

Thanks to the efforts of the US Citizens’ Concerns Committee, chaired by Rebecca Tan, AWC Hamburg, Americans abroad can now work for US Embassies; unfortunately, not all Embassies know about the change in the law.

The new *Resource Manual for Clubs*, edited by Norma Lehmann-Vogelweid and Eve Higgins Miller, was distributed at the reps’ meeting. These books are intended for the use of club boards and members.

FAWCO’s Washington Liaison, Eleanor Fina gave a special report on her activities, answering the question, “What do you do?” She answers officer and committee chair requests; she develops Washington contacts and maintains contacts with government offices which have some responsibility for Americans abroad; she keeps up with the personnel changes in those offices; and she reports on developments in the United States of interest to our members.

Paula Daeppen, Zürich, announced a complete revision of the Administrative Guidelines by her committee. The new guidelines were printed double-sided on environmentally friendly



paper and it was hoped that the changes in this version would be of a lasting nature.

FAWCO Treasurer Vicki de Klerk-Rubin, Amsterdam, reported that each club had received a copy of *American Women and Work Overseas*. In addition, 237 copies of the book had been sold. She pointed out that the Federation cannot continue with deficit spending.

Ten new clubs were welcomed, including FAWCO's first Canadian club, the American Women's Club of Oakville, Ontario, and the first Eastern European club, the International Women's Club of Bratislava.

Lee Iacovoni, Rome, president of The FAWCO Foundation, announced that there were 13 scholarship awards valued at over \$90,000, and 28 clubs sponsored applicants — a new record.

Barbara Johnson, AWG Paris, was elected FAWCO president and Nairobi was chosen to host the 1995 Conference.

## INTERIM MEETING BERN 1994

President Barbara Johnson called the opening session of the Interim Meeting to order at the Bellevue Palace Hotel in Bern, Switzerland, on March 18, 1994. In her presidential report, she spoke of FAWCO's role in promoting overseas voter registration and in reforming outmoded rules for transmission of American nationality to children born overseas. FAWCO had recently applied to become a non-governmental organization (NGO) affiliated with the United Nations.

President Johnson pointed out that FAWCO had been operating under severe budget constraints. Last year the organization had a \$10,000 budget deficit, mainly due to two publications. She appealed to the membership to contribute to the continuation of FAWCO projects and explained that the FAWCO Board felt there was a need to rethink the structure of the Federation, stressing that each geographic region should be more closely knit with the sister clubs in the same region.

FAWCO Foundation President Lee Iacovoni pointed out that only 50% of the member clubs participated by making contributions to the awards program, a record that must be improved in order to be eligible for corporate contributions. The Foundation's aim is to obtain 100% participation by the time of the Nairobi Conference. She also announced that an annual memorial award in the name of Gertrude de Gallaix had been established by Gertrude's nieces and nephew, to which Mary Mag-Hasse and AAWE of Paris had also contributed. In addition, former FAWCO President Ruth St. John, who died in December, left a bequest of \$50,000 to The Foundation.

Because of the success of the previous year's impromptu auction in Casablanca where \$2,000 was raised, another fund-raising auction was held at this Interim Meeting.

## XXXII CONFERENCE NAIROBI 1995

FAWCO's second conference in Africa, following the 1993 Conference in Casablanca, was held at the Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya. There were 120 participants representing 31 clubs from 16 countries.

The American Ambassador to Kenya, Aurelia Brazeal, gave the stirring keynote speech, described by her listeners as inspiring. Other talks were on "Population Control and Family Planning" and "Women's Rights in Kenya."

President Barbara Johnson's report emphasized that the overriding concern of her board was to make FAWCO better known in the world. Achieving status as a United Nations NGO (non-governmental organization) was an important step in this direction. In the fall President Johnson and First Vice President Peggy Rigaud represented FAWCO at a regional NGO conference in Vienna and in the Spring AWC Denmark represented FAWCO at the UN Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen in the company of Vice President Gore, French President Mitterrand and UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali.

President Johnson also stated that she believed the time had come for FAWCO to decentralize, which could be achieved by regionalizing. To be the FAWCO president with 61 member clubs, she pointed out, puts too much responsibility in the hands of one person.

The name *FAWCO Forum* was restored to the newsletter and a new *Mini-Forum* created to provide more frequent communication with the member clubs. A meeting was held to discuss what issues FAWCO should present at the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in August 1995. Attendance at this United Nations meeting in China would be a notable first for FAWCO.

Environment Chair Valerie Garforth reported that the goals for the committee set up in 1993 had been reached. These included:

- 1) To work with The FAWCO Foundation to create an environment scholarship under the auspices of Earthwatch.
- 2) To support a home in Kenya for abandoned street girls.
- 3) To prevent rainforest destruction by purchasing one acre of rainforest for each club.
- 4) To plant at least one tree per member over a two-year period.

In 1995, the total of trees planted worldwide by FAWCO clubs and club members was 57,788. The Foundation has worked closely with the Environment Committee and part of the proceeds of the auction at the gala dinner were contributed to the salary of a nurse at the Okoa Dada Home for orphaned and abandoned little street girls in Nairobi. Many of the women attending the conference had brought clothing, books and toys to give the girls at the home.

Citizenship Chair Rebecca Tan reported on the new law, passed in 1994, permitting non-American children of a US parent to apply from overseas for expeditious naturalization. She added that the law had not yet been implemented and suggested that members write to their representatives in Congress.

International Liaison Committee Chair Lucy Laederich reported on the World Federation of Americans Abroad, of which FAWCO is a founding member. She pointed out that another

founding member, American Citizens Abroad, was also working hard to get overseas Americans included in the 2000 US census.

Shirley van Ooijen, Membership Extension chair, listed the nine new clubs which joined FAWCO since the March 1993 Conference. They were: AWC in the Bahamas, AWA of South Australia (Adelaide), Chilterns AWC, AC of Costa del Sol, AWA Budapest, AWC Berlin, AWC Liechtenstein, AW of the Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia, and AW Berkshire-Surrey.

Rebecca Tan was elected president and the Association of American Women in Ireland was chosen to plan the next Conference in Dublin.

## INTERIM MEETING BAD HOMBURG 1996

President Rebecca Tan opened the 1996 Interim Meeting in Bad Homburg, Germany, hosted by AWC of the Taunus. Attending were 230 women from 38 clubs in 20 countries. The theme was “Women in the Year 2000 — a Voice to be Heard,” and Nadine Strossen, president of the American Civil Liberties Union, delivered the keynote speech on “Current Threats to Civil Liberties and Women of Today.”

Among the innovations at this Interim Meeting were the first Silent Auction, introduced by The Foundation; the FAWCO Fair, consisting of parallel meetings in small groups; one-minute reports by reps instead of the usual three-minute ones; and contributions to The Foundation made at lunch time instead of as part of the general meetings. The FAWCO Foundation gave \$25,000 to six student recipients and Jackie Isler, AWC Zürich, was elected its president for 1996–98.

In August 1995, seven FAWCO members — Donna Sebti, AIWC Casablanca; Helen Hootsmans, AWC Amsterdam; Leslie Flack, AWC Taunus; Peggy Rigaud, AWC Languedoc-Roussillon; Lois Pot, AWC The Hague; Jeanne Schapp, AWC London; and Rebecca Tan, AWC Hamburg — attended the United Nations Fourth Conference on Women in Beijing, China. An extensive report by all seven women was given at the fall Hague regional meeting, “Back from Beijing and Beyond,” attended by over eighty women.

During this period the FAWCO Alumnae Committee, chaired by Mona Garcia, Madrid, published its first alumnae newsletter; club presidents were added to the FAWCO mailing list; and the presidents’ coordinator, Elinor Badanes, created a newsletter for club presidents called *Presidential Pipeline*. New committees were the Finance Committee, chaired by Dorothy Childers, Oslo, and the Census 2000 Committee chaired by Shirley van Ooijen, Amsterdam.

Besides the meeting in The Hague, regional meetings also took place in Brussels, Ischia (Italy), Montpellier, Florence, East Sussex and Basel. All board members were online and <http://www.fawco.org> was born under the guidance of Sarah Porubcansky, AWA Vienna, and Robin Jack, AWC London.

The 20th anniversary of voting from overseas, 1976 to 1996, was celebrated with a historical overview, published by Kathy Webster, Brussels, of the steps taken by FAWCO leading to this historical event.

Valerie Garforth, AWC Zürich, announced that enough money had been raised through the



sale of plastic bowl covers to buy an acre of rainforest in Costa Rica in FAWCO's name. Lee Iacovoni, AWA Rome, outgoing Foundation president, announced awards donations totaling \$21,278.

The FAWCO Alumnae Committee introduced a proposal to hold the Interim Meeting in the year 2000 in Washington, DC. Committee chair Mona Garcia reported on the first US regional in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, attended by thirty women.

### XXXIII CONFERENCE DUBLIN 1997

"Peace and Partnership" was the theme of the 33rd FAWCO Conference held at the Grand Hotel Malahide outside of Dublin. There were 219 participants representing 47 clubs out of a total membership of 65 clubs in 31 countries with 15,000 members worldwide.

Among the 'firsts' at this conference, and a highlight of the occasion, was a speech by Mary Robinson, President of Ireland, the first time a head of state had addressed a FAWCO Conference. Other speakers were Dr. Dominic Murray, Director of the Irish Peace Institute Research Center; Mary Banotti, Member of the European Parliament and Maeve Binchy, author. Other firsts were the photos of the participants in the Directory and the possibility of paying for the Conference by credit card, something that had long been wished for.

The Foundation presented a *History of The FAWCO Foundation, 1967-1995*, compiled by Julie van der Wolf, AWC The Hague, while The Foundation celebrated its 30th anniversary. Jean Schapp, AWC London, reported that the Relief and Development Fund gave out money as follows: \$2000 to the Miftumukiza Project, tracing families of unaccompanied minors in Tanzanian refugee camps, proposed by AWC Oslo; \$1,000 to Amica, helping traumatized refugee women in Tusla, Bosnia, proposed by AWA Vienna; \$1,000 to Desa, empowering refugee women in Dubrovnik, Croatia, proposed by AWC London; and \$1,000 to Rural Girls' Literacy Classes in Morocco proposed by AWC Casablanca.

The Board of Representatives voted to change the By-laws in order to call future Conferences the Biennial Conference and future Interim Meetings the Interim Conference. Observers would be called participants, hostess clubs would become host clubs and chair would replace chairman.

Resolutions and Recommendations stressed personal safety, world peace, enhancing the US image abroad and creating long-term FAWCO goals.

Robin Jack, AWC London, presented an audio-visual view of FAWCO's new website. She urged clubs to review the information about their own club and to change any outdated material. Individual clubs were given the opportunity to have their own home page linked to the FAWCO's website.

Member clubs were divided into regions, each headed by a regional coordinator. Conference minutes were taken each day by different delegates from several FAWCO clubs, coordinated by Carol Battenfeld, AWC Hamburg.

Ellen Rice, AAW Ireland, was elected president and London was chosen as the site for the next Biennial Conference.

## INTERIM CONFERENCE ATHENS 1998

There were 42 clubs represented at the 1998 Interim Conference (name changed in 1997 from Interim Meeting). President Ellen Rice introduced the new FAWCO publicity and membership materials incorporating the new logo and colors.

Foundation President Jackie Isler, Zürich, announced that The Foundation had revised its By-laws in regard to the election of officers: the Board of Representatives will vote for the four officers of The Foundation. The remaining four directors will be elected by the outgoing Foundation Board. The silent auction raised almost \$9,000, 25% of which went to AWOOG's charity choice, the Aglaia Kyriakou children's cancer hospital.

New Directions Chair Lucy Laederich divided the assembly into six groups, each facilitated by a committee member, to formulate a new mission statement for FAWCO. The proposals were voted upon and the committee was given a mandate to combine the top-ranking statements prior to final publication.

The Resource Center was phased out as information could easily be obtained from the website.

The FAWCO Alumnae Committee had approximately 260 members throughout the United States. The group had a tour-planning program open to FAWCO members and spouses everywhere. Alumnae Chair Mona Garcia described the arrangements being made for the FAWCO 2000 Interim Conference, the first-time ever within the borders of the United States.

## XXXIV BIENNIAL CONFERENCE LONDON 1999

To celebrate the centenary of the American Women's Club in London, FAWCO's last conference of the second millennium was held as a cooperative endeavor of four host clubs: the American Women's Club of London, the American Women of Berkshire/Surrey, the American Women of Surrey and the Chilterns American Women's Club.

President Ellen Rice reported that since March 1997 there had been five meetings of the Board, two of which were conventional meetings. The other three meetings were held online for the first time in the organization's history. These proved extremely successful, resulting in a considerable saving of time and expense. President Rice said that a chapter on "Online Meetings" was included in the new edition of the *Resource Manual*.

Since no organization can remain static and survive, the Board considered three major issues during its two-year term:

- 1) The Relief and Development Committee: in 1997 all of FAWCO's philanthropic activities were amalgamated in The FAWCO Foundation by relocating that committee within the Foundation structure.
- 2) The Resource Center: in 1998 was phased out as a distribution point for FAWCO materials.
- 3) Dues and Income Restructuring: fundraising was still a serious problem and FAWCO was therefore dependent on the dues from member clubs for its income.

A change in membership dues was proposed by the Board to be voted upon at the Biennial Conference. A letter was sent out to all member clubs, seeking a dues increase of approximately 15% in 2000 and another 5% in 2001, the first in eight years. The Board also suggested that a discount should be offered to associate member clubs, based on the fact that approximately 25% of FAWCO's business concerned US citizens only, a minority within these clubs.

Membership Extension Committee Chair, Virginia Andersen, announced that three new clubs had joined FAWCO since the Athens Interim Conference: AWC Malmo (Sweden), AW of Sydney (Australia) and the Barcelona Women's Network (Spain). This brought the Federation to a total of seventy clubs.

The New Directions Committee, chaired by Lucy Laederich, made three proposals for the future:

- 1) A 'virtual clubhouse' for FAWCO, a new role for the website which was now functioning.
- 2) Regional meetings to be held in the autumn in each of four to six 'super-regions.'
- 3) Further use of modern communications.

The FAWCO Foundation made a number of organizational changes during the year, eliminating voting deputies from its board and creating two new fundraising positions. For the first time the four administrative officers were elected directly by the FAWCO Board of Representatives. All this entailed writing new Administrative Guidelines. Foundation President Roberta Zollner, AWC Denmark, also explained some of the recent economies being made by The Foundation such as the elimination of their newsletter and using electronic mail as much as possible.

Lucy Laederich, AAWE Paris, was elected president and Luxembourg was chosen as the 2001 Biennial Conference site.

## INTERIM CONFERENCE WASHINGTON, DC 2000

There were 202 registered delegates and 42 guests attending this FAWCO Conference, held for the first time in the United States and titled "Coming Home to Be Counted." President Lucy Laederich announced that they represented 20 of the 35 countries in which FAWCO member clubs are present. Three new clubs had joined during the past year: AWC Philippines, AWC Bahamas and AWC of Lebanon, bringing the number of member clubs to 73.

President Laederich spoke of the objectives of her Board in the past year: further development of the FAWCO website, changing the headquarters' mailings to bi-monthly letters from the president and twice-yearly mailings of *The Forum*, and reviving the FAWCO Emergency Relief Fund. Other objectives included augmenting the number of regional meetings as well as scheduling more parallel meetings for reps and presidents at conferences. President Laederich also represented the Federation in Washington at a fact-finding meeting of the C2K committee at the Census Bureau in Washington, DC.



Census committee Chair Kay Miller reported that Dr. Kenneth Prewitt, Director of the US Census Bureau, had met with her and the FAWCO Board before the Conference to discuss some of the major difficulties in including civilian overseas Americans in the Census, and encouraged FAWCO to make proposals as to how it could be done.

AW Surrey, which co-chaired the London Conference in 1999, has generously voted to contribute their profit of approximately \$2,700 to the Federation. These funds will be used to update and publish a new edition of *The Years of FAWCO*, to coincide with FAWCO's 70th anniversary in 2001. Paula Daepfen, Vice President for Public Relations and Internet Presence, reported that thanks to *The FAWCO Forum* and the website, FAWCO possesses two tools not only for increasing communication among member clubs but also for attracting advertisers.

The Board presented the Circle of Honor Award to the following women in recognition of their outstanding achievements: Eleanor Fina, Washington liaison from 1988 to 1998; Kathy Webster, for her efforts in voter registration for over twenty years and other citizenship issues; and Caroline Newton for her long service with the FAWCO archives.

FAWCO Foundation President Roberta Zollner reported that the Board hoped eventually to increase Relief and Development grants to the level of education awards. Other goals were to work toward increasing the endowment fund through donations and to cut expenses by using e-mail more frequently for communications. President Zollner presented the new Foundation logo and the *Rep Manual*, created by Elinor Badanes.

Laureen Scharps, AWC Taunus, Foundation Chair, Relief and Development, announced that the year's grants totaling \$15,000 had been awarded to: Nyapea Hospital, Uganda, \$5000; Horizons Ouverts (village schools), Morocco, \$3500; Monze Mission Hospital, Zambia, \$2500; Tailor Training Project, Burundi and Rwanda, \$2500; Nuevo Amanecer, Madrid, \$1500.

There were three outstanding speakers at the Conference. Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney, Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States, and Harriet Mayor Fulbright, Executive Director of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, were warmly applauded by the conference participants.

The Washington Interim Conference closed with a tree-planting ceremony with the National Park Service, near the Washington Memorial, celebrating the first FAWCO Conference in the United States.

## THE NEW CENTURY

In the years 2001–2006, FAWCO presidents and committee members began to travel regularly to regions outside of Europe as well as to the United States. This was a period of recognition for FAWCO, both with the United States Government — the Congress, the State Department, the Government Accounting Office and the Federal Voting Assistance Program — and with the United Nations through CONGO, the UN Conference of NGOs. Advances were made on citizenship concerns and on the issues affecting women and children on a global scale.

Global concerns were also addressed through the Emergency Relief Fund, which was activated for 9/11, the tsunami in Asia and Hurricane Katrina. The Development Grants, administered by The Foundation, concentrated on long-range projects. Further, FAWCO elected to celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2006 by raising \$75,000, or \$5.00 per member, to buy treated bed nets to combat malaria.

Communication continued to be up-graded — the website was redesigned twice. FAUSA, the alumnae arm of FAWCO, became an established FAWCO partner.

The FAWCO Pin was launched and The Founder's Circle inaugurated.

## XXXV BIENNIAL CONFERENCE LUXEMBOURG 2001

The Conference was addressed by Her Royal Highness, the Grand Duchess .of Luxembourg, and speakers Claire Brisset, Chairman of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children, and Marie Holzman, Franco-American champion of human rights/women's rights in China.

The workshops were: Moveable Marriages; Leadership Issues in Facing Conflict; Taxation and Social Security for the American Expatriate; A Career in Your Suitcase; Fearless Fundraising; Emergency Response to Cardiac Crisis; Lessons in Leadership.

Circle of Honor Awards went to: Michael Adler, AAWE Paris (Citizenship); Valerie Garforth, AWC Brussels (Environment); and Elaine Senigallia, AWA Rome (Editor, two FAWCO histories).

The first Foundation Online Auction was launched during May 2001. *70 Years of FAWCO, 1931–2001*, edited by Counselors Elaine Senigallia and Georgia Regnault, was presented. The FAWCO Special Project Award for \$500 went to AWO Ticino.

Two resolutions were voted on:

- 1). "The delegates to the 35<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of The Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas, Inc. (FAWCO), urge the US government to enact legislation that will eliminate all of the current disincentives to voting that overseas citizens encounter, and specifically those presented in FAWCO's electoral reform proposals of February 2001."
- 2). "The delegates to the 35th Biennial Conference of The Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas, Inc. (FAWCO), urge the United States Congress to ratify the International Convention on the Rights of the Child."

The Emergency Relief Fund was revived at the request of AWC Bombay; two donations totaling \$3,000 were given for aid following the Gujarat earthquake in India.

The FAWCO website was redesigned by Maureen Kittridge and Emily van Eerten, with two major financial subsidies from AW Surrey. It featured the work of FAWCO committees and became the web host for over one quarter of the clubs within two years.

FAWCO joined CONGO, the UN Conference of NGOs.

Five new clubs joined the Federation, including two from new countries, India and Finland.

Membership was seventy-nine clubs in March 2001, the highest ever.

The Census Committee Chair, Nan de Laubadère, AAWE Paris, surveyed FAWCO on “which overseas Americans should be counted in the Decennial Census; and where might they best be found in your country?” President Lucy Laederich attended a conference in Washington, DC, organized by the US Census Bureau for ‘international stakeholders’ such as FAWCO, to discuss possibilities for including overseas Americans in the 2010 Decennial Census.

FAWCO was consulted on language and provisions in the first post-2000 election reform legislation, urging maximum possible time between the sending out of ballots and Election Day in order to reduce disenfranchisement of overseas Americans. Voting from Overseas Chair Kathy Webster drafted a wish list based on the FAWCO post-election survey which was to become the basis for the first position paper used for Overseas Americans Week in Washington in May 2002.

The first-ever Asia regional meeting was organized in November 2000 by Helen Papazian, AWC Bangkok. Present were AWC Bangkok, AWC Perth, AWC Philippines, AWC Seoul and FAWCO’s newest member-club, AWC Bombay, as well as an interested visitor from AWC Hong Kong.

## INTERIM CONFERENCE FLORENCE 2002

The theme of the Interim Conference was “Building Bridges.” Present were 42 clubs representing 24 of the 33 countries in which FAWCO member clubs are present. The 161 attendees included delegates, guests, the FAWCO Board, The FAWCO Foundation and FAWCO Alumnae USA, Inc. (FAUSA). New Delhi, India, Lausanne, Switzerland and WIN Austria had become FAWCO member clubs since the 2001 Conference in Luxembourg.

President Pam Dahlgren reported on the Emergency Relief Fund activated just days after the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack on America. The charity FAWCO chose to support was the Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund.

Progress was reviewed on the objectives of the 2001–2003 Board, especially regarding the establishment of the US Liaison and the NGO Director positions, and the great strides made in the recognition of FAWCO in US citizens’ concerns and UN-related causes.

Appointed in 2001, Lucy Laederich, US Liaison, reported that she had two mandates: to work towards inclusion of Americans abroad in the census reports and to work on electoral reform. She unveiled a map showing the population of Americans abroad country by country. The following statement from FAWCO to Washington was presented and passed unanimously: “The delegates to the 2002 Interim Conference of The Federation of American Women’s Clubs Overseas, Inc., representing some 17,000 members in 35 countries, strongly urge the United States Congress to craft legislation that will: 1) facilitate procedures for voting from overseas; 2) ensure the timely distribution of election materials so that all ballots can be received and counted on time; 3) implement procedures for providing statistics on voting from overseas in order to further refine the process for the 4.1 million civilian United States citizens living and



working abroad.”

NGO Director Paula Daeppen, AWC Zürich, reported that FAWCO has joined CONGO (Congress of Non-Governmental Organizations) and that she would be the FAWCO Representative. A statement to be presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> UN World Summit on Aging in Madrid was unanimously approved.

“The Federation of American Women’s Club’s Overseas, Inc., as an organization of over 17,000 members in 35 countries worldwide, supports the UN International Plan of Action on Ageing and looks forward to partnering with other NGO and government organizations. It recognizes, in particular, the special needs of ageing women, the largest percentage of this ageing population and often those who are primary caregivers despite limited financial resources. Its newly-established committee on Women’s Health and Ageing will therefore work actively to disseminate information and provide support to its members and others in their host communities around the globe.”

A By-law amendment was approved to Article IV – Officers, Section 2 – qualifications, which permitted the elected position of treasurer to be a non-American, as the treasurer is not in line to fill the position of president. The purpose for this amendment was to widen the field of possible candidates and to open a position on the Board to FAWCO’s non-American members.

Polli Brunelli, Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) gave the keynote presentation.

Polli, with Kathy Webster, chair of Voting from Overseas, provided a Voter Assistance Training Workshop. The other workshops were: American Studies for Kids; Bridging the Financial Gap; Financial Independence for Women; Confessions of an Advertising Woman or How Anyone Can Succeed at Selling More Advertising and Earning More Money for Her Club Publication; Educational, Medical, Psychological and Legal Implications Among the Learning Disabled Population; Elder Care from Overseas; Energy Efficiency; FAWCO: Global Appeal to International Members; Repatriation – Are You Ready to Go Home Again?

The FAWCO Foundation officers for the term 2002–2004 were elected: President Elinor Badanes, AW Surrey; Vice President Mary Rose Stauder, AAW Ireland; Secretary Trude Visser, AWC Dublin; and Treasurer Pinky Niggli, AWC Zürich. The theme of The Foundation friendship quilt was ‘Let the Sun Shine In.’ Laureen Sharps, AWC Taunus, The Foundation Relief & Development Chair, announced that this fund would be renamed The Foundation Development Grants.

## XXXVI BIENNIAL CONFERENCE STOCKHOLM 2003

The theme of the 36th Biennial Conference was “Be Inspired.” The 41 clubs represented 25 of the 33 countries in which FAWCO member clubs are present, 161 attendees in all.

President Pam Dahlgren reported on the first Overseas Americans Week in May 2002 which she attended with US Liaison Lucy Laederich, American Citizens Abroad (ACA), Association

of Americans Resident Overseas (AARO) and Alliance of American Organizations – Spain and Portugal (ALLAMO). The American Business Council of the Gulf States (ABCGC) joined the coalition for several appointments with key officials. This weeklong door-knock included Capitol Hill, the State Department, the White House and the Census Bureau. Due to the success of the venture, it was decided to make it an annual undertaking. The Circle of Honor was presented to Senator John D. Rockefeller and Representative Carolyn Maloney, on behalf of their work in supporting the voting rights of overseas Americans, at a ceremony at one of the Senate Office Buildings. This was the first time that the FAWCO Circle of Honor had been presented to those outside of FAWCO.

In January 2003 a second visit was made to Washington during the Congressional budget appropriations to advocate that funds be allocated for the Help America Vote Act. A meeting was also held with the Director of the Census Bureau, Charles Louis Kincannon.

NGO Director Paula Daepfen represented FAWCO on five UN-affiliated committees — CONGO (Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations), the CONGO Committee on the Status of Women, the CONGO Special NGO Committee on Human Rights, the CONGO HIV Committee, and GINA (the Geneva International Network on Ageing, which works closely with the World Health Organization). Paula, Third Vice President Arline Coward and Dolores Cuellar, chair of the FAWCO Women's Health and Ageing Committee, attended the UN World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid in 2002. The US Delegation was presented with the FAWCO statement on ageing adopted at the Florence Interim Conference, "urging recognition of the special needs of ageing women, the largest percentage of the ageing population and those who are often the primary caregivers despite limited financial resources."

The president, in conjunction with Sites Chair Ashley O'Reilly, AWC Bern, and Charlotte de Witt, First Vice President, AWC Sweden, initiated a FAWCO Pro Forma Budget document to be used by clubs interested in hosting future FAWCO Conferences.

A By-law amendment was approved to change the status of FAWCO Alumnae USA, Inc. (FAUSA), from an affiliate member club to a separate category, in line with that of The FAWCO Foundation, in that FAUSA serves as FAWCO's alumnae arm much as The Foundation serves as FAWCO's philanthropic arm.

A visit from Queen Silvia to accept a donation from FAWCO for her charity was a delight for the delegates. The keynote speaker for the Conference was Elisabeth Rehn, whose distinguished career has included serving as minister of Equality Affairs and Minister of Defense of Finland; UN Under-Secretary; and UN Special Rapporteur of the Situation on Human Rights.

Eleven workshops were provided: Computers & the Internet; Promoting Your Club in a Politically Sensitive Climate; Speaking Globally; Substance Abuse; Americans As Others See Them; Global Climate Change and Its Impact on Markets; Photographic Reflections on Swedish Emigration and North American Indians; Website Development; Health Promotion and Prevention Among Elderly in Sweden; Rhythm Therapy for Stroke Victims; Fundraising the Gallo Way. The FAWCO Committees highlighted their activities in a new college-fair format, which was well received.

The theme of The Foundation friendship quilt was 'Oceans Apart, Close as the Heart.'

The Foundation Development Grants (DGs) were restructured into five categories: Healthy Living; Feed the World; AWC Madrid Effects of Violence; Peace Through Understanding; Hope Through Education.

## INTERIM CONFERENCE THE HAGUE 2004

“Changing The Flow — Making A Difference” was the focus of the 2004 Interim hosted by AWC The Hague at the Kurhaus Hotel, with a pre-conference Indonesian *rijsttaffel* at the AWC clubhouse. President Arline Coward, AWC Madrid, opened the meeting by welcoming the delegates of 46 member clubs, 32 club presidents and ten FAWCO Counselors who represented twenty years of FAWCO leadership. A moment of silence was observed in memory of the late Princess Juliana, former Queen of The Netherlands.

A panel discussion on “Women, War and Peace” was moderated by Dutch journalist and Ambassador of the Dutch chapter of Save the Children, Pia Dijkstra. The panel consisted of members of the International Criminal Court, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and The Netherlands Institute for Human Rights; they discussed women’s roles in war, as victims or soldiers, and in peace, as peace-builders.

With proceeds from the 2003 Stockholm Conference the Board held a FAWCO Fever Lottery that awarded three full Interim Conference packages to AWC Amsterdam, USWC Fyn and AWC Aarhus; underwrote a portion of the conference registration fee for all delegates; and contributed \$2,000 to the FAWCO Foundation Development Grants.

As an emblem for FAWCO, the FAWCO PIN was launched.

The Founder’s Circle was inaugurated as a salute to Caroline Curtis Brown whose original vision created FAWCO. Contributions and bequests to The Founder’s Circle are used to help fund FAWCO committees and liaisons in their work on traditional FAWCO concerns. A Founder’s Circle pin and two portraits of Caroline Curtis Brown were unveiled.

The Conference was declared “carbon-neutral” when Environment Committee Chair Valerie Garforth, AWC Brussels, calculated travel miles to the Conference and allowed delegates to purchase trees, thus offsetting the negative impact of flight travel on the environment. Water and Gender, an informative presentation by the International Water and Sanitation Center in Delft, explained the important relationship between women and water in the developing world.

Delegates attended two official receptions, one hosted by Delft Mayor H. van Oorschot and his wife Anne, FAWCO Rep, The Hague, at the Delft Town Hall. The other was a welcome reception hosted by the ASmerican Ambassador Clifford Sobel and his wife Barbara, Honorary President of AWC The Hague, at the Ambassador’s Residence.

Workshops included Virtual Leadership, Fund Raising for a Cause, Substance Abuse, Living Abroad with Children, Care-giving from a Distance, Facing History and Ourselves, How Sustainable is the World of our Grandchildren, and Voting Assistance Training conducted by Polli Brunelli, Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program, Department of Defense.



The former Dutch Minister of Health, Dr. Els Borst, explored the Truths and Myths about Dutch Laws on Drugs, Prostitution and Euthanasia that included a question and answer session.

The results of a survey by Citizenship Chair Dorothy Stage, AWC Gothenburg, on expeditious naturalization to obtain US citizenship for grandchildren or children were made available.

The delegates unanimously passed a mandate “that the Federation of American Women’s Clubs Overseas, Inc., as a non-partisan network with more than 17,000 members in 33 countries, endorses the three sections of the Equal Rights Amendment and urges timely ratification.”

The Board launched ‘Taking FAWCO to the Clubs’ in order to establish a partnership between FAWCO and member clubs. Two regional meetings were held, one hosted by AWC Brussels and the second by AWC Gothenburg. The FAWCO president attended AWC Chilterns’ Remembrance Day Service at an American cemetery, participated with IWC Casablanca and AIWA Rabat in the first-ever Run/Walk event in Morocco to support breast cancer research, and represented FAWCO at the UN World Habitat Forum in Barcelona. The FAWCO leadership addressed the changing membership profiles of the clubs and, by working with committee chairs, liaisons, The Foundation and member clubs, confirmed that the FAWCO vision is not only a process, it is a vision in progress.

FAWCO submitted the FAWCO Millennium Forest Project, organized by AIWC Casablanca and supported by member clubs worldwide, to the United Nations publication on successful Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) projects.

FAWCO Foundation President Mary Rose Stauder, AAW Ireland, reported on significant changes during 2000–2004. Acting on a mission statement adopted at the 2003 Annual Special Meeting, Development Grants Chair Elinor Badanes, AW Surrey, oversaw the restructuring of the Development Grants based on categories; the awards were modified to include specific academic disciplines. The Kids Help project, whereby a donation marks a special occasion in a child’s life, was initiated by Ann DeSimoni, AIWC Genoa. Mary Rose was re-elected Foundation president and Pam Perraud, AAW Paris, was elected vice president, for 2004–2006.

FAUSA President Dale Koepenick reported that FAUSA membership remains steady at 200, hosts an annual meeting and several regional meetings throughout the United States, and raises funds for a FAUSA scholarship and other philanthropic efforts. Twenty-two FAUSA members attended the Interim Conference.

Thames Valley AWC joined FAWCO as the 72<sup>nd</sup> club.

The president closed the Conference with a message from the Women, War, and Peace panel by stating that “we must believe in our ability to make changes in our lives, not only locally but globally as well,” and that “we must challenge concepts that are taken as normal but we know that are not. We must foster peace.”

Conference Chair Georgia Regnault, FAWCO Rep Anne van Oorschot and AWC The Hague President Celeste Brown, conducted the first FAWCO Flag Ceremony by passing the FAWCO

flag to Sunny Eades, chair of the 37<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference to be hosted by The North American Connection in Birmingham, England.

## XXXVII BIENNIAL CONFERENCE BIRMINGHAM 2005

“The Heart of the Matter” and “Thinking Outside of the Box” were the joint themes of the 37<sup>th</sup> FAWCO Biennial Conference hosted by The North American Connection in Birmingham, England, in ‘The Heart of England.’ There were 41 clubs and 28 club presidents attending. President Arline Coward, AWC Madrid/Barcelona Women’s Network, opened the Conference by inviting the delegates to re-discover the vision of FAWCO’s founder, Mrs. Caroline Curtis Brown.

Conference innovations included shortening the Biennial by one day, replacing club oral reports with a narrated Power Point presentation by Second Vice President Kathleen Simon, AWC London/NAC, and Presidents’ Liaison Melissa Mash, AW Surrey, titled Clubs in Action, and the cabaret-style seating in General Sessions. The Flags of FAWCO displayed in the General Assembly and representing FAWCO’s 74 member clubs in 35 countries were created by Conference Chair Sunny Eades and children from the conference charity, Little Hearts Matter.

A panel discussion on heart care with two cardiologists and the Director of Little Hearts Matter was moderated by Health Issues Chair Dolores Cuellar, AWC Bogotá. Conference speakers included the president of the American Friends of the NHC, Countess of Macclesfield; the Lord Mayor of Birmingham; Veronica Oakeshott from Cicely’s Fund; and Conference Gold Level sponsors. The Rt. Hon. Ann Clwyd MP, Prime Minister Tony Blair’s Special Envoy to Iraq, was the keynote speaker.

Workshops dealt with HIV/AIDS, Dealing with Difficult People, the US Government & Overseas Americans, The Woodland Trust, and Learning Differently. Environment Chair Valerie Garforth, AWC Brussels, sold 168 trees through the Carbon Neutral Conference Campaign; 65 trees were planted in the FAWCO Grove in the Woodland Trust near Birmingham.

For distinguished years of service and dedication to the goals and ideals of FAWCO, The Circle of Honor was presented to NGO Director Paula Daepfen, AWC Zürich; FAWCO Foundation Counselor and Archives Co-Chair Jackie Isler, AWC Zürich; FAWCO Counselor and US Liaison Lucy Laederich, AAWE Paris; FAWCO Counselor Georgia Regnault, AWC The Hague; ESC Chair Susan van Alsenoy, AWC Antwerp; and Foundation Counselor Roberta Zollner, AWC Denmark.

Two new FAWCO awards were established in 2005. The Caroline Curtis Brown Spirit Award, in appreciation of service exemplifying the spirit, inspiration and dedication of Founder Caroline Curtis Brown, was presented to Stella Fizazi and Donna Sebti, AIWC Casablanca, Rebecca Warnander, AWC Stockholm, and Shawn Watson, AWC Bern. The FAWCO Fellowship Award for outstanding support and partnership in promoting the ideals and goals of The Federation of American Women’s Clubs Overseas, Inc., was presented to “the fathers of the

Help America Vote Act of 2002,” Senators Christopher Dodd (D-CT) and Mitch McConnell (R-KY), and Congressmen Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Bob Ney (R-OH); to Polli Brunelli, Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program; and to long-time FAWCO supporter Jaime Watson.

Voting from Overseas Committee Chair Kathy Webster retired from ‘active duty.’ Polli Brunelli, Director FVAP, presented Kathy with letters of recognition and congratulations from New York Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Charles Schumer, as well as the Office of the Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld (signed by Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz); an American flag flown over the Pentagon in her honor; and mementos from the Department of Defense and FVAP.

Dianne Reed, AW of The Eastern Province, spoke of being shot during a terrorist attack in Saudi Arabia and the strength that she gained from the support of her FAWCO ‘family.’ She congratulated FAWCO for empowering women and developing global partnerships with the member clubs. The Board made a contribution in Dianne’s name to the FAWCO Founder’s Circle.

The new FAWCO website was presented by the web manager Alice Grevet, AAWE Paris, who acknowledged the contribution of web designer Stephanie Von Ohain, AWC Stockholm. The FAWCO 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History Book project was launched, with FAWCO Counselor Georgia Regnault, AWC The Hague, and Nancy Thornley, FAUSA, as editors.

The delegates unanimously passed two mandates: the first urged FAWCO members to support a UN Millennium Development Goal to eradicate malaria by raising \$75,000 for the purchase and distribution of mosquito nets; the second advocated the creation of a Congressional caucus in Washington dedicated to active dialogue with the overseas American community, and to explore the possibility of setting up a council of overseas Americans with consultative status to the United States government.

The FAWCO Foundation produced Biennial Conference CDs available for purchase. Foundation Counselor Roberta Zollner, AWC Denmark, received recognition for organizing the 10<sup>th</sup> FAWCO Friendship Quilt, “How Does Your Garden Grow.” Foundation President Mary Rose Stauder, AAW Ireland, reported that member clubs donated \$25,000 to The FAWCO Foundation in 2004–2005 and that the Kids Help project contributed funds to the FAWCO Emergency Relief Fund.

The Federation became a visible organization to many member clubs through the Board’s efforts to ‘Take FAWCO to The Clubs.’ Six regional meetings, three regional retreats and two Swiss inter-club meetings were held during 2003–2005. The president visited clubs in Australia.

FAWCO continued to assist overseas Americans in voting in Federal elections. It advocated full funding of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 with the inclusion of overseas Americans in the original Senate bill. FAWCO President Arline Coward, US Liaison Lucy Laederich, FAUSA President Dale Koepenick, American Club of Lyon Co-President Eric Way and FAWCO Counselor Pamela Dahlgren attended Overseas Americans Week in Washington, DC, during 2003–2005.

The FAWCO Emergency Relief Fund raised \$48,000 for the Beruwala Village Housing



Project, Sri Lanka, submitted by AWG Languedoc-Roussillon, to build a house for the widows and children of fishermen killed in the 2004 tsunami.

An official statement was issued calling upon the US Administration to honor the rights and dignity of women and children by supporting life-saving programs sponsored by the United Nations Population Fund. Letters of condolence were sent to former First Lady Nancy Reagan on the death of President Ronald Reagan and to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on the death of Sergio Vieira de Mello, UN High Commissioner of Human Rights.

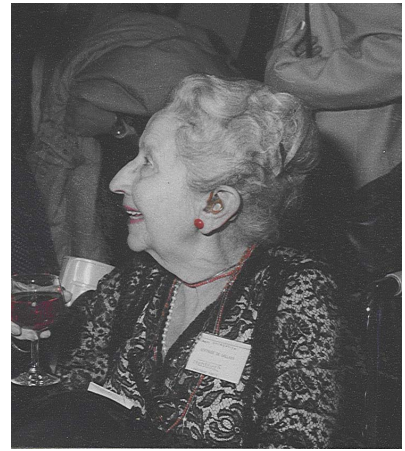
FAUSA President Dale Koepenick reported that the alumnae arm continues to be a resource for FAWCO members returning to the USA; it is assisting in FAWCO membership recruitment in Central and South America.

AWC Bogotá (Columbia), WA Cairo (Egypt) and the American Women's Potluck Club in Kristiansand (Norway) joined FAWCO.

Two ad hoc committees were created during the year: the committee on Communication addressed the flow of information within FAWCO; the committee on Structure was charged with reviewing the present structure of FAWCO and making recommendations where required.

Emily van Eerten, AWC Amsterdam, was elected president for 2005–2007. Berlin, the site of the first FAWCO Conference, was chosen to host FAWCO's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2006.































## FAWCO BOARDS

1932–1934	President 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Honorary Secretary Treasurer Member-at-Large Member-at-Large	Caroline Curtis Brown (London) Mrs. Albert N. Connett Jr. (Paris) Mrs. Egmont C. von Tresckow (The Hague) Mrs. James B. Mennell (London) Mrs. Richard Guttman (Vienna) Mrs. Frederic Shearer (Paris) Mrs. Ernest Schwamdt (Berlin)
1934–1936	President 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Honorary Secretary Treasurer Assistant Treasurer Honorary President	Louise Connett (Paris) Mrs. Egmont C. von Tresckow (The Hague) Mrs. Melvin Doolittle (Antwerp) Mrs. Frederic Shearer (Paris) Mrs. Richard Guttman (Vienna) Mrs. Lillian Stephany Brown (Berlin) Mrs. Curtis Brown (London)
1936–1937	President 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Honorary Secretary Honorary Treasurer Assistant Treasurer Honorary Presidents	Mrs. James B. Mennell (London) Mrs. Richard Guttman (Vienna) Mrs. S. Tovborg-Jensen Mrs. Joseph Halsby (London) Mrs. L.J. Blattner (Ruschlikon) Miss Anna Geist (Berlin) Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen Rohde (USA) Mrs. Curtis Brown (London) Mrs. Albert N. Connett (USA)
1938–1939	President 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Mrs. Mary Volkmann (Zürich) Mrs. Morgenstjerne (Oslo)
1939–1949	Federation discontinued all activity	
1949–1951	President 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Secretary Treasurer Assistant Treasurer	Mary Briner (Zürich) Mrs. Koster Frosig (Denmark) Mrs. Inez Hoyer (Oslo) Mrs. Charles Meech (Zürich) Mrs. James T. Duke (Germany) Mrs. Philip Sandblom (Stockholm)

1951–1953	President 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Treasurer Assistant Treasurer Secretary	Inez Hoyer (Oslo) Mrs. Carl Briner (Zürich) Mrs. C.W. Blegen (Athens) Mrs. Jean-Paul Ganseman (Brussels) Mrs. Porter Wiggins (Denmark) Mrs. Frances Stoylen (Norway)
1953–1955	President 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President 2 <sup>nd</sup> vice-President Secretary Treasurer	Marge Ganseman (Brussels) Mrs. L.L. Moore (Saudi Arabia) Mrs. J. Foure (Paris) Mrs. A. Deflandre (Brussels) Mrs. A. E. Bonjour (Zürich)
1955–1957	President 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Treasurer Secretary	Patricia Moore (Dhahran, Saudi Arabia) Mrs. A.E. Bonjour (Zürich) Mrs. Arvid G. Arvidson (Stockholm) Mrs. M. Glaaetti (Basel) Mrs. R.A. Hattruup (Saudi Arabia)
1957–1961	President 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Treasurer Secretary	Gertrude de Gallaix (Paris) Mrs. Stuart C. Carlson (Athens) Mrs. Robert L. St. John (The Hague) Mrs. Stanley Hale (Zürich) Mrs. Benjamin T. Pierce
1959–1961	President 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President Treasurer Assistant Treasurer Secretary	Ruth St. John (The Hague) Mrs. Howard Sherman (Saudi Arabia) Mrs. William Alberts (Paris) Mrs. Robert Hewins (Brussels) Mrs. Nicolas Baer (Zürich) Mrs. Teto Caprez (Zürich) Mrs. Udo Udemá (The Hague)
1961–1963	President 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President Treasurer Assistant Treasurer Secretary	Elizabeth Tine (Rome) Mrs. Stanley C. Hale (Zürich) Mrs. S.C. Egerød (Copenhagen) Mrs. Cayatano Cabanyes (Madrid) Mrs. Stanley E. Horn (Brussels) Mrs. John Jayet (Brussels) Mrs. Anthony J. King (Rome)

1963–1965	President	Marsha C. Hale (Zürich)
	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Mrs. Edward A. Mag (Rome)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Mrs. Richard Bagney (Madrid)
	Treasurer	Mrs. Mogens Jul (Copenhagen)
	Assistant Treasurer	Mrs. Bent E. Kierkegaard (Copenhagen)
	Secretary	Miss Stephanie Kray (Zürich)
1965–1967	President	Mary Mag (Rome)
	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Mrs. Frank Thompson –Schwab (London)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Mrs. G. L. Conrad
		Mrs. William McEwan (London)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President	Mrs. William McEwan (London)
		Mrs. J.A. Galleazzi (Saudi Arabia)
	Treasurer	Mrs. Donald Lueck
		Mrs. Fred e. Hahn (Luxembourg)
	Assistant Treasurer	Mrs. J.R. MacWain
		Mrs. Ernest Cvordan (Luxembourg)
	Secretary	Mrs. John V. Ryan (Rome)
		Mrs. George T. Hunt (Rome)
1967–1969	President	Mary Mag (Rome)
	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Mrs. William T. McEwan (London)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Mrs. Inger Jakhelln (Oslo)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President	Mrs. J.K. Christensen (Saudi Arabia)
	Treasurer	Mrs. Fred E. Hahn
		Mrs. Ernest Cordan (Luxembourg)
	Assistant Treasurer	Mrs. Ernst Cordan
		Mrs. Harold D. Smith (Luxembourg)
	Secretary	Mrs. Livio Zamboni (Rome)
		Mrs. Ralph J. Ribble (Rome)
1969–1971	President	Sonja Mincbere (Paris)
	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Mrs. U. Peter Rohr (Zürich)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Mrs. Richard Bagney (Madrid)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President	Mrs. Inger Jakhelln
		Mrs. Robert Monnier (Zürich)
	Treasurer	Mrs. Grant Sita
	Assistant Treasurer	Mrs.. Richard Gassner (Brussels)
	Secretary	Mrs. Ernest Castan
		Mrs. André-Jean Nicolas (Paris)



1971–1973	President	Elizabeth Sita (Brussels)
	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President -	Mrs. Harald Vestergaard (Copenhagen)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Mrs. William Bailey (Paris)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President	Mrs. Glover Johns
	Treasurer	Mrs. Alex Kulhavy (Germany)
	Assistant Treasurer	Mrs. Richard Gassner (Brussels)
	Secretary	Mrs. J. van Ooijen (Amsterdam)
		Mrs. Peter Jensen
		Mrs. Robert D. Hewins (Brussels)
1973–1975	President	Elizabeth Bagney (Madrid)
	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Mrs. Jan van Ooijen (Amsterdam)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Mrs. Dino Olivetti (Rome)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President	Mrs. George Blanchard (London)
	Treasurer	Mrs. Harald Vestergaard (Copenhagen)
	Assistant Treasurer	Mrs. Erik Rebild (Copenhagen)
	Secretary	Mrs. Elizabeth Strong (Amsterdam)
		Mrs. Cayetano de Cabanyes (Madrid)
1975–1977	President	Edith Beyer (Copenhagen)
	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Shirley van Ooijen (Amsterdam)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Pan Hottinger (Madrid)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President	Barbara Kaiser (Düsseldorf)
	Treasurer	Marilyn Paulsen (Oslo)
	Assistant Treasurer	Dolores Grondal (Oslo)
	Secretary	Ellen Vestergaard (Copenhagen)
	Parliamentarian	Elizabeth Bagney (Madrid)
1977–1979	President	Shirley van Ooijen (Amsterdam)
	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Barbara Kaiser (Düsseldorf)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Eleanor Hofmänner (Zürich)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President	Helen Papazian (Thailand)
	Treasurer	Marilyn Paulsen (Oslo)
	Secretary	Helen Simpson (Amsterdam)

1979–1981	President	Agnes Coppin (Brussels)
	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Helen Papazian (Thailand)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Jacqueline Isler (Zürich)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President	Helen Hootsman (Amsterdam)
	Treasurer	Barbara Bailey (London)
	Assistant Treasurer	Mary Sarkis (London)
	Secretary	Martha Huertas (Brussels)
	Parliamentarian	Gertrude de Gaillaix (Paris-AAWE)
1981–1983	President	Elaine Senigallia (Rome)
	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Georgiale Granger (Düsseldorf)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Muriel Bremner (Dublin)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President	Ruth Muller (Basel)
	Treasurer	Barbara Lee Bailey (London)
	Assistant Treasurer	Mary Sarkis (London)
	Secretary	Marilynn Clarke (Rome)
	Parliamentarian	Genevieve Garzero (Rome)
1983–1985	President	Muriel Bremner (Dublin)
	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Dorothea Bjerke (Oslo)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Kathy Webster (Brussels)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President	Kathy Buster (Hamburg)
	Treasurer	Ellen Vestergaard (Copenhagen)
	Assistant Treasurer	Edith Beyer (Copenhagen)
	Secretary	Joann Connell (Dublin)
	Parliamentarian	Shirley van Ooijen (Amsterdam)
1985–1987	President	Virginia Roth (ANCOR Rotterdam)
	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Betty Duncan (London)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Kathy Webster (Brussels)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President	Jan Snyder (Düsseldorf)
	Treasurer	Georgia Regnault (The Hague)
	Secretary	Susan van Alsenoy (Antwerp)
1987–1989	President	Georgia Regnault (The Hague)
	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Margaret Maura (Madrid)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Jacqueline Isler (Zürich)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President	Carol Bordoni (Genoa)
	Treasurer	Gail Williams (Luxembourg)
	Secretary	Hilary Gulliford (The Hague)
	Conference Secretary	Carol Battenfeld (Hamburg)
	Parliamentarian	Petre Kladstrup (Paris AWG)

1989–1991	President	Kay Miller (Brussels)
	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Petre Kladstrup (Paris AWG)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Carol Battenfeld (Hamburg)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President	Nancy Thornley (Rome)
	Treasurer	Paula Daepfen (Zürich)
	Secretary	Kathy Webster (Brussels)
	Parliamentarian	Roberta Zöllner (Denmark)
1991–1993	President	Ann Day (Vienna)
	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Norma Lehman Vogelweid (Madrid)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Irene Checler (Paris AAWE)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President	Irmigard Zahn (Dublin)
	Treasurer	Norma Fischer-James (Zürich)
		Vicki de Klerk-Rubin (Amsterdam)
	Secretary	Liv Ivie-Olsen (Vienna)
	Parliamentarian	Eve Higgins Miller (The Taunus)
1993–1995	President	Barbara Johnson (Paris AWG)
	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Peggy Rigaud (Languedoc-Roussillon)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Karen Shulstad (Taunus)
		Carol Battenfeld (Hamburg)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President	Virginia Andersen (Norway)
	Treasurer	Vicky de Klerk-Rubin (Amsterdam)
	Secretary	Nancy Le Balch (Paris-AWG)
	Parliamentarian	Pamela Dahlgren (AW Surrey)
1995–1997	President	Rebecca Tan (Hamburg)
	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Lucy Laederich (Paris-AAWE)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Sarah Porubcansky (Vienna)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President	Susan van Alsenoy (Antwerp)
	Treasurer	Georgia Regnault (The Hague)
	Secretary	Carol Battenfeld (Hamburg)
	Parliamentarian	Ellen Baur (Zürich)
1997–1999	President	Ellen Rice (Ireland AAW)
	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Norma Fischer-James (Zürich)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Sherry Satta (Rome)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President	Donna Sebti (Casablanca)
	Treasurer	Sharon Lochocki (Hamburg)
	Secretary	Liv Gibbons (Ireland-AW)
	Parliamentarian	Lee Iacovoni (Rome)



1999–2001	President 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President Treasurer Secretary Parliamentarian	Lucy Laederich (Paris AAWE) Paula Daepfen (Zürich) Arline Coward (Madrid) Pamela Dahlgren (Surrey) Sharon Lochocki (Hamburg) Karen Parnet (Paris- AAWE); Georgia Regnault (The Hague)
2001–2003	President 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President Treasurer Secretary Parliamentarian	Pamela Dahlgren (AW Surrey) Emily van Eerten (Amsterdam) Ann de Simoni (Genoa) Arline Coward (Madrid) Vicki Arefi (Paris-AAWE) Melissa Mash (Surrey) Kathy Webster (Brussels)
2003–2005	President 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President Treasurer Secretary  Parliamentarian	Arline Coward (Madrid) Charlotte de Witt (Sweden) Kathleen Simon (NAC- England) Louise Greeley-Copley (Surrey) Margot Humby (The Hague) Katherine Levengood (Madrid); Ashley O'Reilly (Bern) Pamela Dahlgren (Surrey)
2005–2007	President 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President Treasurer Secretary Parliamentarian	Emily van Eerten (Amsterdam) Celeste Brown (The Hague) Ashley O'Reilly (Bern) Sunny Eades (NAC – England) Betsy Greene (Zürich) Meg Brew-Termote (Amsterdam) Pamela Dahlgren (Surrey)

# PRESIDENTS AND CONFERENCE/INTERIM SITES

Term	Name	Club	Interim	Conference
1932-34	Caroline Curtis Brown	AWC of London	Berlin - 1932	Vienna -1933 Paris 1934
1934-36	Louise Connett	AWG of Paris	The Hague - 1935	Copenhagen -1936
1936-37	Mrs. James Mennell	AWC of London	Zürich - 1937	
1937-39	Mary Volkmann	AWC of Zürich	Hamburg - 1938	London - 1939
1939-49	<i>FAWCO discontinued all activity</i>			
1949-51	Mary Briner	AWC of Zürich		Stockholm -1951
1951-53	Inez Hoyer	AWC of Oslo		Brussels - 1953
1953-55	Marge Ganseman	AWC of Brussels		Zürich - 1955
1955-57	Patricia Moore	AWC of Dharan		Athens - 1957
1957-59	Gertude de Gallaix	AWG of Paris		Paris -1959
1959-61	Ruth St. John	AWC The Hague	Rome - 1960	The Hague - 1961
1961-63	Elizabeth Tine	AWAR - Rome	Brussels - 1962	Madrid -1963
1963-65	Marcia Hale	AWC of Zürich	Copenhagen - 1964	London - 1965
1965-67	Mary Mag	AWAR - Rome	not held	Rome - 1967
1967-69	Mary Mag	AWAR - Rome	not held	Brussels - 1969
1969-71	Sonia Mincbere	AWG of Paris	Paris - 1970	Paris - 1971
1971-73	Elizabeth Sita	AWC of Brussels	Brussels - 1972	Zürich - 1973
1973-75	Elizabeth Bagney	AWC of Madrid	Madrid - 1973	Copenhagen - 1975
1975-77	Edith Beyer	AWC of Denmark	Düsseldorf - 1977	Rome - 1977
1977-79	Shirley van Ooijen	AWC Amsterdam	Amsterdam - 1978	London -1979
1979-81	Agnes Coppin	AWC Brussels	Hamburg - 1980	Paris - 1981
1981-83	Elaine Senigallia	AWAR - Rome	Lugano -1982	Brussels - 1983
1983-85	Muriel Bremner	AWC of Dublin	Dublin - 1984	Düsseldorf - 1985
1985-87	Virginia Roth	ANCOR Rotterdam	Casablanca - 1986	Madrid -1987
1987-89	Georgia Regnault	AWC of The Hague	Luxembourg - 1988	Zürich - 1989
1989-91	Kay Miller	AWC of Brussels	Brussels - 1990	Vienna - 1991
1991-93	Ann Day	AWA of Vienna	Genoa - 1992	Casablanca - 1993
1993-95	Barbara Johnson	AWG of Paris	Bern - 1994	Nairobi - 1995
1995-97	Rebecca Tan	AWC of Hamburg	Bad Homburg - 1996	Dublin - 1997
1997-99	Ellen Rice	AAW - Ireland	Athens - 1998	London - 1999
1999-01	Lucy Laederich	AAWE - Paris	Washington - 2000	Luxembourg - 2001
2001-03	Pamela Dahlgren	AW Surrey	Florence - 2002	Stockholm -2003
2003-05	Arline Coward	AWC Madrid	The Hague - 2004	Birmingham - 2005
2005-	Emily van Eerten	AWC Amsterdam	Berlin - 2006	Lyon - 2007









FAWCO AWARDS

## CIRCLE OF HONOR

The highest award given by FAWCO, the Circle of Honor recognizes distinguished years of service and dedication to the goals and ideals of The Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas, Inc, in both elected and appointed positions.

Recipients since 1998

Shirley van Ooijen	FAWCO Counselor (AWC Amsterdam)
Caroline Newton	Archives Committee Chair (AWC London)
Eleanor Fina	Washington Liaison (AWC Brussels)
Elaine Senigallia	FAWCO Counselor (AWA Rome)
Michael Adler	Citizen Issues (AAWE Paris)
AWC of London	In recognition of the Club's 100 years of service
Valerie Garforth	Environment Chair (AWC Brussels)
Kathy Webster	Voting from Overseas Chair (AWC Brussels)
Paula Daepfen	NGO Director (AWC of Zürich)
Jackie Isler	Foundation Counselor (AWC of Zürich)
Lucy Laederich	FAWCO Counselor & US Liaison (AAWE Paris)
Georgia Regnault	FAWCO Counselor (AWC of The Hague)
Susan van Alsenoy	Education Support Committee Chair (AWC Antwerp)
Roberta Zöllner	Foundation Counselor (AWC of Denmark)

Senator John D. Rockefeller and Representative Carolyn Maloney on behalf of their work in supporting the voting rights of overseas Americans. (2002)



## CAROLINE CURTIS BROWN SPIRIT AWARD

FAWCO history describes Founder Caroline Curtis Brown as an idealist who, through her vision, inspiration and energy, made her own club, AWC of London, an outstanding organization of service to the membership and the community. With equal dedication, Caroline believed that enlightened women, working together throughout the world, could do much to achieve international peace.

The 2003–2005 FAWCO Board of Directors established the Caroline Curtis Brown Spirit Award in appreciation of service exemplifying the spirit, inspiration and dedication of its founder.

### Recipients in 2005

Stella Fizazi and Donna Sebti, AIWC Casablanca, received this award for their work in promoting tree planting in Morocco, an original club project that is now supported throughout FAWCO by many member clubs and individuals. Known now as the FAWCO Millennium Forest, the project was included in FAWCO's UN NGO report on Millennium Development Goals 'success stories.'

Shawn Watson, AWC Bern, for her work in organizing the Silent Auction at FAWCO Conferences, her role in her club's decision to join FAWCO, and her actions and dedication that have promoted FAWCO awareness and raised funds for The FAWCO Foundation. Shawn co-chaired the 1994 FAWCO Conference in Bern and focused on FAWCO's NGO status as co-chair of the 2001 regional meeting in Bern.

Rebecca Warander, AWC in Stockholm, for her action and dedication in promoting FAWCO within her club. She was the force behind the club rejoining FAWCO, and personally inspired support, enthusiasm and volunteer recruitment for the 2003 FAWCO Conference held in Stockholm.



## FAWCO FELLOWSHIP AWARD

Established by the 2003–2005 FAWCO Board of Directors, the FAWCO Fellowship Award recognizes individuals outside the organization for their outstanding support and partnership in promoting the ideals and goals of The Federation of American Women’s Clubs Overseas, Inc.

### Recipients in 2005

Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT)  
Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY)  
Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-MD)  
Congressman Bob Ney (R-OH)

The March 1953 FAWCO Conference in Brussels issued a recommendation that the Federation work with other organizations to obtain absentee voting privileges for Americans living abroad. From that time until today, obtaining the right to vote and facilitating voting from overseas have been top priorities for FAWCO.

Following the introduction by Senators Christopher Dodd (D-CT) and Mitch McConnell (R-KY), of a far-reaching reform bill in the summer of 2001, Congressmen Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Bob Ney (R-OH) introduced the Help America Vote Act in November 2001. Championing their bills and spearheading negotiations aimed at harmonizing the provisions, they secured the passage in Congress of the most comprehensive election reform legislation ever. The Help America Vote Act of 2002 was signed into law by the president one week before the 2002 elections.

In recognition of their vision and outstanding support and partnership in promoting the ideals and goals of The Federation of American Women’s Clubs Overseas, Inc., these four ‘fathers’ of this landmark bill were awarded the first FAWCO Fellowship Awards.

### Polli Brunelli, Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program

Polli Brunelli attended her first FAWCO Conference in 1996 in Bad Homburg. With her assistance in conducting Voter Registration Workshops at Interim Conferences, FAWCO has been instrumental in registering thousands of overseas voters.

Graduating from the University of Hawaii, Polli Brunelli began her US government service in 1974 in the field of Human Resources for the Department of the Navy. Prior to her current assignment, she was the Director for the International and Governmental Affairs Program for the Federal Voting Assistance Program. She was responsible for public and

government media relations and the design of a formal program for voter outreach to overseas citizens. She administers the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act for the Secretary of Defense. Polli Brunelli was appointed Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program in the Department of Defense in 1999.

She is the recipient of a Secretary of Defense Medal for Meritorious Civilian Service, and an Industry Advisory Council Excellence in Government Award for e-government for the 2000 Voting Over the Internet pilot project.

In recognition of her outstanding support and partnership in promoting the ideals and goals of The Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas, Inc., we are proud to present Polli Brunelli, Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program, Department of Defense, with a FAWCO Fellowship Award.

### Jamie Watson

Many titles come to mind when describing this FAWCO Fellowship Award recipient. 'Super Techie,' 'FAWCO's Guardian Angel' and 'Guy Behind The Scene' come quickly to mind. He is always there when you need him, and always eager to lend a helping hand at every FAWCO Conference.

A citizen of the world, he has lived in Iceland, England, Switzerland and California, where he met his FAWCO bride. He caught FAWCO fever at his first FAWCO Conference in Casablanca and has missed only one or two Conferences in the last 15 years.

Always with a smile and a joke, Jamie has been a loyal supporter of FAWCO. He has served as Conference AV expert/advisor, official photographer, pressroom coordinator, CD composer and all around technical advisor. He updated the Press Room Tips section for the recently revised FAWCO Conference Manual, and has been known to save the day for many FAWCO secretaries by getting Conference minutes reproduced and in the mailboxes before dawn.

In recognition of his outstanding support and partnership in promoting the ideals and goals of The Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas, Inc., we are proud to present Jamie Watson, FAWCO's 'Quintessential Guy Behind The Scene,' with a FAWCO Fellowship Award.

## THE FOUNDERS' CIRCLE

This award was established in 2004 as a salute to Caroline Curtis Brown. Contributions are used to help fund FAWCO committees and liaisons in their work on traditional FAWCO concerns.

Lucy Laederich  
Arline Coward  
Pamela Dahlgren  
Kathleen Simon  
Dianne Reed  
Ashley O'Reilly  
Elizabeth Hemminger  
Louise Greeley-Copley  
Rowena Keller

## DONORS

### DIAMOND

Pamela Dahlgren AW Surrey/FAUSA  
FAWCO Alumnae USA, Inc. (FAUSA)  
The American Women's Association of Kenya  
Shirley van Ooijen AWC Amsterdam/FAUSA  
The American Women's Association of Rome  
Virginia Roth ANCOR/FAUSA  
Ellen Vestergaard AWC Denmark  
The American Women's Club of Zürich

### GOLD

Susan van Alsenoy AWC Antwerp  
Virginia Andersen AWC Oslo/FAUSA  
Terri Argyle AWC The Hague  
Carol Battenfeld AWC Hamburg  
Edith Beyer AWC Denmark  
Carol Bordoni AIWC Genoa  
Celeste Brown AWC The Hague  
Dorothy Childers AWC Oslo/FAUSA  
Pat Coker AWC Korea/FAUSA  
Agnes 'Stevie' Coppin AWC Brussels  
Arline Coward AWC Madrid  
Paula Daeppen AWC Zürich  
The American Women's Club of Denmark  
Juliet 'Patty' Dijkstra AWC Antwerp  
Carol Duncan AWC Amsterdam, AWC London  
Sunny Eades North American Connection



Emily van Eerten AWC Amsterdam  
Eleanor Fina Benvenuto Milan/FAUSA  
Normas Fischer-James AWC Zürich  
Mona Garcia AWC Madrid/FAUSA  
Velerie Garforth AWC Brussels/FAUSA  
Jean Geesey AWC Düsseldorf/FAUSA  
The American Women's Club of Gothenburg  
Louise Greeley-Copley AW Surrey  
Becky Greene AWC Zürich  
Margaret Haenni AWC Bern  
Lee Iacovoni-Sorensen AWA Rome/FAUSA  
Jane Indreland AWC London/FAUSA  
Jacqueline Isler AWC Zürich  
Barbara Kaiser AWC Düsseldorf  
Dale Koepenick AWC Taunus/FAUSA  
Nancy Koster-Tschirhart AWC Amsterdam  
Lucy Laederich AAWE Paris  
Nan de Laubadere AAWE Paris  
The American Women's Club of Lebanon  
Helen McNulty AWC Madrid/FAUSA  
Phyllis Michaux AAWE Paris  
Kay Miller AWC Brussels/FAUSA  
Eve Higgins Miller AWC Berlin/FAUSA  
Michelle D. Miller AWC Cologne  
Caroline Newton AWC London/FAUSA  
Cynthia 'Pinky' Niggli AWC Zürich  
Anne van Oorschot AWC The Hague  
Ashley O'Reilly AWC Bern  
Helen Papazian AWC Thailand/FAUSA  
Pam Perraud AAWE Paris  
Frauke Rademacher-Heidemann AWC Hamburg  
Georgia Regnault AWC The Hague  
Ellen Rice AW Ireland  
Peggy Rigaud AWC Languedoc-Roussillon  
The American Netherlands Club of Rotterdam  
Linda Sampson AWC Korea/FAUSA  
Inez Scheller AWC Copenhagen  
Elaine Senigallia AWA Rome  
Kathleen Simon North American Connection  
Rebecca Tan AWC Hamburg  
Nancy Thornley AWA Rome/FAUSA  
Judith Treanor AWC The Hague  
The American Women's Club of Vienna  
Eric Way AC Lyon  
Kathy Webster AWC Brussels  
Heike Westbrook AWC the Taunus  
Julie van der Wolf AWC The Hague











































