

## AGENDA

Sunday, March 24

8:30-16:00

Information/Registration Desk open

8:00-18:00

Communications Center open

8:30-9:20

Breakfast meetings

9:30-10:45

Annual General Meeting -Final Session

10:45-11:00

Networking Break

11:00-12:15

Workshop Session 9

(Choose One):

-U.S. Issues: Where Do We Stand? – Johanna Dishongh, Judy Furukawa, Mary Stewart Burgher, US Issues Team

-FAWCO at the UN – Laurie Richardson

-Global Issues Chairs meet with FAWCO Board (closed)

-Fundraising Advice from a Professional Charity Fundraiser – Pam Judson AWCCS

12:15-13:45

Lunch

Reminders:

Anne Marie Morrow AWC Finland kindly requests donations of your used conference plastic pockets/ ribbons. If you would like to donate yours at the end, there will be a collection box in the Dalmahoy Suite.

For those who requested a printed copy of the Annual Report, tomorrow is the last day to pick it up at Registration.

Annual Report

## Annual General Meeting - Final Session

“Quines: Poems in Tribute to the Women of Scotland”

– Gerda Stevenson



Gerda Stevenson – poet, writer, actor, director, singer-songwriter, who works in theatre, television, radio, film and opera in Britain and abroad – was our closing speaker on Sunday. She has won many awards, including a BAFTA Best Film Actress for Margaret Tait’s feature film “Blue Black Permanent”. Today she began with a memory, of a warm summer afternoon in the Scottish Borders when she was five years old and she and her friends stripped to their “pink Scots skin” to play in the sunshine, only to be ordered by a scary neighbour to “get out of my garden, you dirty children” – they hadn’t even known they were dirty!

She then introduced us to her collection Quines, a word she explained refers to women, girls, lasses, and contains the romance of “queen”. Each poem refers to a Scottish woman of the past, some famous, some obscure or overlooked, from Neolithic times to the 21st century. There are no men, but the women represent a cross-section of society. Only the first and the last poem is in Gerda’s voice; the rest are in the voice of the Quine or an acquaintance or an object (such as the Horsehead Nebula discovered by Williamina Paton Fleming) or a creation (such as a metal panel by the artist Margaret Macdonald).

First up was “Nessie” who, after all, is female: “... My paps slope with the grace of Jura, / their nipples bright as fresh water pearls, / sleek hips fit for tender cargo.” Then “The Abdication of Mary Queen of Scots”, inspired by a painting by Gavin Hamilton in Glasgow’s Kelvingrove Museum and the knowledge that two days before her abdication Mary had miscarried twins: “Tak ma croon, an dinna fash – / aa yon wis ower fur me lang syne. / ... past carin noo ...” “Demerara” acknowledges Scotland’s involvement in slavery in the West Indies, in the voice of Eliza Junor, daughter of a slave owner from the Black Isle and a slave or free-coloured mother, who was taken “to our father’s land the Black Isle / of white people, where I’m glad no cane grows ...”



AGENDA Continued

13:45-15:00

Panel Discussion

Women in Science and Health: At the Forefront of Medical Research – Panel of Scientists and Researchers Chaired by Marieke Hoeve, Medical Researcher, Centre for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research

15:00-15:15

Networking Break

15:15-17:00

Annual General Meeting  
-Final Session (continued)

19:00-22:00

Pre-registered Optional Dinner (sign up sheets available at Registration Desk from Wednesday Afternoon)

Many are women denied recognition for discoveries or talents: Williamina Fleming, from Dundee, became kitchen-maid to a Harvard professor of astronomy, who recognized and nurtured her talent; despite her discovery of new stars and of the Horsehead Nebula, her name was eliminated from Harvard’s list of astronomical discoveries, thus denying her credit for those she had made. The Marriage Bar, which meant women could not work after marriage, was not repealed in Scotland until 1985. The watercolourist Christian Small, assumed from her name to be a man, was denied a job interview with the phrase, “We regret your sex.” Crystal Macmillan, politician, barrister, feminist, and pacifist, who organised the protest against the Treaty of Versailles by the International Committee of Women for Permanent Peace, states: “... justice ... if half of humankind is erased / from its scales, the word can hold no weight.” Margaret Blackwood, confined to a wheelchair, refused merely to “learn to knit ... or make lampshades” and fought for rights for the disabled, leading to the introduction of benefits such as mobility and attendance allowance.

And there was an American connection – Margaret Fay Shaw from Pennsylvania, who collected The Folklore and Folksongs of South Uist. In the words and rhythm of one of the two crofting sisters she lived with to learn the Gaelic: “She blew in like a wind with a dance in it, / ... She learned our land, the sea, the sky, our names / for different clouds, ... / she listened to our words / that we’d lost the writing and the reading of / ... she took our songs to her ear and made them skip from her fingers in lines along the page / ... And when she came with those pages made into a book, / ... we cried to hold our lives in our hands.” Shaw’s autobiography was published as From the Alleghenies to the Hebrides. There are many more wonderful poems in this book, which I commend to you.

Following her talk, there were long lines to buy copies of Quines, and many were ultimately disappointed not to get a signed copy. It is, however, available in bookshops and through Amazon. In closing, I should like to quote Gerda’s final poem, “In Memoriam”, dedicated to a teacher but one that could have been written for Lucy Laederich and will remind us of many FAWCO members we have known, who may no longer be with us, but with whom memories of friendship are unfading:

A friend bid me to her sister’s last farewell – a woman I hadn’t known, but her singular tale was told at the gathering – how she quietly gave to many. Her voice wove through a recorded choir, anonymous, mingling with the air we breathed, as we listened and learned of a legacy; music in her fingers too, that stitched the image of a lass with hair like summer corn fields, bowing a glowing cello in our nation’s tapestry; a butterfly has just alighted on her lifted elbow, enthralled for one eternal moment, breathing the nectar of melody, its wings stilled by the eloquence of women’s work.

Dale Finlayson, AWCCS



New FAWCO Board 2019-2021



New Foundation Board 2019-2021



## FAWCO Interim Meeting 2020



### Flag Ceremony

The Interim Meeting will start on Friday, March 20th and go through Sunday, March 22nd. We will be holding the meetings at the Parc in the city of Luxembourg.

Parc Hotel Alvisse is set in quiet, green surroundings on the edge of Luxembourg. It is only a 5-minute drive from the city center and Luxembourg Airport. Guests can make use of the swimming pools and sauna for free. The modern rooms feature warm colours and luxury bedding. They come with Wi-Fi, a private bathroom and a TV with cable channels. The nearby bus stop offers frequent connections into Luxembourg city. Parc Alvisse's further leisure facilities include tennis, jogging and bowling. The grounds also include a mountain bike circuit, table tennis and more.

## FAWCO at the UN

We had a more in depth discussion about FAWCO UN Advocacy as an NGO with Consultative Status to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in the areas of Gender Equality, Climate Change, and Migration. People were interested in how this advocacy work can get their club members interested in what FAWCO does at the UN. At the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York earlier in March 2019, Laurie Richardson, FAWCO UN Liaison, presented a panel of FAWCO members who work with grass roots community organisation in Cambodia, India, Kenya, and Jordan.

The message of the event was that a combination of individual commitment and hands-on work with FAWCO fundraising can make a real difference to NGOs delivering critical social and community services.

Check out our FAWCO CSW blog:

<https://www.fawco.org/un-advocacy/gender-equality/commission-on-the-status-of-women/csw-63-blog/4080-first-fawco-ngo-forum-event-at-csw63>



CSW63 NGO Forum Event at the UN in New York featuring FAWCO members Laurie Richardson, Yolanda Henry (FAUSA), Dottie Wagle (AIWC, Mumbai), Claire Mathijsen (AAWE Paris) and her Kenyan colleague Elizabeth Tunoi, and Amanda Lane (CRP)

## Stemcells - The Key to New Cures?



First FAWCO Panel with Skype

Women in Science and Health: at the Forefront of Medical Research – Panel of Scientists and Researchers Chaired by Marieke Hoeve, Medical Researcher, Centre for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research

Stem Cells research has come a long way since 1996 when Ian Wilmut first cloned a sheep that we perhaps all remember well as Dolly. Presented by Dr Marieke Hoeve, Dr Roly Megaw and Dr Ruchi Sharma, enlightened an a large audience that filled our main conference room. FAWCO was extremely fortunate to have these three scientists that are at the cutting edge of stem cell research.

Dr Hoeve opened the session with a basic overview of how stem cells work and why they are of such benefit to sciences who are studying ways to approach diseases, that until now have been largely incurable. She explained that we have three types of stem cells within our bodies naturally; Embryonic Stem Cells, Adult Tissue Stem Cells and Pluripotent. Embryonic Stem Cells are the building block of the human body and Adult Tissue Stem Cells allow us to grow, renew and repair the body throughout our lives. The most fascinating cells however are the Pluripotent cells that can replicate into any type of cell

Dr Megaw explained that these pluripotent cells are the most amazing because using these cells, scientists can “turn back the clock”

by reprogramming them to be embryonic cells once again. With the transformed cells, scientists can create any cell that they may need to treat diseases.

Dr Megaw, for example, is an Ophthalmologist who specializes in retinitis pigmentosa, an inherited disease which is the leading cause of vision loss in children and working adults. What Dr Megaw had discovered is that using these pluripotent cells, scientists can insert and repair misspelled DNA that is causing the vision loss and theoretically put healthy cells back into the patient and correct vision.

Dr Megaw explained the progression of this research which started with John Gurdon who showed that nuclear transplantation, in other words, cloning in a dish was possible. The next step was in the mid-1990s with Ian Wilmut actually cloning a sheep and showing that Gurdon’s work could actually happen in a mammal. Finally, the most recent and largest breakthrough was with Shinya Yamanaka who proved that it could be done in humans.

Finally, we were presented with fascinating and practical applications of this groundbreaking research with the presentation of Dr Ruchi Sharma. Dr Sharma created a company called Stemnovate in 2017 that puts all of this amazing research into action. Dr Sharma works diligently with these advances in science to create drugs in a much more cost effective and efficient way, delivering solutions that is hugely cost effective and also life changing with the potential to create drugs that may one day change the medical industry as we know it.

The audience was offered the chance to ask questions. The most pressing and the one on the tip of everyone’s tongue was, “When will these solutions start changing lives? When will we see heart disease cured or blindness reversed?” Dr Megaw offered great hope by explaining that we should start to see benefits in 15 to 20 years. The innovations continue to develop at a faster and faster rate and we are not 50 to 100 years from breakthroughs, but more within the next couple decades.



## How Fundraising works and how to make it work for you – Pam Judson, AWCCS



Pam Judson

Most of us have done some fundraising - supported organisations and causes that are close to our hearts at some point in our lives with both money and volunteer time. After working as a project coordinator for a large international NGO many years ago, Pam found herself more and more involved with the fundraising side of the work and became fascinated by how and why people give their time and money. She realised she was interested in both the science and art of asking for support (and there is some science involved). At that point - over 30 years ago- there was no taught route, very few training courses and little useful research on why people give, what are the most effective ways to ask, and how to structure effective fundraising campaigns. Initially she had to make up some of it as she went along, test things out, look at what worked and what didn't.

This has now changed drastically and there are a range of degrees and qualifications from Universities and other Institutions as well as a growing community of people who work in fundraising as a profession. There is also a growing body of work on why people give and the psychology of fundraising. During the session, Pam gave an overview of some of the key things she has found useful to make fundraising work for the individual and highlighted how different cultures and environments might affect the way one can raise money for favourite causes.

Pam Judson has been working as a fundraising consultant and trainer for over 30 years in the USA, UK and former soviet states.

She supports organisations to develop strategy, ask effectively and advises on how to put governance structures in place that support fundraising. In addition to fundraising she is a trustee and grant assessor for several large UK based grant-giving bodies. She is a member of the Institute of Fundraising in Scotland and the Management Development Network in Scotland.



### FAWCO Foundation Results and Quilt Winner

An estimated \$33,000 was raised on Foundation Night! Many thanks to all the bidders for your generosity.

The beautiful Quilt put together with Roberta Zöllner was won by Mary Stewart Burgher of AWC Denmark.

Congratulations to Mary Stewart and the FAWCO foundation!



## FAWCO FOUNDATION NIGHT



From all of AWCCS thank you for a wonderful conference.  
See you next year in Luxembourg!

FAWCO Biennial Conference 2019 Newsletter

Editor, Susannah Stout AWCCS

Conference Photographer, Patricia Ramaer AWCCS & AWCA,  
BA-BDes (Emily Carr University of Art & Design, Vancouver, BC)

MFA Art & Humanities (University of Dundee, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design)

SPONSORS:

# London & Capital

