



2018
March

Going Dutch

In
this
issue

Gouda's UNESCO Jewel
Tips for Summer Trips
Scrabble, Germs & the Triple-Triple

American Women's Club of The Hague

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Going Dutch

March 2018



S-C-R-A-B-B-L-E! It's not just a parlor game.



If you're planning a trip with friends, this is a must-read to ensure a flawless getaway.



Traveling to Vietnam and Cambodia? One Member's suggestions to make planning easy.

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

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AWC Clubhouse

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Tennis Molly Boed
The Arts Jane Choy
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Laurie Martecchini
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Women with Dutch Partners Open

AWC Mission Statement

The AWC is an association formed to provide social and educational activities for American women living in the Netherlands and to promote amicable relations among people of all nations, as well as acquiring funds for general public interest. Membership in the club is open to women of all nations who are friendly and welcoming to American culture. The association does not endeavor to make a profit. The AWC is a 100% volunteer organization.

Deadlines: Submissions are due no later than the last Monday of the month preceding the publication month. For example, for the May/June issue, submissions are due before Monday, March 26

Please Note: Articles submitted to *Going Dutch* will be published subject to space limitations and editorial approval. All rights reserved; reprints only by written permission of the Editor. Please email to: goingdutchmag@gmail.com

Legal Notice: Articles in *Going Dutch* express the views and opinions of their authors alone, and not necessarily those of the AWC of The Hague, its Members or this publication.

Winter Activities



Dutch Products Class



Out to Lunch Bunch



Art Deco Tour Gemeentemuseum



Women with Dutch Partners



Walkie Talkies



Message from the President

by Dena Haggerty

As I write this message, I'm preparing for the going-away party for our President **Mary Ann Nation-Greenwall**. Although Mary Ann and her husband, John, thought they'd be back in the U.S. by February 1, a medical emergency is keeping them in the Netherlands a few months longer. John traveled to Austria with his work colleagues for a going-away ski weekend, but fell on the slopes, broke his leg, and had surgery in mid-January. Although Mary Ann is no longer President, and although John is recovering from major surgery, we're glad that she's still in town, at least until John's doctors release him to travel. Sadly, though, **Sue Merrick**, once the AWC Vice President, and our now-former Membership Coordinator **Shirley Newlin**, have repatriated to the U.S.

As the American Women's Club of The Hague is an expat organization, new Members are continually joining, while others frequently leave. Saying goodbye to good friends is unfortunately a constant companion of expat life. Recently, several Members have expressed their exasperation with the endless cycle of making new friends to fill the void left by departure after departure of good friends.

I used to agree with that sentiment. In fact, when I first arrived in the Netherlands, I thought I had found my permanent home and didn't attempt to make friends with those expats whose postings in the Netherlands were expected to last less than two years. I

knew of many other 'permanent' expats who felt the same. Of course, seven years after arriving in the Netherlands, I ended up leaving for Germany and then Istanbul. It was only after 10 years that I finally

found my way back. Obviously, my former attitude was more than a bit naïve. In our crazy expat lives, there is no guarantee how long we will stay in one place.



But moving away isn't the only reason a friendship may weaken or even end. No matter what we tell ourselves, there's no promise a friend will remain your best friend forever. Life is constantly evolving and circumstances changing which can cause a friendship to fade. A new job, a new baby, a new romantic relationship – any one of these can cause you to lose touch with a friend. Thus, friends come and go in our lives.

Just because a person is only in your life for a short amount of time, though, doesn't mean she can't have a profound impact on you. I can elucidate numerous examples in which my life has been touched by a friendship which didn't last as long as I had perhaps hoped. Take Mary Ann, for example. Although she arrived in the country two years ago, we only became friends this past spring. Had I adhered to my earlier policy of not making friends with anyone leaving the country within two years, I would never have had the chance to become friends with her. And wouldn't that have been a shame!

I won't deny that it's sad, and more than a bit upsetting, to see people leave the country before I'm ready to let go. But we live in a time in which we have numerous means of staying in touch. Love or hate social media, it can't be denied that we have more contact with 'old' friends than ever before. >>51



March General Meeting

by Suzanne MacNeil

Please join us for this month's General Meeting Thursday, March 8 with a guest to be revealed. The speaker will discuss the Holocaust and Yom Hashoah, the day to remember the Holocaust.

Thursday, March 8
Coffee: 10 a.m.
Meeting: 10:30
AWC Clubhouse
FREE



Mimosa Morning and Borrel Evening



Letter from the Editor

by Suzanne MacNeil

It may only be March, but it's not too early to start thinking about summer holidays. The travel stories in this edition of *Going Dutch* may help with your planning. The AWC is made up of well-traveled Members, many of whom are more than happy to share their travel tips and it's a shame not to take advantage of this pool of knowledge. I hope their suggestions and stories will spark a few ideas. Travelogue stories begin on page 40.

If Russia is on your travel bucket list, I highly recommend it! Tim and I were married in November 2012. To celebrate our five-year anniversary, our birthdays, Hanukkah, Christmas, and New Year's Eve, we decided to visit St. Petersburg and Moscow. I knew planning this getaway would require a bit of help and when I saw Charles and Iain of the American Travel Center (ATC) at the AWC's Holiday Bazaar, I asked a lot of questions about everything from the visas we'd need to get into Russia, to booking tours. Tim agreed that this trip needed an extra set of eyes and, other than our flights, we turned all planning and booking over to Charles and Iain.

With the trip in the very capable hands of the ATC, I then stressed about staying warm. I needed suggestions about what to wear in Russia in the winter and turned to a great source, the Facebook page *Two Fat Expats*. Less than two hours after posting my concerns about clothes I had replies, including one from an American expat who had recently

moved from Siberia. Her suggestions included lined leather mittens and no wool sweaters because all buildings are well-heated, and I'd be miserable. Those simple suggestions helped me stay warm outside and comfortable inside.



Dormition Church in the Kremlin

This spring, I'm traveling to Copenhagen to meet my younger son who is flying in from the U.S. We're spending a few days in the city before going to Paris, and my source for the Copenhagen leg is one of the AWC's newest members, **Lindsey Turnau**, with whom I connected on *Two Fat Expats*. She had posted that her family was moving from Copenhagen to the Rotterdam area and wanted information about the city. We started private messaging, then chatting by phone, and eventually her family settled in Voorburg. I had lunch recently with Lindsey and she gave me an insider's view of Copenhagen. I can't wait to enjoy this new-to-us city.

Our Club is composed of many well-traveled Members who are an invaluable resource that can't be matched by travel sites or books. Post your travel questions on the AWC Facebook page and take advantage of this insider information to make your planning even easier.

Tot ziens,

Suzanne




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Membership

by **Melissa Rider**

I picked the perfect AWC event to begin my new role as Membership Coordinator: Mimosa Morning Mixer and Evening Borrel. It was a fun way to mingle with new, old, and prospective members, many of whom joined after this event. Finally, many thanks to **Shirley Newlin** for handling this job for the past 2+ years along with being a Front Desk volunteer. While I know she is excited to return to her family in Texas, she will be missed for both her volunteer work and her friendship at the Club.



Support Fellow AWC Members

Find links to a large variety of businesses owned by AWC Members at www.awcthehague.org/site/newcomers/business-links

March Birthdays

Georgia Regnault	4
Cathleen Owens	6
Amber Gatewood	12
Rachel Swick	12
Mary Adams	13
Jan Mills	15
Shirin Kianmanesh Rad-Hashemi	17
Kathryn Cok	20
Brooks Turner	20
Mary Jo Willemsen	20
Hannah Dean	21
Sarah Dunn	24
Jaimie Keppel-Molenaar	26
Pamela Pruijs-Bott	26
Marilyn Tinsay	31

Welcome New Members!

Roberta Bradford
Donna Brown
Tama Carstensen
Audrey Goodman
Machelle Hollar
Anna Rothman
Lindsey Turnau
Hilde Volle
Elizabeth Zeller

AWC's New Honorary President

by **Jessie Rodell**

As is customary, the AWC has extended an invitation to the wife of the new U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands to serve as our Honorary President. **Diane Hoekstra**, wife of Ambassador Peter Hoekstra, accepted the invitation at a luncheon hosted by **Sabine Crowley**, the wife of Sean Crowley, the Chargé d' Affaires, and attended by several AWC Board Members. Sabine served as the Honorary President the last year and a half. Mrs. Hoekstra met **Laurie Brooks**, **Teresa Mahoney**, **Melissa White**, and **Jessie Rodell**, who each explained the Club's mission and shared information about our ongoing events and activities. As one of the Board Members said, "It was a lovely afternoon and I really enjoyed it." A sincere thank you to Sabine for lunch and a nice way to meet Diane. We hope she will enjoy the AWC.



Some AWC Board Members met with Diane Hoekstra and Sabine Crowley.



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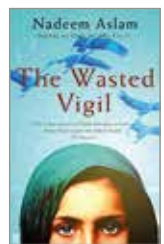
Groets in genieten

Ongoing Activities

The AWC Book Clubs are open to all readers, and new Members are especially welcome! There's no requirement that you must attend every meeting or lead a discussion. Snacks are provided by a different member each month. There are two Book Clubs hosted by AWC Members—one in the daytime and one in the evening. Questions? **Teresa Mahoney** organizes the daytime group, and **Rebecca Fry** handles the evening meetings. For more information, please contact them at awcthehague.bookclub@gmail.com. Happy reading!

Daytime Book Club

Good Reads Review



Nadeem Aslam, the author of *Maps for Lost Lovers* gives us a new novel—at once lyrical and blistering—about war in our time, told through the lives of five people who come together in post-9/11 Afghanistan. *The Wasted Vigil* is the story of Marcus,

an English doctor whose progressive, outspoken Afghan wife was murdered by the Taliban, who opens his home—itsself an eerily beautiful monument to his losses—to the others: Lara, from St. Petersburg, looking for evidence of her soldier brother who disappeared decades before during the Soviet invasion; David, an American, a former spy who has seen his ideals turned inside out during his 25 years in Afghanistan; Casa, a young Afghani whose hatred of the West plunges him into the depths of zealotry; and James, the Special Forces soldier in whom David sees a dangerous revival of the unquestioning notions of right and wrong that he himself once held. In mesmerizing prose, Nadeem Aslam reveals the complexities—of love and desperation, pain and salvation, madness and clarity—that bind the characters. And through their stories he creates a timely and achingly intimate portrait of the “continuation of wars” that shapes our world. In its radiant language, its depth

of feeling, and its unflinching drama, *The Wasted Vigil* is a luminous work of fiction.

Thursday, March 22

10 a.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

Daytime Book Club Recap

The December Daytime Book Club selection was *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout. “The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation.” (Henry David Thoreau, famous Massachusettsan. Not Maine, but close enough.)

Crosby, Maine is an idyllic seaside town inhabited by salt-of-the-earth teachers, pharmacists, housewives, doctors, etc.—each of whom lives a life of quiet, mostly secret, desperation. It is the setting for Elizabeth Strout’s “novel in stories,” *Olive Kitteridge*, winner of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize. Each chapter is a short story about a local character who, sometimes tenaciously, sometimes peripherally, is connected to retired math teacher Kitteridge, an almost-curmudgeon full of vinegary kindness. Strout can take a tiny detail—a long-ago boyfriend showing up at a bar, for instance—and use it as a catalyst to weave a haunting tale of a damaged pianist, her whoring, toxic mother, and her cruel lover. Strout turns the mundane into magic with exquisite, but not overdone, prose and a masterful “shows us, doesn’t tell us” style. This book aches with the realism of both unhappiness and hope. We highly recommend it.

Daytime Book Club Reading List:

Thursday, April 26: *My Absolute Darling* by Gabriel Tallent

Thursday, May 24: *Notes on a Foreign Country:*

An American Abroad in a Post-American World

by Suzy Hansen

Evening Book Club

Good Reads review



Forest Dark by Nicole Krauss is described as bursting with life and humor. Jules Epstein, a man whose drive, avidity, and outsized personality have, for 68 years, been a force to be reckoned with, is undergoing a metamorphosis.

In the wake of his parents’ deaths, his divorce from his wife of more than 30 years, and his retirement from the New York legal firm where he was a partner, he’s felt an irresistible need to give away his possessions, alarming his children and perplexing the executor of his estate. With the last of his wealth, he travels to Israel, with a nebulous plan to do something to honor his parents. In Tel Aviv, he is sidetracked by a charismatic American rabbi planning a reunion for the descendants of King David who insists that Epstein is part of that storied dynastic line. He also meets the rabbi’s

beautiful daughter who convinces Epstein to become involved in her own project—a film about the life of David being shot in the desert—with life-changing consequences.

But Epstein isn’t the only seeker embarking on a metaphysical journey that dissolves his sense of self, place, and history. Leaving her family in Brooklyn, a young, well-known novelist arrives at the Tel Aviv Hilton where she has stayed every year since birth. Troubled by writer’s block and a failing marriage, she hopes that the hotel can unlock a dimension of reality—and her own perception of life—that has been closed off to her. But when she meets a retired literature professor who proposes a project she can’t turn down, she’s drawn into a mystery that alters her life in ways she could never have imagined.

Wednesday, March 21

7:30 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

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Exchanging Books at Our Annual Book Club Potluck

AWC Guest Policy

Guests are welcome to participate in AWC activities and tours on a limited basis.

As a nonmember, a guest is limited to attend two functions per calendar year and will be charged an additional nonmember fee. Only Members are entitled to use babysitting services.

Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 15

Evening Book Club Recap

My Absolute Darling, Gabriel Talent's debut novel has made the rounds of book award lists and been hyped to the hills. One well known commercially successful author even declared it a "masterpiece." We can't agree with the laudations. True, the book is compelling and clever, though predictable and heavily reliant on shock value. Ultimately, none of the characters is at all credible, the story doesn't hang together, and the author's pretentious dialogue from the mouths of teenage characters grates. Those looking for a novel with themes of incest and horrific child abuse won't suffer for choice of far better novels than this one. We don't recommend *My Absolute Darling*.

Evening Book Club Reading List:

Wednesday, April 18: *Sapiens* by Yuval Noah Harari
Wednesday, May 16: *The Fisherman* by Chigozie Obioma
Wednesday, June 13: *Miss Burma* by Charmaine Craig

Chat, Crafts & Cake

Are you a crafter? The AWC has space large enough to spread out a king-sized quilt, a spot to organize a scrapbook or photo album, or just to sit and chat while you work on a project. **Chat, Crafts & Cake** members welcome you to join the group, maybe pick up a few tips, and get ideas and suggestions about your project from a fresh set of eyes. Each week a different Member will bring a cake made from a never-before-tried recipe for tasting and critiques. Babysitting



is not available, so we can't accommodate children. Questions? Please contact **Suzanne Dundas** at awcthehague.crafts@gmail.com.

Tuesdays

10 a.m. – Noon
AWC Clubhouse
FREE

Heart Pillow Project

This Club year marks the tenth year that Members work together at the Clubhouse to make heart-shaped pillows designed to help support the arms of recent mastectomy patients.

Each pillow is made with TLC, wrapped, and comes with a note signed by an AWC volunteer. No sewing skills are needed, and you can cut, stuff, or wrap the heart pillows. We are proud to provide women and men with something both practical and comforting, and we know our work helps because we often receive thank-you notes and emails from patients who received a heart pillow. For more information, please contact **Jan de Vries** at awcthehague.heartpillow@gmail.com.

Tuesday, March 13
Noon – 2 p.m.
AWC Clubhouse
FREE
Visitors Welcome

Ladies Night at the Movies

Who doesn't like going to the movies with friends and a bucket of popcorn! The first Monday of the month marks Ladies Night at the Movies and the film is chosen based on what's playing at area theaters. **Rebecca Fry** coordinates each month's outing. For more information, please contact her at [!\[\]\(56549452e01ca28bdf2500ced9653143_img.jpg\)](mailto:rfry_</p></div><div data-bbox=)

rebecca@hotmail.com or (070) 213 9222.

Monday, March 5

Location TBD

Tickets at own cost

Out to Lunch Bunch

Join us for lunch at dim sum and hot pot restaurant Full Moon City where we will experience an authentic Cantonese shared lunch, ideal for people who want to taste and share different dishes. For the fixed price of € 19.50, we can enjoy unlimited amounts of more than 100 types of dim sum, wok, BBQ and hot pot dishes. Drinks are not included. A maximum of five items per person can be or-



dered per round by filling in a form, but keep in mind that you will be charged € 2.50 per dish for any unfinished food.

If you have a favorite restaurant in your neighborhood you'd like to share with the group, or if you have questions, please contact **Greetje Engelsman** at greetje.engelsman@gmail.com.

Tuesday, March 6

12:15 p.m.

Full Moon City is located in Chinatown behind Media Markt

Achter Raamstraat 75, Den Haag
www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1157812

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Upcoming Out to Lunch Bunch Dates and Locations:

Monday, April 16: La Cantina
Strandpaviljoen, Scheveningen
Thursday, May 24: Restaurant Oogst,
Denneweg 10 B, Den Haag

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Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 17

Thirsty Thursdays

Need a night to sip cocktails? **Thirsty Thursdays** is one of our AWC's most popular activities. It's a casual, no-stress get-together in the evening with AWC friends. We meet on the third or fourth Thursday of each month and there's no need to RSVP.



Our March location is Brody's American Taphouse, which specializes in at least 25 craft beers from American microbreweries.

Thursday, March 15

Brody's American Taphouse
Korte Molenstraat 2, 2513 BM, Den Haag 6 – 9 p.m.

Wassenaar Coffee & Conversation

If you live in or around Wassenaar, join your neighbors for a once-a-month morning gathering without going to the Clubhouse. One Member living north of The Hague will host a casual coffee at her home on the first Thursday of the month for Members and prospective Members. **Suzanne Dundas** coordinates the meeting place with each hostess, and will send directions once you sign up on *GroupSpaces*.

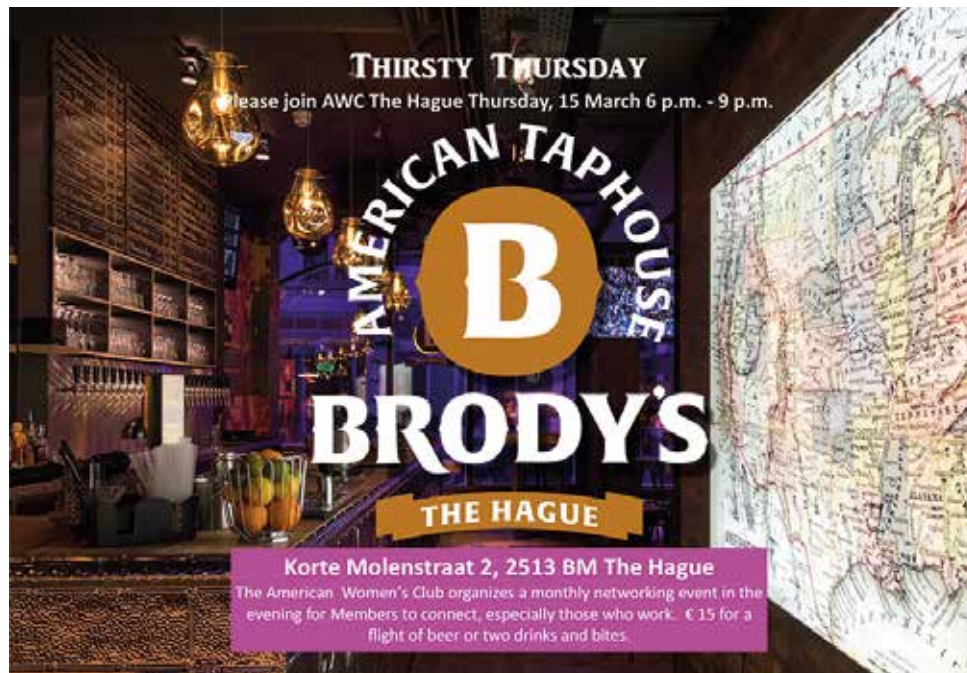
Thursday, March 1
9 – 11 a.m.
FREE

Walkie Talkies

Whether you count your steps or just want to walk with friends, the Monday morning **Walkie Talkies** is a fun and healthy way to start the week. The group meets in front of the Clubhouse before heading out to walk to various destinations in the area, usually

racking up 10,000 steps along the way. Sign up on *GroupSpaces* to receive email updates or contact **Emily van Eerten** at vaneerten@gmail.com or **Greetje Engelsman** at greetje.engelsman@gmail.com.

Mondays
9:30 a.m.
FREE
AWC Clubhouse



THIRSTY THURSDAY
Please join AWC The Hague Thursday, 15 March 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

AMERICAN TAPHOUSE
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Korte Molenstraat 2, 2513 BM The Hague
The American Women's Club organizes a monthly networking event in the evening for Members to connect, especially those who work. € 15 for a flight of beer or two drinks and bites.



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One-of-a-Kind Activities

by Dena Haggerty

RSVP directly on AWC GroupSpaces.com. Direct any questions to awcthehague.firstvp@gmail.com.

Payment must be made within 5 calendar days of reserving or your name will be moved to a waitlist. Payment can be made in the Front Office by PIN or by bank transfer to the AWC account NL42ABNA0431421757.

Dutch National Soccer League Game

Come join us for a fun family outing and watch some Dutch soccer (aka *voetbal*). We will be attending a match between ADO Den Haag (the local Hague team) and NAC Breda for the price of just € 14 per person. Don't miss the chance to attend a genuine European sports event!



The stadium is located approximately 15 minutes' walk from the Den Haag Ypenburg train station. For those who so desire, we'll meet at Den Haag Centraal Station and travel together. The entire family is welcome.

Saturday, March 10
6:30 – 10 p.m.
Haags Kwartier 55, Den Haag
€ 14 per person

Gouda – Not Just Cheese!

When most people think of Gouda, they think of cheese! But, did you know that it is also home to the Sint Janskerk, one of the Netherlands' UNESCO Top 100 monuments? This amazing church is home to 72 world-famous, stained-glass windows. Join us for a one-hour guided tour of the Sint Janskerk to learn the story behind the famous Gouda glass. After the tour, feel free to join us for lunch at your own expense



(restaurant to be determined). We will also explore the Gouda Town Hall and watch the carillon with the mechanical puppets, which were added in 1961.

We can travel there together and buddy up to take advantage of NS discount cards. Meet at Starbucks at Den Haag Centraal at 9 a.m. to catch the train, which will get us to Gouda in about 20 minutes.

Wednesday, March 14
Meet at Starbucks at DHCS at 9 a.m.
Return at approximately 3:30 p.m.
€ 5 Members for Tour PLUS € 6 Entrance (free with Museumkaart)
www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1157311

Wealth Management Strategies

A Financial Awareness Seminar for Americans and U.S. Connected Persons
Join us at the Clubhouse for a discussion

about managing finances as American expats and issues that challenge Americans living abroad. Beacon Global Group specializes in helping American expats sort through the weeds of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), which was enacted in 2010. The IRS website states, "The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), which was passed as part of the HIRE Act, generally requires that foreign financial institutions and certain other non-financial foreign entities report on the foreign assets held by their U.S. account holders or be subject to withholding on withholdable payments. The HIRE Act also contained legislation requiring U.S. persons to report, depending on the value, their foreign financial accounts and foreign assets." Numerous topics will be covered during the discussion: U.S. FATCA compliant investment strategies, portfolio management, protection planning, wealth management, estate planning, mortgages, and cross-border retirement planning.

Tuesday, March 20
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
AWC Clubhouse
Free



Cancellation Policy

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

AWC Members, please connect with us on LinkedIn <https://nl.linkedin.com/in/awcthehague>





January Thirsty Thursday and Mary Ann's Going Away Party



AWC and the Arts

by Jane Choy, AWC Member and Mauritshuis Docent

The Girl in the Spotlight

by Melissa White and Jane Choy

Not only is the *Girl with a Pearl Earring* Johannes Vermeer's most famous painting, but it is one of the world's most beloved. Have you ever wondered how Vermeer painted this iconic painting? AWC Members and friends have a unique opportunity to attend a private lecture to learn more about the Mauritshuis' most famous painting when curator Lea van der Vinde will present about *The Girl*, the painting's history and its importance. Restorer and Conservator Abbie Vandivere will speak about the technical examination of *The Girl* that is taking place at the Mauritshuis.

The Golden Room of the Mauritshuis has been transformed into a laboratory, and along with an international team of



Photo: Ivo Hoekstra, Mauritshuis

RSVP for all Arts Activities directly on AWC GroupSpaces.com
Direct any questions to jechoy@me.com

scientists and researchers, Abbie will examine the painting in front of the public to learn about the materials and techniques that Vermeer used to paint *The Girl* in approximately 1665. Where did the lapis lazuli used to paint the blue turban come from? How did bugs from a cactus in Mexico end up on the painting? What lies beneath the surface? These and other secrets will be revealed. Please plan on visiting the Golden Room before the lecture. The museum is open until 8 p.m. and the Brasserie is open until 8:30 p.m.

Some Members may remember that Abbie gave a presentation at the AWC about art conservation in 2010. Now she is the head of this research project and has helped to arrange this special lecture for us and the alumni from Princeton, her alma mater.

Please keep in mind that the price paid to the AWC is only for entrance to the lecture itself and that you will still be responsible for the entrance fee to the museum. If you do not have a *Museumkaart*, please order your entrance ticket online in advance at www.mauritshuis.nl/en/ticketshop/tickets/selecteer/.

Thursday, March 8
Visit Technical Examination Laboratory: 5:45 – 6:15 p.m.
Lecture: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Nassauzaal
Mauritshuis, Plein 29, Den Haag
€ 12.50 Members or Spouses (€ 17.50 nonmembers)
PLUS
€ 15.50 for museum entrance (free with *Museumkaart*)



Holland's Golden Age Revealed! Introduction to the Art of Seventeenth Century Holland

by Jane Choy, AWC Member and Mauritshuis Docent

****Please note that dates have changed for the three remaining sessions*

AWC Member and Mauritshuis docent, **Jane Choy**, will continue her five-part lecture series this month about the Golden Age of Dutch art, in her 17th century home in Voorburg. The Golden Age was a period in Dutch history, roughly spanning the 17th century, in which the Dutch were a major world power and leaders in trade and science, and also in art. The paintings produced by Dutch artists are considered some of the greatest works of art in the world. This series of lectures will not only introduce you to the art of this dynamic period but will also explain the history and culture that brought this art to fruition and give us a deeper understanding of the country in which we now live. Jane has already covered *Intimacies and Intrigues-History Painting* and *Who's Who? Portrait Painting*.

Thursday, March 29, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Session 3: Reality Show or Illusion!
Genre Painting

Genre paintings refer to scenes of everyday life, a sort of *tableau vivant* and are probably one of the most popular categories of Dutch 17th century art. In this lecture, we will also learn that there is much more to the eye than just a scene of everyday life. Symbolic meanings, double entendres and moral messages were included in these seemingly innocent compositions.

Thursday, April 5, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Session 4: Mirrors of Reality!

Landscape Painting

The development of landscape painting in Holland must be counted among one of the most prominent contributions to the history of European art. In fact, the Dutch are considered to have started the naturalistic landscape style.

Thursday, April 26, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Session 5: Objects of Desire!

Still Life and Architectural Painting

These two specialties of Dutch 17th century art with their attention to the representation of different textures and illusionism are some of the most admired works of this period. Showing the originality of Dutch painters, we will also explore the symbolism and the ability of art to triumph over nature.

Please sign up on *GroupSpaces*. For more information, please contact Jane Choy, jechoy@cs.com or 070 387 2606.

Parking is free in the neighborhood although it is a blue zone with two-hour limit. Accessible by public transportation: Bus 23, 46 or 45 or the sprinter train from Den Haag Centraal.

Jane Choy's home in Voorburg

€ 15 per lecture

(€ 20 for nonmembers)

Tea, coffee, and snacks will be served

RSVP on GroupSpaces



Shirley
and Sue's
Going Away
Party



AWC February Activities



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MARCH 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p align="center">Save the Dates!</p> <p align="center">May 17: AWC Board Installation June 2: Summer Beach Barbeque Benefit June 14: Volunteer and Honorary Member Luncheon</p>			<p>1 Wassenaar Coffee and Conversation 9 a.m.</p> <p>AWC Board Meeting 10 a.m.</p> <p>Holland's Golden Age Revealed! 7:30 p.m.</p>	2	3
4	<p>5 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Ladies Night at the Movies 7 p.m.</p>	<p>6 Chat, Crafts & Cake 10 a.m.</p> <p>Out to Lunch Bunch 12:15 p.m.</p> <p>AWC Tennis 1 p.m.</p>	7	<p>8 Coffee 10 a.m.</p> <p>March General Meeting 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>The Girl in the Spotlight 5:45 p.m.</p>	9	10 Dutch National Soccer League Game 6:30 p.m.
11	<p>12 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m. Buddy Check 12</p> 	<p>13 Chat, Crafts & Cake 10 a.m.</p> <p>Heart Pillow Workshop Noon</p> <p>AWC Tennis 1 p.m.</p>	14 Gouda–Not Just Cheese! 9 a.m.	15 Thirsty Thursday 6 p.m.	16	17
18	<p>19 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>20 Chat, Crafts & Cake 10 a.m.</p> <p>AWC Tennis 1 p.m.</p> <p>Financial Awareness Seminar for Americans 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>21 Intro to FAWCO Target Project: Hope Beyond Displacement 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Evening Book Club 7:30 p.m.</p>	22 Daytime Book Club 10 a.m.	23 FAWCO Interim Meeting >>>	24
<p>25 Spring Ahead for Daylight Savings Time</p> <p><<< FAWCO IM</p>	<p>26 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>27 Chat, Crafts & Cake 10 a.m.</p> <p>AWC Tennis 1 p.m.</p>	28	29 Holland's Golden Age Revealed! 7:30 p.m.	30	31



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www.access-nl.org

Heart Pillows Made with Heart

by Suzanne MacNeil

For the sixth year, the Heart Pillow Club at the British School of the Netherlands (BSN) in Voorschoten has made Heart Pillows for our Club to give to mastectomy patients. The Year 12 students (equivalent to Juniors in American schools) are in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and are required to do CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) to receive their diploma. Teachers and support staff run the club and share their sewing skills with students. "The Heart Pillow pairing of the British School and the AWC is the brain-child of Olivia Dishongh, whose mother **Johanna** was AWC President from 2011 to 2013. The Heart Pillow

Club has become very popular," wrote Helen Kirkwood, the CAS Coordinator at the BSN. Their pillows were delivered to the Clubhouse in February and will be added to those made by our Members for distribution to various area hospitals.



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Scrabble Culture: No Actual Petri Dish Though There are Germs

by Suzanne Dundas

*"What's Coventry like, Mom?"
"It doesn't matter. You won't see any of it."*

My daughter Arielle (businesswoman, Amsterdam resident, improviser, stand-up comedian) decided she would join me for a major Scrabble tournament held the first week in January every year in Coventry, England. Forty-eight games of Scrabble are divided into an Early Bird Tournament of 18 games and the UK Scrabble Open of 30 games, held over 5 days.

*"If nothing else, Scrabble culture should give me some stand-up material."
"Oh, it will, kid. It will."*

A little history: My first Scrabble tournament was in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1984, two years before Arielle was born. It was a one-day, six-game tournament with a lunch break in the middle. I clearly remember slumping over a tortilla stuffed with cream cheese and jalapenos, moaning that I was exhausted. "Three more games. I don't know if I can make it."

I made it. And I've gone on to attend, so far, 33 more years of tournaments in the U.S. and Europe. I'd been a regular club player but not Arielle. We play at home, and she participated in a 20-game tournament I directed in October 2015, in The Hague at the AWC Clubhouse, a fine facility, I might add. Those games, and helping me to serve lunch at my tournament, were the extent of her tournament experience.

I figured I'd be scraping her off the floor after a major tournament of 48 games. Of course, I only told her that after she'd booked her flight. The tournament is held in a Quality Hotel, which overlooks a huge parking lot separated by a sagging metal fence from the motorway between the Birmingham Airport



Tiles are arranged after each game to prove they are all there for the start of the next game.

and Coventry. Or so I've been told. Having participated in 10 of these tournaments, I've never actually been to Coventry. Unlike most players, however, I have stepped outside after I arrived at the hotel.

The "quality" in Quality Hotel makes no explicit claims as to what level of quality they are referring to, but the price is right. And the staff, whom tournament participants have gotten to know ("Andy, I'm loving the new beard") are wonderfully helpful and friendly. That, and reconnecting with players from as far away as Australia and Kuala Lumpur, always give the first week in January a "home for the holidays" feel for me. And this year, I was proud to introduce my daughter to everyone, especially the

players from Wales and Malta I've become friends with over the years.

*"Can you explain the rating system to me, Mom? What is my rating?"
"No. And you don't have one."*

The worldwide rating system for tournament Scrabble is based on an algorithm that anyone who's seen me try to work a new app on my phone will know is completely beyond my understanding. It is based on my win/loss record and the ratings of your opponents. Simply speaking, if I beat a higher rated player, my rating goes up.

Some players fret over their ratings' going up and down, but Scrabble ratings are essentially a tool used to assign players within tiered tournament divisions. The placement varies on who else is playing. We had several elite players and the top player in the world at this tournament, so I landed in the next-to-the-top division and was the second highest rated player in that division. Arielle, not yet having played enough tournament games, was the lowest player in the bottom division.

I was a bit worried about her dealing with the mechanics of play. In tournaments, we play only two-person games using a chess clock to keep time. Both players keep score. Each player gets 25 minutes to play all her moves, so each game lasts 50 minutes. Most players keep track of the tiles played so the



My antique chess clock ready to play. We use digital clocks at tournaments.

rhythm of play goes like this for every single move:

Lay down word/s
Count score
Announce score
Hit clock
Take replacement tiles
Add score to previous score
Mark off tiles used

It takes a long time, about a year, to get that rhythm down, so Arielle forewent the tile tracking that allows you to know exactly what your opponent has on her last rack. That's a big disadvantage to her endgame.

Many people are surprised to learn that tournament Scrabble is always a two-handed game.

*"But the box says you can have two to four players!"
"That's living room Scrabble," I say.*

Notice how hard I tried to keep the derision out of my reply? Having more than two players at any game obliterates the probabilities that are a major part of Scrabble. At its highest level, Scrabble is not really a word game. It's a math and strategy game that uses words to score points. Hence, many elite players come not from the linguistics world, but from more scientific realms.

I'm no scientist. The reasons I play Scrabble are simple. Playing tournament Scrabble is a rare time I'm focused completely on what I am doing. I enjoy that complete mental immersion. And I do like winning, though, shh, not enough to spend time using the myriad of online study aids.

There's also the thrill of the gorgeous play. Non-players will never understand the rush of playing a triple-triple, an eight-letter word that hits both triple word score blocks simultaneously. BEZIQUE in this position could score 311 points. For one word. One opponent this week, a painfully shy 85-year-old Oxford grad played INGATHERS against me. His knowing that word and playing it on both sides of the AT on the board was a thing of beauty. I oohed and ahhed.

Scrabble Culture (cont.)

Continued from page 33



A game played on my custom-made revolving board.

around the parking lot. I never sit down between games. Most players move from sitting in the playing room to sitting in the lobby. That's too long without mobility and fresh air for me and my back.

"You went outside. You're just like your mother," said the tournament director to Arielle. That made me proud.

Arielle found doing 100 jumping jacks outside between games helped her mental and physical state immensely. For this, she was gently mocked by the world's greatest player, the wildly-bearded, taciturn, and eccentric Nigel Richards. She plans to incorporate this mocking her for exercising into her stand-up act. She got off easy. Nigel once told me I had no charisma. And he wasn't pointing out I had no C, H or M on my tile rack. I asked him who in Scrabble does have charisma, and he said, "No one."

There's a yearly cold war over room temperature and fresh air. I, and a few hardy souls, like fresh air but many Brits are terrified—terrified!—of "sitting in a draft". Put 70 people in an old conference room, which is shabbily carpeted and reeking of cleaning supplies, and you have a room smell that "stale" doesn't begin to convey. I have given up arguing about this and just leave doors to the outside open when I go out, coatless. Others close them. I wear light clothing and I survive.

During a game, the room is mostly silent save for scores being announced and the rattle of 100 tiles in their cloth bag. It's not as dangerous as a snake's rattle, but that rattle is a dangerous sound nonetheless. I reach into this bag for my tiles after every turn, but so does everyone else. Our equipment stays put, and we move from table to table for each game. It's winter and there are germs and those germs bring the "Coventry Cough." You can actually hear it getting worse day by day as the tournament

progresses. I've been its victim before but this year I prepared. I got my yearly flu shot with Coventry in mind and I took, and made Arielle take, zinc tablets the week before. I wash my hands thoroughly after every game. I wish everyone washed their hands, but they are too busy playing Scrabble on their phones and asking, "Where is that draft coming from?"

"Mom, seriously? They play Scrabble between games?"

"Yes, and in the bar after we're done for the day."

Not us. We were asleep.

I did reasonably well at this tournament, easily winning my division in The Early Bird and finishing in the middle of the pack for the main event. Arielle won five out of the 48 games she played. Most important and a little surprisingly, she's hooked. She really enjoyed herself and just today texted me to ask if "relove" is a good word. (It's not.) Alas, she's a busy woman. I would enjoy nothing more for her to accompany me



Scrabble fetish items and professional equipment are available on Facebook from @TheTileFairy.

to tournaments, but I doubt she'll have the time.

How about you? If you've read this far, you may have a latent interest in Scrabble I am willing to help you nourish. Contact me and we'll play. But not during the first week of January 2019. I'm already looking forward to my next UK Scrabble Open. "Someplace in the general vicinity of Coventry, here I come!"

SAVE THE DATE!

We're planning an **AWC Summer Beach Barbeque Benefit** at Strandpaviljoen Sport on the Wassenaar beach to raise funds for Perspektief, a nonprofit that helps women and families in need (www.perspektief.nu). The evening includes an all-you-can eat barbeque as well as unlimited wine and beer before 10:30 p.m. Tickets are just € 60 and 25% of that will benefit Perspektief, along with the proceeds from the evening's silent auction. Don't miss this fun night for a cause!
Saturday, June 2
5 p.m. – midnight
Strandpaviljoen Sport
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€ 60 plus the cost of any awesome silent auction item you bid on and win!
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FAWCO Corner

by Julie Mowat



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

Letter from Suzanne Wheeler, the FAWCO Foundation President:

Dearest Ladies,
Please accept our thanks for the generous donation of \$4,417.26 towards a Development Grant for 2018. This Development Grant, Creating Better Futures, allows clubs to nominate their charity in pursuit of support for their passion, their project. Your contribution provides the means for The Foundation to help others in that pursuit.

We are proud of our programs and the good work that they accomplish. And we are most grateful for the contributions The Foundation receives from FAWCO Clubs, FAUSA and their members. Together, with the ongoing support provided by you, we are improving the lives of women and girls throughout the world. Once again, please accept our sincere thanks for your continued support.

Warmest regards,

Suzanne Wheeler
2017-19 Board President president@fawcofoundation.org
The FAWCO Foundation
www.fawcofoundation.org

FAWCO Target Project–Hope Beyond Displacement Trip to Jordan

I am helping to plan a trip to Jordan for 21 FAWCO members in early April to visit FAWCO's Target Project, Hope Beyond Displacement. This trip filled quickly with several on the waitlist. It is the first of its

kind for FAWCO with hopes that it will not only be enlightening for the guests but also for AWC members at sister clubs. I am happy that AWC Member **Celeste Brown** will be joining me and we plan to share the results of the trip.



Hope Beyond Displacement–An Introduction

FAWCO's **Hope Beyond Displacement** is a major initiative and grassroots effort to help refugees and other victims of war and conflict. To date, FAWCO donations have helped fund 100 girls in school each year and 120 girls in the SuperGirls after-school enrichment program, women's vocational training and women's leadership training in Jordan. Hope Beyond Displacement, an initiative of the Collateral Repair Project, is designed to address the pressing issues identified in close consultation with the women they serve; to build better futures through education, vocational and leadership training for refugee women and girls in Jordan. They operate numerous programs focusing on community building, education and emergency aid. Join project applicant Therese Hartwell, FAUSA resident and human rights team chair, for coffee and muffins to learn more about the FAWCO target project.

Wednesday, March 21
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Clubhouse
Free

Women's History Month

This month is Women's History Month which corresponds with International Women's Day. One way to mark the day is to take part in the *Join Me on the Bridge* gathering on Thursday, March 8 at a bridge in your community as a symbol of support for peace and women's human rights. This campaign started in 2010 when women from neighboring warring countries, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, came together in a plea for peace on a crossing that joined the two countries. If you don't have a bridge nearby, you can create a virtual bridge.



Let me know if you are interested. If you do participate, please send me your photos. jjbbmow@msn.com.

FAWCO Friendship Quilt

The FAWCO Friendship quilt is finished and will be raffled off during the Interim Meeting in The Hague on March 23-25. Several of our Members made squares for the quilt, along with members of sister clubs. Tickets are available for the raffle, whether or not you attend the meeting. Please contact me at jjbbmow@msn.com to buy a raffle ticket. The money raised will be used for Educational Awards and Development Grants.



The Dutch Daily

by Eileen Harloff

One Man in a Rowboat

A remarkable trip was made in the past two months by Mark Slats, a 40-year-old building contractor from Wassenaar. Always up for a challenge, Slats decided to row solo in his boat, *Peanuts*, from La Gomera, Canary Islands, to Antigua in the West Indies. He reckoned that it would take him around 40 days, but to his and everyone else's surprise and delight, he reached his goal, thanks to a favorable wind, in 30 days and 7 3/4 hours, thereby setting a new world record. He rowed for his mother, who is currently battling cancer, and also on behalf of the hospital where she is being treated. Mark and his mother gave each other a boost through daily contact by phone during the trip.

Sailing is not new for Slats, who has previously sailed around the world three times. But rowing was new to him, and he began learning its intricacies a year and a half ago by joining a rowing club and practicing daily. The training, along with his sailing skills, particularly in navigation, assured he was well prepared for his newest challenge. But even more important, he is not one who suffers from sea sickness.

So now, will the world record breaker go back home and relax? Well, no! He must get back to work and to prepare for his



next challenge: the Golden Globe solo race around the world without modern technology. In the meantime, his mother and other family members, as well as the municipality of Wassenaar, have given him a well deserved welcome home.

Food for Thought

The world's population continues to expand. There are ever more mouths to feed, but less land available for producing it. Where will it all end? One answer is being offered by the Dutch horticulture sector in whose glass houses a variety of vegetables and fruits—



and don't forget the flowers—are grown. *This Tiny Country Feeds the World* is the title of a recent *National Geographic Magazine* story, and films and radio programs about Dutch practices are being shown and heard throughout the world. A visit to the Westland (the area between The Hague and the Hook of Holland) gives the visitor a look at how the future of more food for more people is already being addressed and can be a model for other countries, even those that are primarily deserts. The Dutch growers know how much water and how much CO2 are needed for the plants, which are not growing in the ground, but in containers.

Westland is not just a grower of foods, but is also known for its seed companies and its experi-

mentation with cultivation on sea water and dry ground. This month is the opening of the World Horti Center in Naaldwijk, an international platform where research, education, and business can come together. Its website states it "wants to play a leading role in providing solutions to relevant social issues such as water, food supply, food safety, well-being, and sustainability".

The growers are also aided by the world-renowned research agrarian center at the University of Wageningen. Some of its research includes the growing of seaweed along the Scheveningen coastline, which is progressing and there are seven companies undertaking various forms of seaweed cultivation. Since 2016, the Netherlands has been importing quinoa from Peru and Bolivia, and this grain has now become a staple in homes and on restaurant menus. Due to the demand of quinoa, the Netherlands has started, on a modest scale, to export quinoa primarily to other EU countries

In Short Sleep Robot

Something new under the sun? Currently on the market is the sleep robot Somnox: a washable, fully breathable, made of natural products, pillow. Its claim is that it helps you to fall asleep—if you awaken it will help you to fall asleep again—and that it makes you feel safe while sleeping. The first iteration of this pillow, which was made possible



by crowd-funding out of Delft, will be available in July. It was recently presented to a world audience at a start-up exhibition in Las Vegas. This pillow reminded me of the rather long bolsters that were popular in the former Dutch East Indies that were considered to keep the sleeper cool in hot weather, or warm in cool weather and were familiarly called "Dutch wives". Will Somnox become as popular as the *goeling*, a cylindrical pillow that you press your body against when you sleep on your side?

Asylum Seekers

In 2017, 31,327 people requested asylum in the Netherlands. Two hundred fifty-six were from Cuba, which previously had not been in the asylum picture. Most of the asylum requests came from citizens of Syria (35%) and Eritria (13%).

Windmills

Added to the UNESCO list of intangible heritage is the job of *molenaar* (miller) or keeper of the windmill. Considering their vital role in the life of the Netherlands, this is an honor to all those who have run and maintained (and still do in some areas) the wind and watermills that still dot our landscape.



Let's Go Tripping, Ladies!

by **Ginnie Rempt**

Last spring a friend from the U.S. and I decided it was time to continue our hiking adventures. Terri would invite another friend from the States, and I would ask our mutual friend, and AWC Member, **Georgia Regnault** to join us for two weeks in Northern Ireland, including Belfast, and then a portion of the Wild Atlantic Way along the west coast of Ireland. There we were, the four of us, in our mutually decided automatic car embarking on our eye-opening jaunt through Ireland. Chitty Chitty Bang Bang—that was us! Here's what makes such a trip possible.



- Choose people you get along with, because having fun is part of the deal. Also, there will probably be a crisis along the way, and you'll want to figure out a solution calmly—no freaking out!
- Discuss and decide on a destination and possible dates.
- Decide on a budget range that fits everyone's wallet.
- Address transportation and baggage. Will you use public transportation and/or taxis, or a car rental? Who's driving? Will the baggage fit in the car? Do you need insurance? Take pictures of the car before leaving, just in case....
- Plan ahead. Have a rough plan of things to do, as well as approximate costs and spending. Discuss with each other what everyone expects to do on the trip. There's no need to stick together every minute. Some people might like to hike, while others might enjoy a shorter walk. That's okay, as long as some general group activities are adventures everyone will enjoy.

- Be currency savvy. Know the applicable form of currency in each country you visit, exchange rate, availability of ATMs, times banks are open, credit card availability, credit card costs and tipping policies. Carry some cash (generally enough to get you through a day) in case a restaurant or shop doesn't accept cards.
- Contact your personal bank and credit card companies to notify each that you'll be traveling to a different country. You don't want problems using your ATM or credit cards!
- Put safety first. Consider, for your situation, whether you need a first-aid package, medicines, flares, telephones and chargers, guidebook and maps, electric plug adapter, etc. And, always, have emergency numbers with you.
- Include personal issues. Bear in mind that each traveler might have a different sleeping schedule. That's okay; one person can sightsee while the other sleeps. Maybe you



- need ear plugs? Is anyone taking dressy clothes for a special evening? You don't want anyone to feel left out!
- Make sure each person has a copy of everyone's personal contact and flight information. If you're arriving from different cities or countries, determine a meeting point in advance. If departing at different times, make a plan suitable to everyone for getting to the airport.

One more important thing to remember. You'll be together almost constantly, so give each other space and be flexible. You each have habits the other has never noticed—that's a fun part, as well as a challenge. We are, after all, funny creatures!

Have a great trip!

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Travel to Southern Vietnam and Cambodia

by Dena Haggerty

If you love excellent food, moving history, and breathtaking scenery, Vietnam and Cambodia are two countries to add to your bucket list. Unfortunately, you can't fly directly to Vietnam from Amsterdam but it's well worth changing planes. Here are my most useful tips and tricks. If you have any questions, feel free to ask me. I'm easy to spot: I'll be the one holding a glass of wine.



Tricks for Vietnam

- “Saigon” or “Ho Chi Minh City”? Don’t stress about using the proper name of Ho Chi Minh City. The residents use the name Saigon and won’t bat an eyelash if you do too.
- For getting around Saigon, most of the must-see places are in Central Saigon and can be reached on foot. Taxis are also affordable, and we didn’t have any issues with scammers. Taxi drivers speak English for the most part.
- Hotels in Saigon range from cheap backpacker hostels to five-star luxury. Most backpacker hostels are located near the nightlife. If you want a quiet stay, but are on a budget, you can find some medium-range hotels for a reasonable price in the city center.
- If you end up getting tummy issues, head to your local restaurant and tell them you’re not feeling well. They’ll make you a rice dish that will help with the nausea.
- Must-sees in Saigon? You can easily spend a week in the city. If you’re short on time, however, these are the places you must hit:
 1. War Remnants Museum: This collection documents the horrors of the Vietnam War, which you will find referred to as the Resistance

We started in Saigon

Getting into Vietnam: Dutch and American citizens will need a visa to enter the country. I recommend applying for a visa with an online service instead of heading to the embassy. Pay a small fee and plan to pick up your visa at the airport upon arrival in Vietnam. Since you’ll need to pay an additional fee there, make sure you bring the exact amount in cash. You can purchase a single-entry or multi-entry visa; though more expensive, the multi-entry visa is worth it if you want to travel to Cambodia.

War against America. The materials will horrify you and possibly make a tear or two crawl down your face. The descriptions may also bristle your pride as the U.S. is repetitively described as the aggressor in the conflict. Although you’ll see a lot of anti-American propaganda during your trip, the locals themselves don’t seem to harbor any negative feelings.

2. Chinatown (aka Cholo): Spend a day walking around the various temples, pagodas and street markets. There’s also a large covered market stuffed full of stalls selling everything you can imagine. Make sure not to get lost!
3. Jade Emperor Pagoda: Admire this spectacular, colorful Chinese pagoda dedicated to the Emperor of Jade, the supreme Taoist god.
4. Notre Dame Cathedral: It’s worth a visit for the surrealistic experience of listening to Catholic hymns in Vietnamese.
5. People’s Committee Building: The building itself is not open to the public, but this former hotel has an ornate façade and is one of the most prominent landmarks of the city.



Outside of Saigon

- Hoi An: Want to relax? Beaches and quaint seaside villages are plentiful. Hue and Hoi An are popular. We headed for Hoi An, a quaint town with cobbled

lanes and historical buildings. It’s a great place to just walk around for a few hours or a day or two.

- Danang: We flew from Siem Reap to Danang before taking a taxi to Hoi An. We stayed the night in Danang (I had contracted dysentery in Cambodia) but there isn’t much to do. If you find yourself in the city, however, the must-visit location is the Danang Museum of Cham Sculpture. It houses 300 artifacts from the Cham culture, an indigenous people who formed an independent kingdom from the second to seventeenth centuries in Vietnam and Cambodia.
- Mỹ Sơn Sanctuary: This Hindu temple complex from the fourth through fourteenth centuries is a short drive from Hoi An and is a MUST-SEE. The temple complex is in a valley surrounded by mountains. Much of the complex was destroyed by U.S. carpet bombing in a single week during the Vietnam War. A visit to this site encompasses everything that is great about traveling: history, culture, and impressive nature.

Heading for Cambodia

After a few days in Saigon, we took a private tourist van to Cambodia.

- Crossing over to Cambodia, you can get a visa upon entry into the country. We took a small tourist van from Saigon to Phnom Penh, and the guide arranged our visas when we crossed the border. It was a bit confusing as the guide spoke only three words of English, but everything worked out fine.
- Clothing! If you want to enter any temples, including those at Angkor Wat and the Royal Palace, make sure you wear proper clothing covering your shoulders and knees.
- Go for a little luxury in Phnom Penh. Although you can travel on a shoestring budget in Southeast Asia, I recommend spending a little more for your accommodations in the capital. Unfortunately, the city has more prostitutes than the red-light district in Amsterdam, and they tend to congregate near cheaper hotels. Trust me, you want to spend more on your hotel.

Travel to Southern Vietnam and Cambodia (cont.)

Continued from page 43



- Must-sees in Phnom Penh? Though everyone who travels to Cambodia heads to Angkor Wat, you shouldn't skip the capital city. There are four must-sees in the city. If you hire a tuk-tuk for the day to take you to several locations, be sure to negotiate a price up front.

1. Royal Palace: This complex of buildings serves as the royal residence of the King of Cambodia. Visitors are allowed to visit only the throne hall and a clutch of buildings surrounding it. The grandeur of the areas where visitors are allowed makes it worth the visit.
2. National Museum of Cambodia: Situated next to the Royal Palace, the museum is housed in a terracotta structure of traditional design and has the world's finest collection of Khmer sculpture.
3. Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum: Pol Pot's security forces took over a local high school and turned it into Security Prison 21. It was the largest detention and torture center in the country. Prepare to be outraged, distressed and teary-eyed.
4. Killing Fields of Choeung Ek: This is another location that stands testament to the horror brought upon the population by the Pol Pot regime. If you've ever wondered about how cruel man can be, you need to visit the killing fields.

Outside of Phnom Penh

Angkor Wat: It goes without saying that if you have only one day to visit Southeast Asia, Angkor Wat is the not-to-be-missed location. If you have time, though, you should plan to spend three days there. You can buy a ticket for one or three (or more) days at the ticket booth. Plan to spend one day biking, and you should hire a tuk-tuk for at least one day of your visit to see the outlying temples; though less crowded, they are no less worth the visit.

I haven't mentioned any particular restaurants to visit because everywhere we ate in both countries was fabulous. Just follow the golden rule of street food, which is to make sure the vendors make your dish fresh instead of serving you something pre-made that's been sitting in the sun for who knows how long.

Enjoy your trip! If you need a traveling companion, give me a call. I'd love to go back.



Travel Insurance—Don't Leave Home Without It

by Chelsea Wald

When former AWC The Hague President **Becky Failor** broke her leg, her travel insurance from ABN AMRO covered the costs of canceling two trips she could no longer take. When AWC Member **Rebecca Niles-Pourier's** father passed away, and she had to change her itinerary on short



due to illness or death of a traveler or close relative; you can customize aspects of your coverage, such as Europe-only versus worldwide travel, winter sports, and protection for your broken or lost smartphones, tablets, and glasses. Both Becky and Rebecca held such policies when misfortune struck.

Annual travel insurance is available from many companies in the Netherlands, including companies you probably already work with. Among those mentioned by AWC members on Facebook are ABN AMRO, ING, Aegon, Delta Lloyd, Nationale-Nederlanden, and ANWB. **Dominique Duysens**, the AWC The Hague Clubhouse Administrator, suggests checking out *Independer.nl*, a site (in Dutch) that allows you to compare different policies. In the end, I decided to take out a policy with the company I already use for my home rental insurance, OHRA, for about €10 euros per month for my husband and me. I haven't had to use it yet, but I'm glad to know it's there in case I do.

notice, her travel insurance from ING covered the costs, as well as data coverage and phone use in the United States. Both were thankful that they didn't have to worry about money during otherwise trying times

Although travel insurance is growing somewhat more popular in the United States, I haven't always bothered to get it. Shopping for it always seemed a hassle, and prices too high. But when I asked the AWC The Hague Facebook group about finding insurance in the Netherlands for an upcoming trip, I discovered that many Dutch companies offer annual travel insurance policies (*doorlopende reisverzekering*) at very competitive rates. They will cover any trips that you and your family might take in a year, even including day trips—and you don't need to warn them in advance where and when you're going. Most policies cover cancellation and changes

Editor's Note

Below is a note I read on the Facebook page "Two Fat Expats."

Linda Cooke to *Two Fat Expats*:

"I just wanted to say how important it is to always travel with travel insurance. We have risked it without occasionally but this family reunion holiday to Indonesia and Singapore could have been a lot more expensive without. My healthy husband got a virus which affected his liver and we are now on day four in hospital in Singapore. We missed our flights home, I've had to keep extending my hotel room, and without the security of the insurance I think I would be a basket case. It might seem like an expensive unnecessary, but from my side of the situation I am ever so glad we have it."



Helsinki, Finland. See it Like a Native!

by AnnaLena Thuren-Vogel (Anna to my friends and family)

I am a Swedish-Finn which means I belong to the minority (6%) of Finns who have Swedish as a mother tongue but also speak Finnish. I was born in a town called Ekenäs (swe) / Tammissaari (fin) on the southern tip of Finland. I moved to Helsinki for studies and lived there for 15 years before my husband swept me off my feet and we moved to Germany. I lived in Hamburg for five years; in Houston, Texas for five years, and now in The Hague for two years. If traveling to Helsinki is on your list of places to visit, it's well worth the trip!

Helsinki is the city of light, good food, awesome coffee and a city that never sleeps. I know that is supposed to be New York, but during the summertime, that also goes for Helsinki. A big reason why I love Helsinki is because it's the sort of place you need to



visit with not only a list of sights, but also a list of experiences. Ride the Helsinki trams, one of the oldest electrified systems in the world and very easy to navigate. Helsinki is a city of design: it was named the world design capital a few years ago and also awarded the City of Design by UNESCO. What you may not expect is that Helsinki has a real foodie scene. Finns are some of the biggest coffee consumers in the world, so you will find a lot of nice restaurants and exceptional coffee in cozy cafes.

My perfect day in Helsinki is one that starts early. Have a good breakfast in the hotel or head to Café Ekberg, an establishment that opened its doors in 1852. After a hearty start, stroll through the area Ullanlinna, a mixture of antiques and quirky shops. You will also find many small cafes in this area. When it's time for lunch, stop at Restaurant Mattolaituri, where Finns still wash their carpets outside (yes you are reading correctly) and let them dry in the sun. The views are fabulous and the restaurant serves everything from salads to ribs. When you feel ready to move on, take a walk along the archipelago shoreline and watch the boats pass by.

If you feel like taking a swim you can take the ferry over to Uunisaari, an island opposite Mattolaituri. The sea water is clean everywhere around Helsinki, so just jump in.

There's also a small restaurant on the island if you feel like having a drink or a bite. You can, and should, also try out the sauna; they provide towels on-site. This is the absolute Finnish experience: a hot sauna and cooling off in the Baltic Sea.

Stroll back through Kaivopusto (a very nice park) and visit the Kaivopuisto Observatory, which is small but cute. On your way back to the city center, you will pass Saint Henry's Chapel (Catholic) and, if it's open, do have a look inside. To end a great day, start with a sundowner drink at Hotel Torni's wonderful rooftop bar, with a stunning view of the city. Go to Faroush (excellent Lebanese) or, if you want to try something local, head to Restaurant Lappi or Aino.

If your visit to Helsinki includes April 30 and the first of May, you are in for a real party. That's when we celebrate the students who have graduated from the gymnasium (prep school). The city center will be full of people walking around in the white caps that you get when you graduate, celebrating both their achievement and the spring. May Day celebrations were originally pagan, and a feast of spring became a nationwide urban carnival. On the first of May, you will see Finns picnicking in Kaivopusto park, but you have to get up early because it all starts at 10 a.m. Be sure to pack a picnic basket and blanket, and don't forget the champagne!



Instead of just going to the main shopping streets, experience a real adventure visiting a flea market in Helsinki. You will find small and big treasures—things you won't be able to spot at a general store—while enjoying the festive open-air atmosphere of the city. One of Helsinki's most popular markets during summertime, and the largest outdoor flea market, is located on the Hietalahti square. Though Finns aren't prone to negotiate prices, you can be brave and bid. If you want to take a gourmet break after spending the morning strolling the flea market booths, enjoy a *tori kahvit* (market coffee) with a Finnish traditional bun called *korvapuusti* or *munkki*.

Helsinki is one big secret, not yet overrun with tourists. The city still has a great local and creative vibe. Welcome to Helsinki! *Välkommen till Helsingfors* (in Swedish)! *Tervetuloa Helsinkiin* (in Finnish)!

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Announcements

Comic Con in Rotterdam

Lovers of movies, TV shows, gaming, comics, superheroes and pop culture will be gathering at the Ahoy in Rotterdam on Saturday, March 3 and Sunday, March 4 for Comic Con. A wide range of stars from famous movies and TV shows, such as *Game of Thrones* and *Highlander*, will be present. You can meet your heroes and participate in activities such as Q&A panels, workshops, demos and live acts. www.comic-con.nl

Amsterdam Boat Show

From Wednesday, March 7 – Sunday, March 11, the HISWA Amsterdam Boat Show will be held at the Amsterdam RAI. As the largest watersport exhibition in the Netherlands with over 250 exhibitors and 40,000 visitors anticipated, it features a huge range of boats, nautical accessories, sportswear,



vacations and watersports services. There is free entrance for children under 17 who will enjoy the Funsports Xperience where they will find the coolest sports under one roof: kitesurfing, windsurfing, wakeboarding, skimboarding, BMX and skateboarding. They will be able to try the activities, get tips from pros and watch spectacular demos. www.hiswarai.nl

TEFAF – The European Fine Art Fair

The world's leading art and antiques fair will be held in Maastricht from Saturday, March 10 – Sunday, March 18. This massive fair features 50,000 art objects from



Photo by Loraine Bodewes

275 dealers from 20 countries in a space as large as 7 football fields. What sets this fair apart from others is that, despite the dealers being the world's finest, each item is still investigated for its quality, condition and authenticity. Even contemporary works are vetted and checked against The Art Loss Register. Enjoy the stimulating atmosphere full of dealers, collectors, academics, art critics and curators from major museums around the world. www.tefaf.com

Art Lecture

Leipzig: Architecture, Art and Music

Leipzig, Germany played host to Mendelssohn, Wagner and Bach. Bach (1685 – 1750) worked as the cantor at the Thomaskirche (St. Thomas Church) for the last 27 years of his life. Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847) was the director of the Gewandhaus, a concert hall, and the conductor of its orchestra. Of the three, only Wagner was born in Leipzig. The lecture includes a brief historical architectural survey including the



bombing close to Dresden and the old East Germany, where dissent sparked the events that led to the tearing down of the Berlin Wall. Lecturer Denis Moriarty spent most of his early working life as a BBC television producer. Tickets are € 12 and can be purchased at the door. www.dfas.nl

Tuesday, March 13

Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Lecture begins at 8 p.m.

Cultural Centrum Warear

Kerkstraat 75, Wassenaar

St. Patrick's Festival

Wear something green and head to Grote Markt to celebrate with all things Irish for the largest celebration of St. Patrick's Day in the Netherlands. Get ready to turn green with the best Irish dancing schools in Europe, large pints, Irish food, Six Nations Rugby on a big screen, great music and good laughs. www.stpatricksdaydenhaag.nl

Saturday, March 17

Grote Markt, Den Haag

3 – 11 p.m.



Museum Night for Kids

On Saturday, March 17, around 20 museums and cultural institutions in The Hague and Voorburg will open their doors for the youngest cultural night owls with activities aimed at 4- to 12-year-olds. Every child and each parent will need their own ticket which



includes entrance to all locations, participation in all activities and use of historic buses between the city center and further afield museums. Please note that the *Museumkaart* is not accepted for this special evening and activities will be geared towards a Dutch audience. www.museumnachtkids.nl

Keukenhof Opens

Each year more than seven million flower bulbs are planted in the historic park in Lisse, which opens its doors for the spring season from March 22 through May 13. The central theme for 2018 is "Romance in Flowers," since the two are inextricably linked. The romance-themed flower mosaic was planted in two layers, providing a longer flowering period in the spring, with 50,000 tulips, grape hyacinths and crocuses. www.keukenhof.nl



Movies That Matter Festival

The Movies that Matter Festival, an initiative of Amnesty International, takes place Friday, March 23 – Saturday, March 31 at Filmhuis Den Haag and Theater aan het Spui in The Hague. This festival presents around 60 human rights feature films and documentaries from around the world. Many of these films will be screened for the first and only time in the Netherlands. Many film screenings are followed by an in-depth program which might be an introduction, debate or talk show. Most films are in English or subtitled. For the program and tickets, go to www.moviesthatmatter.nl.

Announcements (cont.)

Continued from page 49

Hyperrealism Sculpture

From March 10 through July 1, Kunsthal Rotterdam will present a unique selection of 35 three-dimensional artworks by 28 of the most important hyperrealist sculptors of the past 50 years. Standing face-to-face with these human replicas provokes a reaction from the visitors, raising questions about the extent to which human beings can be manipulated and about identity in general. How we see ourselves and others is an interesting topic in light of the current selfie culture on social media. www.kunsthal.nl



Temporary Ferris Wheel

Europe's largest mobile Ferris wheel will be temporarily situated near the Markthal in Rotterdam opening daily at 10 a.m. from March 12 to April 10. The View was built in 2008, is 180 feet (55 meters) tall and has 42 cabins that each hold 6 passengers. This is a unique chance to enjoy the fascinating aerial view of Rotterdam from the height of a 16-story building. www.en.rotterdam.info/our-blogs/the-view



Sam Jinks, Untitled (Kneeling Woman), 2015



Chili Cook-Off

Message from the President (cont.)

Continued from page 8

And then there are communication apps like WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, and good old-fashioned email. It's never been so easy to stay in touch. Trust me, I know. I first journeyed to Europe in high school. At the time, long-distance calling within the United States was expensive. International calls were something that were only done on special occasions like Christmas and birthdays. Except for some genius scientists, no one had even heard of the internet and email.

So, as we say a premature good-bye to several Members, let's take comfort in our ability to remain in touch. Plus, think of all the new Members with whom you have the

chance to connect. We've had a flourish of new Members, and they're eager to get involved with the Club and connect with other expat women.

And speaking of making new connections – I'll be sharing the position of President with my fellow Board Member, **Laurie Brooks**. We have some big shoes to fill with Mary Ann's departure, but if the two of us together manage to make even half of the impact of Mary Ann, I'll call it a success.

Dena



AWC Friendraiser

Classifieds

Attorney

For high-quality professional legal services in English, contact Robert Oosthout (highly recommended by AWC Member Cynthia Lardner). For over 31 years, Mr. Oosthout has specialized in immigration and IND matters, divorce, employment law, real estate and general contract law. With an office conveniently located in Leiden, Mr. Oosthout can be reached at +31 6 26 90 25 45. The first one-hour consultation is complimentary to AWC Members.
www.oosthoutadvocatuur.nl

Seaside Apartment for Short-term Rental

Overlooking the pier and the North Sea at Scheveningen beach, this 6th floor apartment sleeps 3 comfortably, with 1 king bed and 1 single futon. € 65 per night, with a 3-night minimum, plus deposit. Contact AWC Member **Jane Gulde** at iaminholland@yahoo.com.

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Members: eNews Distribution

A weekly electronic newsletter is sent to all AWC Members via *GroupSpaces.com*. If you have not been receiving your eNews, please contact Melissa at awcthehague.membership@gmail.com.

The AWC is not responsible for accidents or injuries occurring at Club activities or on Club property. Sports and exercise instructors must carry their own liability insurance.

Event information, suggestions or comments for eNews?

New email account

Please send all eNews information to awcthehague.eneews@gmail.com no later than end of day each Friday for the following week's eNews.

Member Privacy

Please be reminded that the AWC Membership List is for AWC Member reference only and use of this information in any communication other than AWC official business is strictly prohibited. Members may not share the list with anyone other than another AWC Member in good standing and never to any third party.

The AWC takes care to protect Member information and adherence to this policy is critical to maintain Member privacy. Members are asked to report suspected misuse of the list to any AWC Board Member.

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Proost! Questionnaire

by Jan Essad

Why are you living in the Netherlands?

As they say, you'll follow a man anywhere, especially a wonderful one! After a 29-year Air Force career, my husband Bob accepted a position with a NATO agency in The Hague.

Give us a quick wrap-up of your family.

Bob and I have been married 34 years. We have a son, Grant, 32, living in Wisconsin and a daughter Natalie, 31, living here in The Hague. How fabulous is that as an expat! As if that wasn't enough, Natalie and her husband Babak just had our first grandbaby, Myra Grace who is now four months old!

What or who is the greatest love of your life?

I absolutely loved being a military wife. Having a family and moving to all the places we lived, sharing cultural experiences and adapting to all the situations military families face was truly a marvelous experience. You are also forever part of a grand network of friends and patriots.

When and why did you join the AWC?

I had met ladies from the AWC The Hague when I lived in Germany in 1997. It's amazing how things come back around. So, naturally it was one of the first places I came when we moved here in 2010. What could be better than a group of ladies, supporting each other, giving back to the community and meeting you where the rubber meets the road.

Which travel experience made you the happiest?

In 2010, Natalie won a trip for two to Brazil which she gave to Bob and me for our anniversary that year. She was born on our third wedding anniversary and we always celebrated her birthday on that day, so she wanted to give back to us. It was an amazing trip, beautiful beaches and countryside, ad-



venturous excursions, and fantastic people!

What is your favorite travel purchase?

I love to buy small art pieces by local artists. It's fun to look around your house and have a reminiscent moment.

Which locations haven't been ticked off your bucket list?

Oh, the places I want to go! Africa, Thailand, India, Sardinia, down under ... should I stop now?! I love to travel, so I think there will always be a destination on the list.

Which Dutch words or phrases do you most overuse?

Danke veel, tot ziens, fijne dag and tot de volgende keer.

Where would you most like to live?

Spain or Italy ... warmth, water, and views of the sunrise and sunset are a must!

What is your motto?

Be a woman full of grace!



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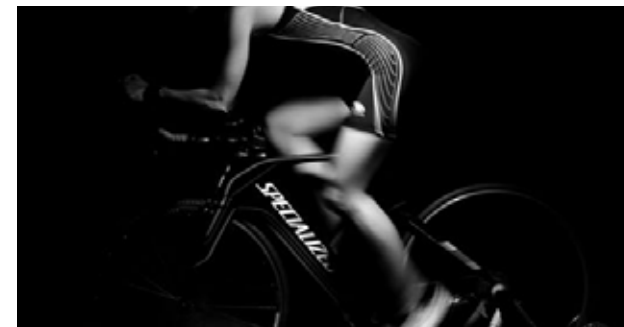
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