2009 in Review

I would like to give you a quick update on the many new initiatives on which FAWCO has embarked in the last six months. But first, join me in a warm welcome to our newest member club: Munich International Women’s Club (page 10).

We have launched our TARGET program! Through it, FAWCO will focus its philanthropic and awareness-raising effort on one major issue. Just as we had pooled resources and talents back in 2004-06 to tackle malaria, we now want to galvanize our energy to support the new TARGET Program. The TARGET Program does not, however, replace other philanthropic efforts conducted by your club or The FAWCO Foundation. It supplements those by focusing FAWCO-wide education and philanthropic efforts on one topic in support of (at least one of) the UN Millennium Development Goals. Our first step is clearly a terrific success: we have received nine well researched and informed proposals. Read 3rd VP Michelle Miller’s highlight of the proposals received and announcement of the three finalists on page 4. By researching individually, informing reciprocally, and acting collectively, FAWCO can make a difference on the world stage!

In response to the recommendation from the ‘Vision for the Future’ task force to “take FAWCO to our clubs,” the FAWCO Board decided on a Resource & Training program for clubs, under which FAWCO experts would visit clubs to provide training. We would like to thank Celeste Brown for taking the initial steps to develop this program. Celeste has, however, stepped down due to personal reasons and we are not proceeding with the program at this time though we hope to see it flourishing in the future. Meanwhile, we are implementing “club workshops,” which are shorter interactive sessions, conducted by FAWCO volunteers willing to share their experiences. FAWCO is pleased to announce that Elizabeth Kennedy (AWC The Hague) has accepted the position of Club Workshop Coordinator.

If you have visited our website in the last month, you have discovered a new look, which we hope you find easier to navigate and informative. We have upgraded the website and transferred to a more secure server and have offered to upgrade those webhosting clubs currently using the same software. We are indebted to Alice Grevet (AAWE Paris) and Dustin Weber (AWC Cologne) for their endless dedication in making our virtual clubhouse the website our members deserve!

Moving forward...!
Congress passes landmark legislation for military and overseas voters

By Lucy Laederich, US Liaison

In an unusually rapid and bipartisan process this fall, the Senate and House of Representatives crafted legislation to ensure that fewer voters would be disenfranchised because, unlike their domestic counterparts, they cannot cast their ballots in person.

Just after the 2008 election, bills were introduced to correct one or several of the hurdles faced by military and overseas voters: more than 1 in 5 American voters living overseas, including those serving in the military, did not receive their official ballots for the election. In addition to poor information, Pew found that more than one-third of the states simply did not allow time for the military to receive and return their ballots; Overseas Vote Foundation found that 6% of overseas civilian voters received their ballots too late to vote or even after the election.

After the introduction in the House of a number of election reform bills (see Spring FAWCO Forum), Senators Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Robert Bennett (R-UT) introduced an amendment to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) in July “to ensure that absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters are aware of their voting rights and have a genuine opportunity to register to vote and have their absentee ballots cast and counted.” The Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act was not, in wartime, an obvious Congressional priority but its supporters attached it nonetheless to the National Defense Authorization Act to ensure that it would receive rapid attention.

MOVE then went to the House where, supported by a bipartisan coalition, it was approved in the House version of the NDAA on October 8, returning to the Senate where it passed on October 22, with its original provisions almost completely intact.

In addition, MOVE mandated setting up pilot programs to test election technology and expanded programs under the Federal Voting Assistance Program to inform and assist military voters.

Overseas voters should be pleased to know there are champions in Congress who understand the hurdles they must overcome to request, receive and return their ballots in time to be counted (more than 20 members of the Americans Abroad Caucus supported MOVE). This is the first major election legislation to pass Congress since the Help America Vote Act of 2002. It attacks many of the issues that plague overseas and military absentee voters.

Some problems remain. FAWCO and its partners will continue to advocate for remedies to two, in particular, of these, seeking solutions in time for the 2010 election.

First, while MOVE eliminates postmark requirements for military voters, it does not for civilians. This means these voters are required by many states to return their ballots through (less-than-optimum) postal services, with the option for courier services or even hand delivery of their ballots not allowed.

Second, although specifically Congresswoman Maloney’s MOVE does not solve the problem of young people disenfranchised for not yet having established residency in a state. For example, a young man might, in all but 17 states that specifically provide for it, reach the age of 18 abroad in October, be required to file a tax return for a summer job and to register at the embassy for Selective Service, but not be allowed to vote for the President or Congress because, being a student abroad, he has not met the residency requirements of the state in which his parents vote.

FAWCO applauds the crafters and champions of MOVE — which it supported with its partner organizations in the Alliance for Military and Overseas Voting Rights — and will continue to work with legislators to eliminate at least these two remaining barriers to the enfranchisement of a deeply committed overseas electorate.
had the opportunity to attend the World Affairs Council recently in Houston and met Nicholas D. Kristof, who spoke about his quest to help empower women and girls both through education and economic means. His current book Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide, co-written with his wife Sheryl Wu-Dunn, is currently on the New York Times bestseller list.

Mr. Kristof has won two Pulitzer Prizes for journalism, one with his wife and one for his op-ed pieces in the New York Times. Hal the

Sky is destined for another prize. The book is full of real-life stories of courage and determination, showing how anyone can help transform the lives of women and girls who face oppression.

These are not women’s issues, but human rights issues. Through education, preventive health care, maternal health, microfinance, and raising awareness of human trafficking and domestic violence, we can all work together to improve the lives and security of women and children globally. “We hope to recruit you to join an incipient movement to emancipate women and fight global poverty unlocking women’s power as economic catalysts.” The book not only points out the problems in order to enhance awareness of the issues, but also gives detailed lists of NGOs supporting women and urges everyone to get involved.

Mr. Kristof said, “Our level of happiness does not come from more money or more things; we raise our level of happiness when we get involved in something bigger than ourselves.”

UN/NGO Team Expands Into Clubs
by Pam Perraud

FAWCO’s UN NGO Director Pam Perraud has announced several changes in the UN NGO Team in terms of new positions and directions.

1. In order to expand the number of people who are working on FAWCO’s involvement on UN issues, she announced the creation of a new position called “UN NGO Advocate.” These “UN NGO Advocate” positions are open to members in any club who are interested in actively promoting the United Nations and its activities at the local level. Their role would be to organize local projects to support the UN, provide a direct communication link on the club level and to work with FAWCO Task Forces as they work to support the UN Millennium goals.

2. Second, the Director announced the creation of a new position of “UN NGO Youth Coordinator” whose role would be to plan and organize activities to encourage FAWCO member children and teens to become involved in world affairs and UN issues.

3. Third, she announced plans in the coming months to modify significantly FAWCO’s current UN NGO website to become one where club members could find not only up to date information on current UN issues but also where members could find out how to get actively involved in helping on the issue. For more information on the new positions, how to apply for the positions as well as the goals for the UN NGO Team for the next few years, check out “UN NGO Team Info” under the “FAWCO UN Activities” section at www.fawco.org.
The FAWCO Target Program is the new four year program designed to allow FAWCO to focus its philanthropic and awareness-raising effort on one critical global issue. FAWCO has successfully launched the first step in selecting a target issue.

The FAWCO Board is very pleased to have received nine Target proposals by our deadline of October 15, encompassing six different issues. Proposals were submitted by Global Issues task forces, FAWCO member clubs and by individuals on behalf of their clubs. This high level of participation in a new and complex program reflects our members’ appreciation for FAWCO’s commitment to making a difference on a global level.

Although the target issues proposed were varied, they all addressed areas of traditional interest to FAWCO members, i.e., empowerment of women by abolishing modern day slavery and through education; health issues, including Maternal Health, iodine deficiency and research into telomeres; and, environmental issues, all of which focused on water as a multifactorial issue.

The FAWCO Board would like to applaud the initiatives of the following persons/groups for their submission of thoughtful and well researched proposals on issues of importance to them where they believe FAWCO could make a difference. All of the proposals are posted on the FAWCO website under Target Program:

- Abolishing Modern Day Slavery (Ending Violence against Women and Children Task Force)
- Empowering Women through Education (Anne Cameron-Rutschmann for the AWC Zurich)
- Iodine Deficiency (Rachel McNelly for the AWC the Hague)
- Maternal Health (Sara von Moos for the AWC Bern)
- Maternal Health (Health Issues Task Force)
- Telomeres (Belen McPherson for the AWC Antwerp)
- Water (Vicki Filer Mensing for the AWC Hamburg)
- Water (Nan de Laubadere for the AAW WE Paris)
- Water (Environment Task Force, AWC Casablanca, Barcelona Women’s Network)

The Target Selection Committee went into high gear to choose three finalists from among the proposals submitted. Applying uniform selection criteria, the Committee managed the difficult work of narrowing the submissions down to three finalists (see box). On December 1, 2009 a ballot was sent to each FAWCO club identifying the three finalists. Each club is asked to vote by January 15, 2010 for one of these three finalists to become the new FAWCO Target issue. The winner will be announced in March 2010 at the FAWCO interim conference in Boston.

You are invited to send questions and comments to FAWCO 3rd Vice President Michelle Miller at target@fawco.org.
The Environment Task Force has new focus…water

When talking with many FAWCO members about which environmental issue they felt passionate about addressing, one issue kept floating up…water! It is one of the necessities of life for everyone and everything, yet there are many worldwide problems caused by, and connected to, water.

Without food a person can live for weeks, but without water you can expect to live only a few days. In terms of being essential for life - water is the top priority! Because of this, the Environment Task Force has made it a top priority to inform FAWCO members about the many water challenges faced by so many in the world, and especially, how water problems affect issues such as education, health, food production and gender equality.

While the most severe water problems affect those in developing countries we would also like to raise awareness of the choices each of us make in our daily lives with water and encourage members to make conscientious positive decisions in our personal lives. Every area of the globe has its own water issues and we are working hard to educate and increase awareness among FAWCO members. We have, therefore, proposed water as a target issue (in fact there were 3 Target proposals to address water). Because, seriously, if we don’t do better with the environment, it may not matter how well we do anything else!

Water Facts

A few of the facts we have passed on to FAWCO members:

- Close to half of all people in developing countries suffer at any given time from a health problem caused by water and sanitation deficits.
- The World health Organization (WHO), estimates that safe water source could prevent 1.4 million child deaths each year.
- In developing countries, women and female children are frequently the main providers of water for household use. Millions of hours each day are spent collecting water, which leaves little time for education or other activities that could improve their lives.
- Food security is affected by water availability.
- Those affected most by the water crisis are the world’s poor and without an adequate water supply and better sanitation, their situation will not improve.
Unseen, Unheard, Unacceptable
By Karen Lewis

In October, 2009, in partnership with FAWCO’s Ending Violence Against Women and Children Task Force (EVAWC), Paula Lucas, founder and executive director of the Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center (AODVC), gave informational sessions and Volunteer Outreach Ambassador trainings in six European cities, as part of AODVC’s Global Campaign to Empower Americans Experiencing Domestic Violence Abroad. The end result of the campaign is to empower Americans overseas, who are victims of domestic violence, by amplifying their voices and providing them with the advocacy, resources, and tools to navigate the complicated jurisdictional, legal & social international landscapes, so that they may live their lives free of abuse in the foreign country or the United States.

Hosted by local FAWCO member clubs, the sessions took place in London, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Copenhagen, Paris and Geneva. The meetings were well received with 5 to 10 ambassadors trained at each session, and US Consular presence at all. Once trained, the responsibilities of the Outreach Ambassadors are to educate and empower different organizations, corporations, universities, and women’s clubs in their country of residence to respond effectively and to understand the issues and barriers unique to Americans experiencing domestic violence in their countries. Each ambassador is asked to commit to two year terms of voluntary service, giving presentations to groups hopefully consisting of ten or more people every three months.

Designed to create a snowball effect reaching thousands of people, this campaign will target 30 cities across Europe, Asia, the Middle East, South America, and Africa. Pending continued funding, the outreach campaign will be completed by the end of winter, 2013. Please see www.866uswomen.org for more information.

Paula Lucas, a FAUSA member, will be speaking at FAWCO’s conference in Boston, March 2010. AODVC is also FAUSA’s chosen charity for our conference fundraising effort.

The Most Caring People
Excerpted from www.866uswomen.org

Senator and former Majority Leader, Robert J. Dole, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Caring Institute, announced on September 24th the winners of the 2009 Most Caring People in America Awards.

FAUSA member, Paula Lucas, Founder & Executive Director of American Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center (AODVC), was one of the five adults honored during the Caring Awards ceremony in October in Los Angeles, California. There were also five winners in the young adult category, an international winner and a Mother Teresa Lifetime Achievement Award given to the Dalai Lama. Other adult winners included General Colin Powell, former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Former U.S.Secretary of State and genocide survivor John Dau, the leader of the Lost Boys of Sudan.

The Caring Institute’s mission is to promote the values of caring, integrity and public service. It was founded in 1985 by Val J. Halamandaris after a meeting with Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who said there was a poverty of the spirit in the developed world much worse than the poverty of the body seen in the third world, and directed Halamandaris to do something about it. Halamandaris put in place an awards program and a system for identifying people who give back to society in extraordinary ways and holding them up as role models to be identified by others. The Caring Institute is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

The Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center (AODVC) can be reached internationally toll-free from 175 countries. To contact the toll-free crisis line from overseas, first dial your AT&T USA Direct access number and at the prompt, enter the phone number: 866-USWOMEN (879-6636). The center serves abused Americans, mostly women and children, in both civilian and military populations overseas. For more information, please see the web site at http://www.866uswomen.org.
FAWCO will hold its annual conference in Boston, Massachusetts, only the second time in its 79-year history that its members have gathered in the United States. The theme will be ‘Make history.’ Days will be filled with speakers, workshops, and opportunities for the presidents and representatives from FAWCO’s worldwide clubs to network together, and our host, FAUSA (FAWCO’s alumnae group in the USA) has planned some exciting evenings for the attendees, too.

In addition to FAWCO’s Annual General Meeting, and The FAWCO Foundation announcement of its Education Award and Development Grant recipients, the conference also will feature a panel discussion on the current role of journalism and its new formats. Panelists include:

- Robin Young, PRI/WBUR-FM syndicated host, “Here and Now,” daily;
- Clayton Jones, chief editorial writer, Christian Science Monitor;
- Renee Loth, recently retired editorial-page editor of the Boston Globe;
- Kelly Niknejad, website editor of “Tehran Bureau”

The workshops offered will benefit conference participants on three levels:

1) for individuals, there will be updates on legislations important to overseas Americans, voter registration training, and discussions on social networking and privacy in the age of Facebook and Twitter;

2) for clubs, there will be workshops on leadership, successful club fundraising, and doubling your membership; and

3) on the community level, we will hear from FAUSA member Paula Lucas of the Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center (AODVC).

FAUSA selected AODVC for this year’s conference charity. The center maintains a hotline and crisis management center for Americans suffering from domestic violence while living outside the country.

We will enjoy a visit to our opening dinner and reception, “A Boston Tea Party with a Twist” by Abigail Adams, portrayed by historical interpreter Linda Myer.

The FAWCO Foundation’s dinner and auction will have the journalistic theme of “What is black and white and re(a)d all over?—The Extra, Extra, Extravaganza!” - appropriately named for the city that was home to the first regular newspaper in North America.

For the FAWCO Gala Dinner, we will move to the Algonquin Club in one of Boston’s most prestigious neighborhoods for the “Back Bay Bash,” where we will be entertained by the Amalgamates from Tufts University.
FAWCO Alumnae FAUSA
Meet in Durango, Colorado
By Louise Greeley-Copley

“Colorado Calling” was the theme of the FAUSA annual meeting held September 23-26th in Durango, Colorado. Members and guests from all over the USA gathered for three days of FAUSA business, education, fundraising and the joy of connecting with friends old and new.

FAUSA elected their new 2009-2011 Board of Directors: Louise Greeley-Copley (Houston and AW Surrey), President; Yolanda Henry (Ontario, AW Surrey and Singapore) 1st VP Membership; Linda Little (Cincinnati and AWG Paris), 2nd VP; Nancy Thornley (Cape Cod and AWA Rome), Secretary; and Sue Ripps (Atlanta and AW Vienna), Treasurer.

Our guest speakers included: Professor Duane Smith from the history department at Ft. Lewis College, and Santa Fe Author: Hampton Sides who spoke about his book “Blood and Thunder: The Epic Story of Kit Carson and the Conquest of the American West.”

Dorothy and Tom Childers did an outstanding job of planning a very enjoyable experience for everyone. Our well traveled group soaked up the local history and folklore presented by local historians, guides and entertainment. Liz Hemminger FAUSA’s charity fundraising chair organized a beautiful gala, which set new records for FAUSA fundraising achieving $5000! Kay Miller donated a spectacular quilt with a theme of gold aspen leaves, which was raffled and won by Nancy Donohue. Over $1800 was raised for the FAUSA Education Award fund.

FAWCO members returning to the USA are encouraged to join FAUSA. The camaraderie and the ability to share your expat successes and sorrows are priceless. The support and friendship of fellow members, opportunities to travel with FAUSA and FAWCO, and Educational awards for you and your family are benefits of membership. When it is time to come home, you have a friend in FAUSA!

Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg
Region 4 Meeting
By Elizabeth Kelley

Region 4 held its regional meeting in mid-October in Antwerp, Belgium. AWC of Antwerp was the meeting’s host, as part of their 80th anniversary celebration. The theme of the weekend and workshop was Making the Most of Who We Are. More than 30 women from BENELUX and beyond, including France, Switzerland and Shanghai, China participated in the weekend’s events.

As with all regional meetings there was an opportunity to meet new people and become reacquainted with old friends.

The goal of the workshops was that each participant could walk away with something practical that they had learned - something for themselves as well as something they could share with their own club. The agenda included a presentation about FAWCO, an exercise on positive thinking conducted by a professional life-coach, brainstorming sessions dealing with the complexity of the clubs’ membership, their needs and their motivations, and two break-out sessions dealing with “Living Abroad.” Attendees could choose either ‘Getting the Most from Life in Another Country’ or ‘Being in a Dual Cultured Marriage.’ Both groups had lively discussions. Lastly, guests enjoyed a presentation by a color consultant, with ideas about ‘Looking our Best.’

The weekend began and ended with tours of Antwerp’s highlights and included a traditional Antwerp dinner in a lovely setting, the University Restaurant. It was hoped that everyone departed with a few ideas on “Making the Most of Who They Are.”
Regional Meetings

Region 5 FAWCO and FUN Meeting
By Franke Rademacher-Heidelmann, FAWCO Region 5 Coordinator

The AWC Hamburg hosted the Region 5 regional meeting in Aachen, Germany, from 6 to 8 November with their traditional theme of FAWCO & FUN. Thirty ladies from Germany and guests from Region 4 and the FAWCO Board explored an interesting town and got down to some serious FAWCO business.

Friday evening we enjoyed an introduction to Aachen, reports from attending clubs, and a presentation from FAWCO 1st VP My-Linh Kunst on FAWCO’s value to member clubs, particularly for its international members.

Saturday morning, FAWCO 3rd VP Michelle Miller talked about the latest banking global rules concerning expatriates and gave an update on the FAWCO Target Program, followed by moving presentations on four of the six Target proposals issues: Water by the Environment Task Force, Improving Maternal Health by the Health Issues Task Force, Iodine Consumption Improvement, and Modern Day Slavery by the Ending Violence Against Women and Children (EVAWCC) Task Force. My-Linh raised awareness about AODVC (see page 6 for details), and Elsie Bosie presented the Foundation’s 2010 programs.

Besides FAWCO business on Saturday, we enjoyed an afternoon tour of Aachen’s highlights and heard fascinating presentations on alternative CO2-free energy (nuclear energy, wind energy, and DESERTEC, an initiative to use Sahara sun “to help power Europe”).

On Sunday, Elizabeth Kennedy (AWC The Hague) and Angelika McLaren (AWC Berlin) moderated a workshop on volunteerism, fundraising and other club issues. We ended with the crowning tour of the Dom (cathedral).

Participants left with new ideas, new energy about FAWCO, and their club work, and all are looking forward to see each other again either in Boston or at our next regional.

Region 5 News Flashes

- The Cologne club has changed its name to American International Women’s Club of Cologne e.V. (AIWCC) to properly reflect its membership.
- FAWCO Region 5 welcomes a new member, the Munich International Women’s Club (MIWC) with Mary Lynne McKay as president and Roberta Zoellner as FAWCO Rep.

Please see page 11 for a list of future regional meetings.
FAWCO Region 8 Clubs help Earthquake Victims

By Elizabeth Abbot

Following the devastating earthquake that hit the city of L’Aquila, Italy, last April, the first phase of emergency relief is now over – and the resettlement work begins! Winter is arriving and families are slowly moving into new housing units while children get back to school....

FAWCO Region 8 clubs have decided that they would like to support a small project to assist women and children. Represented by an architect friend, Donatella Ciocca, the clubs have been in conversation with the Mayor’s office over the past few months, and in October, Elizabeth Abbot, FAWCO representative, AWA Rome chapter, visited the mayor’s office to finalize the plans.

Mayor Cialente presented two feasible and useful options that would be in line with the clubs’ objectives. One need, expressed by a manager from the Education department, is for a mini-van to service the newly built public nursery.

Although the nursery has been erected and furnished, staff must travel to the other nursery on the other end of town a few times a day to use their washing and sterilizing facilities, in addition to buying food for the children’s snacks and lunch. The nursery, which takes care of 70 babies and preschool children, opened on November 1st, and must depend on private cars, which are not readily available. The vehicle would have a painted sign as a “nursery car” and “donated by FAWCO.”

The other idea was proposed by the mayor himself. The new housing area is full of children and although public play areas have been designated, there are no funds available for playground equipment. A playground in the new housing, with a “donated by FAWCO” sign, would also be appreciated greatly.

Now Region 8 clubs will vote on these projects, or propose another one – and make it happen! If you would like to support this Regional initiative, please contact Elizabeth Abbot (AWA Rome) directly at abbot.elizabeth@gmail.com.

Welcome FAWCO’s New Member!
Munich International Women’s Club

www.internationalwomensclub.org

Munich IWC was founded 20 years ago, and incorporated as a German not-for-profit this year. The club’s 150-200 members are international and are part transient- part permanent. The Club’s motto is “Comaraderie, Culture and Contact” and is open to all English-speaking women living in the area. Club activities include monthly meetings, special interest groups, German conversation, a Career Working Group, regular outings and celebrations. Munich IWC’s main purpose is friendship, but it also supports the local shelter for battered women. President Mary Lynne McKay and FAWCO Rep Roberta Zoellner attended the Regional 5 meeting in Aachen, and may even consider hosting the regional meeting next year as a way to introduce FAWCO to their membership.

Club Anniversaries in 2009

The following list shows the club name, founding year, years in existence (in parentheses) and current president.

AWA Vienna, 1924 (85 yrs) Lydia Goufas
AWC Antwerp, 1929 (80 yrs) Yvette Wassel
AWC Brussels, 1949 (60 yrs) Parr Shiuwaller
AWC Denmark, 1934 (75 yrs) Mary Stewart Burgher
AWC London, 1899 (110 yrs) Dona Root
AWC Berlin, 1931 and 1994 (15 yrs) Angelika McLaren
AWC Düsseldorf, 1956 (50 yrs) Anastasia Siskou
AWC Bombay (Mumbai), 1954 (55 yrs) Aarti Sonawala
AWC Liechtenstein, 1994 (15 yrs) Lisa Michl
AWC Luxembourg, 1959 (50 yrs) Sandra Williams
AWC Oslo, 1934 (75 yrs) Sarah Overland
AWC Philippines, 1979 (30 yrs) Marisa Chacko
AWC Central Scotland, 1974 (35 yrs) Tracey Rosenberg
AWC Madrid, 1954 (55 yrs) Linda Cornella
AWC Bern, 1949 (60 yrs) Anne Riz
The FAWCO Millennium Tree Project

Barcelona Women’s Network
By Arline Coward
In October, the Barcelona Women’s Network (BWN) successfully launched their support of the FAWCO Millennium Forest Project in remote areas of Morocco, sponsored by the American International Women’s Club of Casablanca (AIWCC). An impressive 58 trees were purchased at one meeting.

The Project’s goal, as explained by AIWCC, is to provide income for women in remote regions in Morocco while they look for work in more populated areas. “Families in these remote areas have limited work resources, and as a result the men have to seek work elsewhere, leaving women and children to make a living through small-scale farming, bee-keeping, and poultry-raising. Trees provide additional steady income to residents, as well as food for their consumption. Tree planting retards soil erosion and biodiversity decline. For example, a single olive tree matures in 5 or 6 years and produces 40 kilos of olives, an amount that will greatly increase a family’s income so that children are free to attend school.”

Each 5-Euro tree purchase comes with a certificate and explanation and makes a perfect gift. BWN Tree Certificates can be purchase from the BWN FAWCO Committee. Please send your inquiries to vp-communications@fawco.org to be forwarded to BWN.

AWC Bern Tree Planting
By Angela Aebersold
After the Lyon Conference in 2007, the AWC Bern was inspired by FAWCO’s Millennium “Tree Project” to find their local tree project to support. FAWCO Rep at the time, Carol McEowen, found a project in Köniz Switzerland, where “Tree Sponsors” were being recruited for a new public park. The AWC Bern immediately committed to sponsoring a tree. Thus started the two-year tree project.

Because the trees being planted were not saplings but ten-year old trees, it was a very expensive project for the club. We designed a plan to sell “Tree Certificates” for $15 each at every club meeting ($10 went to FAWCO Projects (in Morocco, Scotland and Ohio) and $5 went to AWC Bern’s own tree project in Köniz). We sold tree certificates for everything from Christmas presents to anniversary and birthday presents and everything in between! In April 2009 AWC Bern’s tree was planted and in August 2009 Park Liebefeld had its dedication.

Thanks, everyone, who helped and supported our tree project: The AWC Bern board; Carol McEowen, for finding the local tree project; our members, who supported us by buying the tree certificates; and FAWCO, for providing the ‘Tree Project’ idea, supplying the ‘Tree Certificates’ and giving us a great deal of enthusiasm and pride in our efforts.

– Angela

Continued from Page 9, Regional Meetings

Upcoming Regional Meetings
January 17, Basel, Switzerland
AWC Basel - Region 6 (Liechtenstein, Switzerland)
January 22-24, Montpellier, France
AWC Languedoc-Roussillon -Region 3 (France)
February 12-14, Florence, Italy
AIOL Florence - Region 8 (Greece, Italy)
The FAWCO Foundation Announces 2010 Programs

$65,000 will be awarded by The FAWCO Foundation through the 2010 Education Awards and Development Grants programs.

We are pleased to have 10 of the 15 awards and grants sponsored either in full or in part by FAWCO Clubs, and will subsidize the balance to continue to offer the full program. The Foundation is grateful for the support we receive from FAWCO Member clubs and from the generous donations of individual club members.

The Development Grants Fund has eight categories. Each grant addresses a critical global problem and the grants are in keeping with the achievement of the UN Millennium Goals. We welcome up to two submissions from clubs and FAUSA of their charitable projects for funding consideration. The grants can make an immediate improvement on dire situations and can contribute to the long term success of the project. Since 1997, The FAWCO Foundation Development Grants Fund has helped 72 projects in 30 countries.

The Education Awards Program has a total of seven awards. There are three academic awards for children of FAWCO club members, and two Members awards; one for continuing education toward a university degree; the other for skills enhancement courses. We also offer an award for a student of dual nationality to attend an educational program in the US, and a fund to the family of a child in need of specialized training, for a learning program, or special equipment needed to facilitate the student’s educational progress.

Guidelines, eligibility information, application and nomination forms are on The Foundation’s website: www.fawcofoundation.org. The deadline for application and nomination forms is January 16, 2010.

The recipients will be announced on March 13, 2010 at the FAWCO Conference in Boston.

The Foundation has given over $1,100,000 in Education Awards and Development Grants to FAWCO Member clubs.

The Development Grants
($4,500 each)
• AW of Surrey Ending HIV/AIDS
• American Women of the Eastern Province Skills For Life co-sponsored by AILO Florence;
• The Edith Beyer A Place To Learn sponsored in part by AWC Denmark;
• Critical Health Concerns sponsored in part by AWC Basel;
• Effects Of Violence And Human Trafficking sponsored in part by AWC of The Hague;
• The Right To Food And Water sponsored in part by AWC of Paris;
• Hope Through Education sponsored in part by AWC Zurich;
• Around The Corner, A World Away.

The 2010 Education Awards
Academic Studies Awards-$5,000 each
• ARTS AWARD
• SCIENCES AWARD sponsored in part by AIWC Genoa in memory of Frieda Bacigalupo Natali
• HUMANITIES AWARD
• Dual Cultural Award-$3,000
• DUAL CULTURAL AWARD (in memory of Suzanne Erismann) sponsored in part by Donna Erismann and AWC Bern
• The Special Challenges Fund -$3000

FAWCO Member Awards
• AWC Basel FAWCO MEMBERS AWARD FOR UNIVERSITY DEGREE STUDY PROGRAMS sponsored by Shirley Kearney $5,000
• FAWCO MEMBERS SKILLS ENHANCEMENT AWARD $3,000