



THE EDINBURGH EDITION

Edinburgh, March 22, 2019



AGENDA

Friday, March 22

7:50-8:30

Guided walk of the grounds

8:30-16:00

Registration

8:00-18:00

Communications Center open

8:00-8:50

Breakfast Meetings

9:00-10:30

Annual General Meeting
-Session 2

10:30-10:45

Networking Break

10:45-11:30

Annual General Meeting -
Session 2 (continued)

Saturday Reminders:

Meet at **7:50** in the Conservatory for a walk of the grounds. Breakfast is served from **6:30** for all of our early birds!

Harsha Balasuraminian will give her presentation on **Access to the Workplace for those with Sight Loss** at workshop session 8.

Pitch and Putt will meet in the Dalmahoy Foyer at **15:15**, Session 7 or **16:30**, Session 8. Please pick up equipment from Catriona.

Annual Report

Annual General Meeting - Session 2

Report of the UN Liaison, Laurie Richardson

Laurie Richardson gave a brief update about the work performed during the year by the UN Team. There are FAWCO UN Representative Teams in New York, Geneva, Vienna, Athens, Bonn and At-Large Representatives. The FAWCO UN Reps are your voice in the UN. They work on issues that are important to the FAWCO members. Much of their work in 2018 focused on women, migration, climate change and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs cover people, prosperity, planet, peace & partnership. In addition to all that Laurie does, she took on a new role as Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women in Vienna. Laurie closed by saying that there will be no peace until people recognize that there is only one planet and one humanity.

Susanne Hathon AWCCS

Report from the U.S. Liaison, Johanna Dishongh

US Liaison Johanna Dishongh reported on topics of particular concern to Overseas Americans, taxation and voting, covering her participation in 1918's Overseas Americans Week, when she visited the General Accounting Office (which she likened to Fort Knox) and the State Department, and a National Taxpayers Advocate workshop in May.

At the GAO the primary concern was with the impact of FATCA on Americans abroad, particularly on retirement pensions (which are taxed as PFICs) and the burden of document reporting (which the IRS estimates can take up to 35 hours if you know what you're doing, more if you don't - not to mention the cost of having it done by an accountant). The State Department were concerned about their ability to support Americans abroad; the collaborative damage impact of the 2017 tax reforms, especially the huge tax burden of GILTI on small overseas businesses; and the threat of the revocation of passports for those in "serious tax delinquency", i.e. more than \$52,000 - it hasn't happened yet but it can. Her message was: GET COMPLIANT! The filing threshold in 2018 for those "married filing separately" is only \$5!



THE EDINBURGH EDITION

AGENDA

Friday, March 22

11:30-12:45

Workshop Session 3 (Choose One):

- FAWCO Reps Workshop
- Club Presidents Workshop
- Introduction to Genealogy Workshop
- Audio Description for the Blind and Access to the Workplace for Those with Sight Loss
- Resolutions and Recommendations

12:45-14:00

Lunch

Regional Meetings

14:00-14:45

**Annual General Meeting -
Session 2 (continued)**

14:45-16:00

Workshop Session 4 (Choose One):

- The Digital Move-FAUSA
- Strategies for Membership Recruitment and Retention
- Literary Conversation with Katie Graham and Tracey Rosenberg from AWC Central Scotland
- Finance Committee Meeting (closed)

16:00-16:15

Networking Break

16:15-17:30

Workshop Session 5(Choose One)

- FAWCO at the UN
- The FAWCO Foundation Workshop-How to Get the Most Out of Your Foundation
- Refugees in the UK- Interview of Samira Kitman and Rozu Salih by Clara Siverson
- Tactics of Civic Data Activism

18:00-19:00

Optional Happy Hour with Scottish Whisky and Beer Tasting

19:00-22:00

Dinner and Blue Grass Band,
Okefenokee Reunion

The RBT (Residence Based Taxation) bill filed in late 2018 has expired and bipartisan support is being sought for a revised and rewritten bill. Meanwhile, "scoring" (assessing its financial impact) is being done. Message: WRITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVE! And copy your message to Johanna or inform her of any banking or financial issues you may have. Personal stories are important and may be presented anonymously if you wish.

Another "hot topic" was voting. The US (formerly Overseas) Vote Foundation is withdrawing support for the link to the FAWCO website (an alternative is being sought), because so few members linked to it register to vote. Clubs were urged to ask their members to register via the FAWCO website, which gives it credibility when lobbying in Washington, and to fill out the post-election survey of voting experience.

Dale Finlayson AWCCS



Laurie Richardson, U.N. Liaison



Johanna Dishongh, U.S. Liaison



The EDINBURGH EDITION

Early Morning Guided Walks of the Grounds

Early Thursday and Friday mornings, one of the groundsman from the Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club took groups on very informative tours of the property, with stops to see the apiary and the pond where we saw there were ducks, but no swans. He described some of the plants around the hotel, and their origins, including the American sequoia. The weather was more clement on Thursday morning, but a few hardy souls braved the winds on Friday, picking up where we had left off on Thursday. The adventure will continue on Saturday and Sunday mornings, weather permitting.

Maggie Palu AW Aquitaine



Launch of the FAWCO Public Relations and Media Committee – Meenakshi Advani, Chair

With the official launch of the FAWCO Public Media and Media committee, we are excited to bring the wonderful work that has been done, is doing and all its future projects to the forefront. The external outreach will extend to an audience who would then participate to strengthen FAWCO further. This format of communication will be via social media, press, tv, YouTube, blog & even podcasts.

Our priority is to connect our member clubs and share their community work, invite individuals and other clubs to join FAWCO. We are extremely proud of the work done and being done with the Target Projects, the relationship that we have with the United Nations, the extensive areas of our global issues which cover some of the SDG's.

Highlighting our Youth Program and Cultural Volunteers to become "caring leaders" and nurturing them within our FAWCO community while sharing some of their experiences - so to invite our youth & even their friends to participate within the FAWCO network.

The relationship shared between FAWCO & the FOUNDATION as well as with FAUSA is unique and has incredible potential within FAWCO & also to others outside of the internal network. Lastly the US issues and its advocacy for citizens abroad and FAWCO's presence at the White House. This outreach to FAWCO is terrific, yet we can extend our services to a larger community inviting & seeking organizations to work together with us.

There is much to explore and strides of growth ahead of us. "Go FAWCO Go". Please join us as we move from strength to strength with your interest in mind, as you and we are **FAWCO**. We are inspired!

Meenakshi Advani, PR and Media Chair



Hands up for Public Relations and Media.
Meenakshi Advani



Target Program Wrap-Up: Tricia Saur Target Program and Barbara Buehling, the FAWCO Foundation VP Fundraising



Tricia R Saur, Target Chair

Tricia R Saur, Target Chair and Barbara Bühling, VP of Fundraising addressed the delegates during the second session of the Annual General Meeting. They began the presentation with a pop quiz, testing what the attendees have learned over the past three years. Each delegate earned a green pencil with the words "Hope Beyond Displacement" printed on it.



The presentation continued with deep appreciation for the many individuals and Member Clubs who contributed to the success of the program, both in terms awareness raising and fundraising. And then Barbara announced the spectacular news of our fundraising achievement...

\$190,000.00

1290 individuals have been served as of the end of 2018 and more will be reached as programming continues through September 2019, including...

- Renovate CRP Playground - breaking ground now
- Translation of the SuperGirls curriculum into Arabic
- Expansion of programs to the new downtown center
 - After School Club
 - Women's Empowerment 101
 - GBV Prevention and Awareness Training



Standing ovation for exceeding the goal on the Target Project

The session closed with this word from Amanda Lane, Executive Director of CRP...

Special thank yous to Becca Meurer, Target Fundraising Coordinator, who unfortunately was not able to attend the meeting, and Marie Bénédicte Luxum for managing the Backing Women Boutique this weekend.



Barbara Bühling, VP of Fundraising, FAWCO Foundation

Julia's film "Unconditional Love" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHT6oRW3vAA>)



Literary Conversation – Tracey S. Rosenberg and Katie Graham, writers, in AWC Central Scotland

Tracey and Katie had a spirited conversation about the realities of being writers, answering many questions from the audience as they went. Katie (who writes as Kierney Scott) got her start from a competition sponsored by a major UK romance publisher, and later moved to writing crime novels; her current series is about a female FBI agent, Jess Bishop. Tracey has written all her life and published a historical novel with a small Scottish press; her first full-length poetry collection is coming out later this year. Katie and Tracey discussed a range of topics, including various methods of researching the little details that are so crucial to bringing a world to life, the importance of having a supportive family, and the best ways to write characters whose lives and experiences are different from your own. Tracey has previously done book-related events with FAWCO clubs in France and the Netherlands, and both writers would be happy to chat with any club who's looking for a visiting speaker!



Tracey Rosenberg and Katie Graham

Genealogy for Americans, Tahitia McCabe, University of Strathclyde

Hot dogs, apple pie and vital records: an introduction to genealogy for Americans.

Many millions of Americans are interested in tracing their ancestors and you might have been gifted with a family tree and/or job lot of old family photos passed down from a favorite aunt. Whether you are starting from scratch, are checking on an old tree (which might be wrong!), or are trying to straighten out a bunch of old records and photographs, there are some time honoured ways of beginning a family history and lots of great records to use.

First, start with what you know; note down any births, death or marriage information, family stories, occupations, places of residence and so forth. Do this for your ancestors but do it for yourself as well...the people who come after you will thank you. Then, make a draft tree using that information...use a pencil! You can find blank trees freely available at <https://www.archives.gov/files/research/genealogy/charts-forms/ancestral-chart.pdf>.

Now you get to speak to folks in your family, see what they know that you don't know, get different opinions on dates and other facts. You may be surprised by the differences in what you were told and/or remember than your brother or aunt. Rework your draft tree with all of that extra information.

Once you have all of that down, you can start using records to backup that information and start working further back in time. There are some great sites which explain those records and provide many of them as well...I'll mention some free ones here. Check out the FamilySearch wiki: <https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/>, here you can find information on places and topics and be told how to go about researching it and find links to online sources available both on FamilySearch (for free) or at other websites (where you may need to pay). Also try the *US Genweb Project*: <http://usgenweb.org/>. They offer free online information and help for every U.S. state and county...a great resource.

Enjoy your search!

Tahitia McCabe AWCCS



Audio Description for the Blind - Kirin Saeed, Audio Description Scotland



Kirin Saeed with Amanda Drollinger

Presented by Kirin Saeed, (apologies from Harsha Balasuraminian, who will give her presentation at workshop session 8), Audio Description for the Blind and Access to the Workplace for those with Sight Loss opened up a fascinating world of visual impairment and offered an invitation to the sighted to open their eyes.

Kirin first acquainted attendees with the idea of Audio Description explaining its use in movie theaters, on Netflix, television, film, dance, opera and visual arts. Sighted people will notice signs in theaters with the logo AD))) , indicating the use of such technology, which transforms a production for visually impaired people into an experience on par with or even beyond that of sighted individuals. Using a stethoset (headphone with integrated wireless receiver), visually impaired audience members receive a narration of the events unfolding in front of them to vastly enhance their experience.

Kirin explained that the description of what is on a screen or a stage in front of audience members is not only of immense benefit and enhancement of the world to visually impaired people, it is also a lesson to the sighted to stop, think, look and listen! The sighted people of this world tend to take for granted what is right in front of them, and the ability to describe your environment and to really visually take in what is right before our eyes is an enhancement of the world for all. The sighted and the visually impaired.

Kirin brought the attendees on a journey, to

understand how their description of the world is understood by those around them. She asked one member of the audience to describe a room in their house while another member drew what they described on a white board. It became immediately apparent how the description was lacking and causing vast miscommunication. Not only can such miscommunication cause accidents for the visually impaired, on an every day basis, such descriptions of the world around us cause misunderstandings and oversight leading to all sorts of problems in our personal and professional lives. In essence, Audio Description, or the description of the world around us is of benefit to all, not only the visually impaired.

Kirin's presentation was essentially an introduction the Audio Device, a practical advancement for the visually impaired. But on a more fundamental level, it reminds us that each person is an individual with different limitations and understandings of the world we all live in together. For the visually impaired, the development of Audio Description not only allows different media and performance art to become "alive" but it also allows for more access to the rest of the world. This advancement has allowed Kirin, for example, to develop her own company traveling the world teaching others as a result. It also allows the sighted world to start to understand that perhaps they do not see as clearly as they believe. They start to understand that perhaps a blind person actually can have a better understanding of the world around them because of, not despite, their lack of vision.

She explained that 100 people lose sight every day in the United Kingdom as a result of an aging population, diabetes, obesity, cataracts and glaucoma. Each of these cases are different and every person has a different journey. An individual who is born blind, for example, does not know what a color is or what "rolling your eyes" means, but someone who lost sight later in life, for the most part, understands this. Kirin wants to emphasize that every one of us is an individual (visually impaired or not), that we need "always ask" what is helping and to "respect others' journeys".

Kirin made each member of the audience question their own vision of the world, advised them to actually try an audio device at some point in the future and also, explained that training to become a narrator for live theater not only benefits the visually impaired audience members but starts to open up the world for all, allowing the sighted to start to see the world in a more clear manner as well and enhance their own experiences.

Kirin did an excellent job of opening our eyes and helped us understand that interpreting the world does not require vision, which can sometimes actually be a distraction. Audio Description is of immense benefit to the visually impaired, but it is also allowing the sighted to see more clearly and communication between all become more clear.

Michelle Wirt AWCCS Scotland



Refugees in the U.K.- Interview of Samira Kitman and Roza Salih by Clara Siverson, AAWE Paris

Samira Kitman and Roza Salih provided a window into their lives for everyone who attended their session. It began with a lovely introduction by Clara Siverson, the moderator for the session. She provided background information on these two amazing and inspiring women.

Samira Kitman is an Afghan woman who graduated from Turquoise Mountain, an art school founded by the Prince of Wales in 2006. While attending Turquoise Mountain, Samira's teachers noticed that she possessed a natural talent for calligraphy and painting traditional geometric designs. After her graduation she created her own art academy. Samira taught both young women and men at the academy. She opened her academy in 2009 and continued to be its director until 2014. During this time she won a contract to decorate a five star hotel in Saudi Arabia with her art. She as well as others who graduated from Turquoise Mountain created 900 original paintings. In addition to the original paintings, 2000 gleece prints were made as well. The money she earned from this commission she used to purchase a potato chip factory which she named Seven Days. She saw the factory as a way to lift many people in her part of Kabul out of poverty. In 2014, Samira was declared as Afghanistan's *Woman Entrepreneur of the Year*. Her success and publicity caught the attention of a few that felt it was wrong for her to have this honour. Samira's life was in danger. She got to the point where she felt she must seek asylum in the UK. She has been living in Lincolnshire for the past three years. Samira is

continuing to pursue her dreams in the UK. She continues to paint exquisite traditional designs, create jewellery, and now she creates textiles with beautiful pillow covers. She has met the Prince of Wales, Laura Bush, John Kerry and she has developed a working relationship with the designer Pippa Smith.

Roza Salih's family sought refuge in the UK when she was 12 years old. Two of her uncles as well as her grandfather were executed by Saddam Hussein. She formed close relationships with the other students of her school, many of whom were also asylum seekers. One of her close friends was sent to a detention centre with her family. Often the next step after the detention centre would be deportation. Roza and friends were very concerned about this friend. They worked hard to raise awareness about her friend's plight through petitions, and even speaking to the Scottish First Minister. Their efforts were paid off as her friend was released from the detention centre along with her family. The UK ended the dawn raids on unsuspecting asylum families. This group of girls who fought for their friend became known as, 'The Glasgow Girls'. Roza graduated with a degree in law and politics from Strathclyde University. She now works for Chris Pine, a member of parliament for the Scottish National Party. To this day, Roza continues to be passionate about fighting for the rights of others. Currently, she is focusing upon the rights for the Kurdish people. The Kurdish people are a stateless people who simply want to live in peace, but they continue to be antagonised.

Samira and Roza are determined, motivated, intelligent women who are doing what they can to make this world a better place for everyone.



Roza Salih and Samira Kitman

SPONSORS:

London & Capital



Janet Darrow
Certified International Property Specialist