



THE FORUM

SERVING OVERSEAS AMERICANS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SINCE 1931

Summer 2012

CONTENTS

Target Water Program	2
U.S. Issues	3
UN NGO	4-5
Conference Report	6-7
News from our Clubs	8-9
Global Issues	10
FAWCO Foundation	11-12



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president@fawco.org

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vp-communications@fawco.org

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vp-memberclubs@fawco.org

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President Michael D. Higgins of Ireland Applauds the Work of FAWCO

As a sociologist and anthropologist who has studied migration, President Higgins said that American women's clubs overseas are an example of how new migrants into a country can thrive in the footsteps of those who arrived before them, to help cut through the confusions of the multiple challenges they face. "That all of you do this voluntarily means you see the tremendous value in not only helping new comers, but in advocating for the women in your new communities and around the world." He also stressed the close ties between Ireland and the United States and paraphrased the words of Aristotle, "The moral demands of friendship are greater than those of justice...The ties of kinship and affection between Ireland and the US are very important to us. These are constantly renewed by every generation."



President Michael D. Higgins of Ireland with FAWCO President My-Linh Kunst.

- Yvonne Kennedy (AWC Dublin)

FAWCO Raises Over \$100,000 for Water Sustainability!



By March of 2012 with still nine months to go for fund raising, Target Program donations already exceeded FAWCO's original goal of \$80,000, totaling close to \$100,000 for Tabitha Cambodia Wells for Clean Water and an additional \$20,000 for other water projects.

FAWCO has set its sight on doubling the amount raised so far - with the dream of 100% participation from member clubs and possibly even corporate sponsors. Donations are still coming in, and Cambodia still needs accessible

clean water. If your club has not had an awareness raising session on water or a fund raising event for Target, please contact target@fawco.org for ideas and support. We also welcome support from corporate sponsors and corporate grant matching programs.

"Over the past year, FAWCO has brought peace to more than 2500 people in Cambodia through your gifts of wells for the very poorest." (Janne Ritkes, Founder of Tabitha Cambodia). Janne Ritskes founded Tabitha-Cambodia in 1994 with the aim to reach out to the despairing in their communities and enable them to address their needs in a holistic and sustainable way, thereby transforming their lives.

The impact of access to clean water through the installation of wells on families can be seen immediately and significantly. There is a decrease in the incidence of diarrhea and skin infections in the families. Within weeks, children and adults had gained weight; their skin tones and eyes lost that haunted, dry look and their ability to work increased by several hours a day. There is an increase in income and improvement in diet. All of the families receiving wells are required to earn an income from these wells through animal husbandry, the raising of fish and growing vegetables and or rice.

- My-Linh Kunst, FAWCO President 2011-13

FAWCO is a network of independent American and international volunteer organizations representing private-sector American citizens overseas. Founded in 1931, FAWCO is a non-partisan, not-for-profit U.S. corporation with over 75 Member Clubs representing more than 15,000 individuals throughout the world. A recognized non-governmental organization (NGO) since 1995, FAWCO was granted special consultative status to the Economic and Social Council of the UN in 1997.

President: My-Linh Kunst (president@fawco.org) – Editor: Kristina Didouan (editor@fawco.org) – Advertising: advertising@fawco.org – Layout: Amy Patrick (pr@fawco.org)

By Anne van Oorschot – Target Program Chair



Clubs on TARGET for Wells in Cambodia



AWC Luxembourg Valentine Lunch Raffle

FAWCO's Target Program, launched in March 2009, combines a strategy of education and project fund raising to highlight the global issue of *increasing the sustainable access to safe drinking water*, one of the UN's Millennium Development Goals. Clubs have embraced this program wholeheartedly and our fundraising goal of \$80,000 was met by the end of the first year of our two-year fundraising period! We have subsequently doubled our goal to \$160,000 for the Target Project: Wells for Clean Water in Cambodia (administered by the Tabitha Foundation).



Well Deserved Desserts at the FAWCO Conference in Dublin

The variety of fund-raising events has been as diverse as the clubs themselves! The **Florence** club hosted a Valentine's dinner dance, while the clubs in **London, Dubai** and **Cologne** planned galas with auctions. The **Vienna** and **Berlin** clubs planned elegant piano concert evenings, while the club in **Languedoc Roussillon** had a bluegrass concert. **Perth** and **Saudi Arabia** raffled off quilts to raise money; while in **Moscow, Seoul, Bogota** and **The Hague**, "gently used handbag" auctions fundraised for wells in Cambodia. There was a FAWCO scarf raffle at the **North American Connection** and umbrella sales in **Surrey**. Game evenings were popular at many clubs with poker in **Shanghai**, bingo in **Genoa** and bunco in **Hamburg**.

Several clubs, such as **Milan Benvenuto** and **AWC Düsseldorf** made flat donations from their clubs funds, while one of the clubs in **Paris** added a surcharge onto existing event fees for the Target Project. **Bern** solicited individual donations from club members, while **Oslo** held raffles at their monthly meetings. **Barcelona** made and sold Well Certificates that could be given as gifts while **Malmo's** donation was a thank-you gift they received for a job well done. **Rome** held a picnic barbecue at a thermal spring while **Gothenburg** donated money from a coffee morning. The **Lebanon** club raised water awareness, resulting in a generous member donation. The FAWCO Foundation planned a Water Cruise raising over \$8,000 !



AWG Paris received a challenge grant from a US environmental firm and then planned a mini yoga retreat, a class at a Paris cooking school and a photography workshop, quadrupling their grant to over \$15,000!

Thirty-nine of our member clubs have actively supported the Target Program and we hope it will inspire the clubs who are not yet part of FAWCO's water family to join in. We hope to achieve 100% participation from FAWCO clubs in the months remaining in 2012. The Target Program is also about water awareness. We are making progress and making a difference; drop by drop and well by well, we are changing the flow...

Why not join us? Donations can be made at <http://www.fawcofoundation.org/>.

By Lucy Laederich, FAWCO U.S. Liaison

Treasury and IRS Listen to Concerns of Overseas Americans

FAWCO was invited to take part in an unprecedented meeting in Washington on April 17, organized by Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Ranking Member of the House Financial Institutions Subcommittee. For the first time, members of 5 organizations representing overseas Americans met with over a dozen experts from the Treasury Department and the IRS to discuss the growing concerns of both individuals and financial institutions in the face of newly expanded financial reporting requirements and loss of access to banking services.

In speaking for overseas Americans at the meeting, I joined Marylouise Serrato, Executive Director, and Charles Bruce, Counsel, American Citizens Abroad (ACA); John Fredenberger, Tax Chair, Association of Americans Resident Overseas (AARO); Cynthia Dillon, Executive Director, Republicans Abroad; and Joseph Smallhoover, FBAR/FATCA Task Force, Democrats Abroad.

Our focus was threefold:

- **Reduced access to financial services**, both in the United States and abroad, due to “Know Your Customer” requirements domestically, prompting banks to close down existing accounts and/or refuse to open new ones for Americans with foreign addresses, and to the stringent reporting requirements imposed on Foreign Financial Institutions (FFIs) by the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA). Increasing numbers of FFIs are refusing to go to the expense and trouble of compliance and are also turning away American clients.

- **A loss of financial independence and security** for many Americans with foreign spouses and partners, who do not wish to have their personal and/or business accounts reported to the IRS and, in many cases, are shifting accounts and assets out of the control of the American. In the most extreme cases, women with no personal source of income are deprived of their financial security and reduced to living in a cash economy. In others, Americans with foreign business partners are seeing their partnerships closed down, depriving the United States of valuable entrepreneurs abroad and leaving them with limited professional options overseas.

- **Decreasing access to professional assistance abroad**, with tax professionals overwhelmed by their new obligations and responsibilities and a declining IRS presence abroad.

The Treasury and IRS representatives appeared sympathetic to stories of overseas Americans unable to find banks willing to service their accounts, taxed by the United States on their foreign investment retirement plans though they are not allowed to hold IRAs or 401k plans in the United States, seriously considering divorce or renunciation of US nationality in order to be able to continue to hold joint household or business accounts abroad, confused by the existence of two seemingly overlapping reporting forms and unsure of the rules and reporting thresholds that apply to each.

They stressed the fact that the new Form 8938, intended for FATCA compliance, is “still evolving,” having been only very recently released, and encouraged the overseas groups to submit



Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney,
Ranking Member of the Financial
Institutions Subcommittee of the
House Financial Services Committee

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comments as soon as possible on specific improvements to clarify the instructions. They also noted that negotiations are still under way regarding compliance on the part of FFIs and, while agreeing that compliance will be difficult for some small banks and in some countries, affirmed their conviction that the kind of government-to-government agreement currently being discussed with five countries will gradually but steadily extend to other countries as well, easing the burden on the financial institutions themselves. They also promised to find ways to make available lists of compliant financial institutions both in the United States and abroad.

Reassurances came from the IRS that filers who owe no tax will not incur penalties for failing to report their foreign accounts: sanctions will not apply to people making a good faith effort to comply.

In addition to giving examples of the hurdles facing overseas citizens in an attempt to “put a face on the problem,” we made certain specific proposals such as raising the threshold for FBAR reporting on the part of bona fide residents abroad (as was done by the IRS for Form 8938); rethinking the aggregation rules so that small accounts might not need reporting and exploring solutions to the accounts held with foreign nationals over which the American has only signatory authority; increasing travel budgets for IRS agents abroad if opening more offices is a budgetary impossibility; creating a single point of contact for overseas filers and developing a joint Treasury/IRS website for the international community; changing the rules on foreign tax-deferred retirement savings plans for a population not eligible for similar plans in the United States; and making this meeting the first step in an ongoing dialogue that would include another in a few months.

It is to be hoped that, indeed, this dialogue can continue and that very soon, we will see a change in the way FATCA reporting is viewed by overseas Americans and a move toward greater compliance on the part of both individuals and financial institutions.

By Pam Perraud - FAWCO UN NGO Director

UN Goal for Clean Water Ahead of Schedule

There is good news and bad news from the UN related to the problem of access to clean water.

In a recent report jointly published from UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO), entitled *Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation*, the UN announced that the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) to halve the number of people who do not have access to clean water is not only on target, it will be achieved before the 2015 deadline.

This is truly amazing news and means that 1.8 billion more people have access to drinking water compared to the beginning of the 1990s. The report says that between 1990 and 2010, the proportion of the world's population with access to drinking water increased from 77% to 89%.

That's the good news. The bad news is that the report also stated that there are still some 672 million people who lack clean water and there are still wide disparities in between regions of the world.



Catarina de Albuquerque, Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, addresses the General Assembly.



Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation launches the Sustainable Sanitation Five Year Drive to 2015

In sub-Saharan Africa, the access to clean water from 1990 has increased from 49% to 69%, reaching an additional 126 million people in urban areas and 111 million in rural areas. However, high population growth in this region has outstripped the progress so that the actual numbers of people without access is actually greater today than in 1990.

There are also major differences in the distribution of clean water. In many urban areas, water access now reaches 73% of the population, but access in rural areas lags seriously behind at only 31% up from 21% in 1990. Approximately eight out of ten persons without improved drinking water are in the rural areas and, unfortunately the greatest burden of collecting water falls to women and girls.

For more information about this report go to www.unicef.org/media/files/JMPreport2012.pdf.

Rio +20 Conference on Sustainability

In June, representatives of governments, NGOs and international institutions will gather in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to discuss and decide on how to ensure more sustainable development and how to grow green economies in the future. The two main themes will be a green economy in the context of sustainable development for poverty eradication and building the institutional framework for sustainable development. It is being held 20 years after the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa.

According to the organizers, “Rio + 20 is a chance to move away from business-as-usual and to act to end poverty, address environmental destruction and build a bridge to the future.” The three-day event will be bringing together the world's experts and committed activists. It will include dozens of side events, exhibits, presentations and fairs. Governments are expected to adopt a clear, focused, practical road map for implementing sustainable development. The whole world will be watching and waiting for timely, concrete action.

For more information, go to www.uncsd2012.org.

By Erica Higbie - FAWCO UN Representative in New York

UN Conference Focuses on “Rural Women”



UN NGO CSW Michelle Bachelet (left), Executive Director of UN Women and Marjon V. Kamara (right), Liberia's Permanent Representative to the UN.

Troubling facts presented at CSW56:

Women's political representation stagnated across the globe in the 1990s.

Globally on average, women only earn 80 cents to a man's dollar for the same work.

70% of the 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty are women. 17 million women are living in poverty in the United States.

Women are responsible for 43% of the world's agricultural production (70% in Africa). However, they make up less than 20% of the world's landowners.

Rural women spend 26% of their time carrying water. 40 billion hours a year are spent collecting water in Africa alone.

3.9 million females around the world disappear annually. Two-fifths of them are never born due to a cultural male-child preference, more than that die during their reproductive years and the rest during childhood, often from neglect.

Only one in three rural women receives prenatal care.

In Ethiopia, 50% of the girls are married by the age of 15.

46% of the women in Kosovo have suffered domestic violence.

95% of women prostitutes were sexually violated before they went into prostitution.

The average age of entry into prostitution in the US is 14-16.

Globally there are two million people taken by traffickers each year, mostly girls. 80% of them will be sexually exploited.

The 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was held at the United Nations in New York from February 27 to March 9. This year's forum, organized by UN Women and civil society organizations like FAWCO, was focused on issues faced by “rural women.” Over 4,000 women and 500 youth delegates from around the world attended 350 sessions on topics like gender equality, climate change, violence against women, food security, education, healthcare and access to resources such as water. (The latter particularly relevant to FAWCO because “clean water” is the focus of FAWCO's Target Program in Cambodia.)

Many of the attendees were themselves “rural women,” but a number of notable human rights leaders also came to speak - and listen. They included Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the UN; Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile and currently head of UN Women.

Ms. Bachelet summed up the conference discussions when she said, “...the biggest challenges everywhere are political participation and economic empowerment - and ending violence against women. No country is spared - even in the most advanced countries...”

The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979, addresses many of these issues.

Sadly, the United States is one of only 6 countries (together with Sudan, Somalia, Iran and two small pacific island nations) that have NOT ratified CEDAW.

When these CSW women, who after two weeks were all calling each other “sister,” look to the future, several key messages stand out:

1. **Women and girls are the key to sustainable development** because in developing countries they are the agricultural producers and natural resource managers.

2. **“The girls' movement” is now part of UN speak.** In an effort to get ahead of some of the issues that burden women today, programs for girls are cropping up everywhere such as Girls Grow (Nike), GirlUp (UN Foundation), Working Group on Girls (formerly part of UNICEF).

3. **Civil society NGOs are critical to development** because they do the work at the grass roots level. Partnerships between civil society, governments and the private sector are proving to be very successful.

4. **And finally, it is critical to involve men and boys in women's issues** if women are to achieve lasting change.

By My-Linh Kunst - FAWCO President 2011-13



2012 Interim Conference Report

FAWCO held its 2012 Interim Conference in Dublin, Ireland (March 21-24) with over 120 delegates and 50 guests from 41 clubs (pictured above). We had the honor to receive the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, who applauded FAWCO's work and volunteerism (see article on page 1). FAWCO was also welcomed by Jimmy Deenihan, Minister of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs and guests of honor for the Opening Dinner were the Lady Mayoress of Dublin, Sinead Ahern and Chargé d'Affaires from the US Embassy, John Hennessey-Niland.

The speakers were the highlight of the conference. Dr. Mary Henry, a former Irish Senator, spoke eloquently about women's health issues, including alcoholism, smoking, and obesity. Dr. Pat Wallace, Director of the National Museum of Ireland for 28 years and a world expert on Viking archeology, gave an entertaining speech over dinner in the beautiful Dublin Castle. Eye-opening was a panel discussion entitled *Stop the Violence: Ireland*, moderated by journalist Susan McKay which includes women who work first-hand in rape crisis centers, battered women's shelters, academics and legislation. Sarah Franklyn, Co-Founder and Director of Natural Capital Services, provided yet another viewpoint to "water sustainability" – tying water to trees and agriculture and stressing how important it is that solutions are comprehensive.



President Michael D. Higgins of Ireland mingling with delegates.

Introductions to Irish culture included a journey through Irish art history from Dr. Barbara Dawson (Hugh Lane Gallery), a view into the *Women of the Census 1911* from Catriona Crowe (National Archives of Ireland) and evening entertainment of music and dancing.

Workshops from FAWCO's Global Issues Task Forces included Education Co-Chair **Elinor LeBaron's** (AWA Doha) *Americana*, a fantastic program to teach third-culture kids about American culture; Education Co-Chair **Susan van Alsenoy's** (AWC Antwerp) workshop on learning differently (see article on page 10) and **Robin Goldsby's** (AIWC Cologne) workshop on creative writing as a way to chase away expat blues.

In 2012, FAWCO celebrates the 15th anniversary of its status as an UN accredited NGO with ECOSOC status. **Peggy Rigaud** (AWG-Languedoc Roussillon) was invited to share the history of FAWCO and the UN and then awarded FAWCO's highest distinction, the Circle of Honor award (see box, page 7) for her efforts in spearheading and completing this laborious accreditation process.

The Conference's Presenting Sponsor **US Tax & Financial Services** (<http://compliance.ustaxonline.com/>) presented a workshop on the new US tax and banking challenges, which was much appreciated by the delegates trying to help their club members navigate the increasingly complicated requirements.

The FAWCO Club Presidents had a working session with Club Presidents' Coordinator **Leslie Collingridge** on *The 3Ss – Club Development for the Future* and FAWCO representatives worked with 2nd Vice President Elizabeth Abbot on *Communications – What Works?* During the Best Practices Panel, delegates were introduced to the FAWCO's online best practices library and shared in a round table of *Best Practices Tips and Resources*.

Dr. Mary Henry, former Independent Senator in Seanad Eireann from 1993 to 2007, spoke about women's health issues and women's influence in this area. Dr. Henry gave an informative and very charming presentation.



From left: Journalist Susan McKay, Ellen O'Malley-Dunlop, Sarah Benson, Eileen Green-Doyle (AWC Dublin), Margaret Martin, Paula Mayoock, Senator Ivana Bacik

continued from page 6

The *Over the Rainbow* themed FAWCO Foundation dinner and auction on Friday night raised over \$30,000 in a few short hours - a portion of the money raised was donated to a local charity, Children's Sunshine Home.

The Conference was "online" so that FAWCO members at home could enjoy it from the comfort of their computer-go to www.fawco.org and click on the Dublin Conference logo for presentations, videos and pictures.

On behalf of the FAWCO Board, I would like to thank Presenting Sponsor **US Tax & Financial Services**, Host Club **AWC Dublin**, Conference Co-Chairs **Patti Meek** and **Nancy Ward** and their team of more than thirty volunteers for this extraordinary conference. We all left with new friends, a renewed sense of "FAWCO Fever" and the inspiration, energy and empowerment needed to go forth and make a difference.



Delegates took the information they gained at the FAWCO conference back home to their local clubs all over the world.

FAWCO Honors Two Volunteers



From left: The Curtis Brown Spirit Award recipient Melissa Mash (AW Surrey) and The Circle of Honor Award recipient Peggy Rigaud (AWG Languedoc Roussillon).

FAWCO is proud to bestow its highest distinction, **The Circle of Honor Award**, on **Peggy Rigaud** (AWG Languedoc Roussillon) for her contribution in FAWCO becoming a United Nations (UN) accredited non-governmental organization (NGO) with consultative status to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Circle of Honor Award recognizes individuals for their invaluable contribution in making FAWCO what it is today.

Peggy Rigaud was 1st Vice-President of FAWCO from 1993-95, when FAWCO had the goal to become a UN recognized NGO. She worked with President Barbara Johnson to obtain NGO status, then convinced the next FAWCO Board to apply for a more elite consultative status, with ECOSOC, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations after her trip in 1995 to the Fourth International Conference on Women in Beijing, China. She then single-handedly shepherded FAWCO through the long and comprehensive evaluation process that led to FAWCO's receiving Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC on August 14, 1997. This year marks our 15th anniversary!

The Caroline Curtis Brown Spirit Award was established in 2005 in appreciation of service exemplifying the spirit, inspiration and dedication of our Founder Caroline Curtis Brown. FAWCO is pleased to announce that the 2012 recipient is **Melissa Mash** (AW Surrey). Melissa volunteers because she enjoys giving a service while expecting nothing in return. She has been a part of many teams, always taking on a task and doing it with a smile. Melissa is always there to help; she is someone who gives "straight from her heart." Her years of service for FAWCO included being Secretary 2001-03, 2nd Vice President 2006-2007, Presidents' Coordinator 2007-09, FAWCO Nominating Chair 2008-9 and President of The FAWCO Foundation 2010-12.

FAUSA's Continuing Connection with FAWCO

The deep and continuing connection between FAWCO, The FAWCO Foundation and FAUSA could not have been more obvious than during the Dublin Conference. FAUSA once again had not only the largest delegation at the conference, but also received not one, but two certificates of appreciation for sponsorship of the 2012 FAWCO Members Skills Enhancement Award and partial sponsorship of the 2012 Right to Food and Water Development Grant. The current Target Project *Tabitha - Cambodia, Wells for Clean Water* was presented to FAWCO by FAUSA's current 1st VP-Communications, Yolanda Henry, who is an active participant in building wells and houses in Cambodia.

One of the principle benefits of FAUSA membership is

the opportunity to remain closely connected to FAWCO and all that it does globally and locally, including serving on the Board of The FAWCO Foundation and being on Committees and Task Forces.

At the Conference, FAUSA President Lee Sorenson urged club Presidents and FAWCO Reps to be sure club members know about FAUSA before they leave their host country to return to the US or Canada by publicizing it in their club magazines and by posting the FAUSA link to its new website on their club websites.

- Lee Sorenson, FAUSA President



Members from FAWCO club AWOG pose after a successful press conference about collaborating on the "Heart Pillow" Project. From left: Silva Pourliakas, Nora Stamoulis, Janis Tripodakis, Kathy Klaoudatos, Grace Christovasilis, Mrs. Diane Smith, wife of the U.S. Ambassador to Greece and Honorary AWOG President, Marissa Tejada, Stacey Harris-Papaioannou



Brooke Galloway, Development and Policy Director for the Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center, visits AWA Rome to take part in their "Fact Forum" in February 2012.

FAWCO REP OF THE YEAR AWARDS

At the 2012 FAWCO Conference in Dublin, four FAWCO Representatives were honored with awards for outstanding innovation and participation in FAWCO:

Robin Meloy Goldsby
AIWC Cologne

Clydette de Groot
AWG Paris

Donna Haas
AWA Dubai

Alma Lou Annab
American Women of Amman

AWOG TO HELP BREAST CANCER PATIENTS WITH CORPORATE SUPPORT

The American Women's Organization of Greece (AWOG) and the Greek sleep products company COCO-MAT announced their collaboration on the Heart Pillow Project, a volunteer effort to support breast cancer patients with specially designed heart pillows. To date, more than 2,400 Greek women have been given the heart pillows thanks to the efforts of AWOG volunteers.

"Since its inception, the Heart Pillow Project has been dear to AWOG because it encompasses exactly what we strive to do - connect the American community while giving back to those in need here in Greece," says Silva Pourliakas, president of AWOG.

Since the Heart Pillow Project began at the Erlanger Medical Center in Tennessee in 2001, more than 50 cities in 18 countries worldwide have implemented the project.

- Grace Christovalis, FAWCO Rep, AWO Greece

AWA ROME AND FAWCO COLLABORATE WITH AODVCC

Recently, the "Fact Forum" of AWA Rome hosted Brooke Galloway, Development and Policy Director for the Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center, as guest lecturer and also arranged an interview with the English Program of Vatican Radio. In addition, the entire staff of the Citizen's Services Department at the American Embassy welcomed AWA Rome for a in-depth meeting to discuss how to best inform Americans who need help from domestic violence on Italian soil. As a result of these activities, two AWA Rome women volunteered to be AODVCC "ambassadors" and participated in an online training session in March.

- Suzanne McMillan, Fact Form Chair, AWA Rome

UPCOMING 2012 FAWCO REGIONALS

Region 9, Middle East: November 29-December 1, Doha, Qatar, hosted by AWA Doha (tentative). **Region 2, Scandanavia:** September 21-23, Stockholm, Sweden hosted by AWC Stockholm. **Region 5, Germany & Austria:** November 16-18, Augsburg, Germany hosted by AW Augsburg.

2012 Club Anniversaries

Region 1

American Women of Berkshire and Surrey	1982-2012 (30 years)
Chiltern American Women's Club	1987-2012 (25 years)
American Women's Club of Dublin	1972-2012 (40 years)
Association of American Women in Ireland	1992-2012 (20 years)

Region 2

American Women's Club of Malmö	1997-2012 (15 years)
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Region 3

American Club of Lyon	1987-2012 (25 years)
American Women's Group in Paris	1947-2012 (65 years)

Region 4

American Women's Club of Amsterdam	1927-2012 (85 years)
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Region 6

American Women's Club of Basel	1947-2012 (65 years)
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Region 7

American International Women's Club of Casablanca	1962-2012 (50 years)
American International Women's Association of Rabat	1962-2012 (50 years)

Region 8

American International Women's Club of Genoa	1957-2012 (55 years)
The Benvenuto Club of Milan	1967-2012 (45 years)

Region 10

American Women's Club of Bogotá	1947-2012 (65 years)
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Region 11

American Women's Club of Auckland	1942-2012 (70 years)
American Women's Club of Shanghai	1997 - 2012 (15 years)



Ambassador and Mrs. Kaplan receiving a beautiful Moroccan plate inscribed with AIWA's appreciation for their support and involvement with AIWA of Rabat, Morocco. Oumnia Seghrouchni and Nancy Slaoui, AIWA co-Presidents, are on the right.

RABAT AIWA CELEBRATES 50th ANNIVERSARY

The American International Women's Association of Rabat, Morocco, recently celebrated their 50th anniversary with a Gala honoring women who had been members for at least 20 years. The Rabat AIWA was created by American embassy women in 1962 and now has grown to be an association with many nationalities.

The highlight of the evening was a warm welcome and congratulations from the Honorable Samuel Kaplan, U.S. Ambassador to Morocco and his wife, Sylvia, who is AIWA's very involved Honorary President.

- Connie McDaniel, President, AIWA Rabat



AWA Dubai coordinated, hosted and provided Region 9 with a wonderful venue for the first Regional Conference in an incredible desert oasis.

REGION 9 HOLDS FIRST CONFERENCE IN DUBAI

Region 9 held their first ever Regional Conference in Dubai on December 8-10, 2011. The meeting was well attended by the five FAWCO clubs from the region: AW of Amman, AWC Lebanon, AWA Doha, AW of the Eastern Province and AWA Dubai.

The theme for Region 9's conference focused on the study of global water sustainability issues in the region. Francois Boueri gave an informative talk on *Liquid Gold, Miyahuna, Our Water* in Arabic. Louise Yearout (AWA Doha) and Adora Woznick (AWA Dubai) gave a presentation on *Americana*, the program focusing on teaching overseas American children U.S. history and culture. Additional workshops included information about *Sharing Cultures* by Nassif Kayed and *Facts - U.S. Taxes* by Virginia La Torre Jeker.

- Kelly M. Al Nashmi, Region 9 Coordinator

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Special FAWCO member rates available. Please consult your Club officers for details.

Where FAWCO “Volunteering” Can Lead

FAWCO volunteers **Susan van Alsenoy** and **Elizabeth Vennekens-Kelly** have gone from task force co-chairs to being respected experts in their fields of interest.

Originally from New Mexico, Elizabeth Vennekens-Kelly found herself going overseas when she married her Belgian husband. She became interested in intercultural issues after meeting some women who made the most of their expat experience and others who were completely miserable. In her words, “Since I am in the first category, I want to help others join that category.” Elizabeth began to research ways to help international business people be more effective.

While FAWCO Rep of AWC Antwerp, she saw the posting of the Sharing Cultures Global Task Force and answered the call. This led to her first intercultural presentation at the 2009 FAWCO Regional Conference in Florence which led to presentations at other regional meetings. “Each time the presentation was modified and enhanced. Plus people love to share their experiences and I thoroughly enjoyed listening to them.” Elizabeth took her FAWCO experience and started an intercultural consulting business. “My first client was Sony, for whom I trained more than 65 employees from 22 countries about working more effectively with Americans.” The recent publication of *Subtle Differences, Big Faux Pas* is the culmination of her work.

Susan van Alsenoy attended her first FAWCO conference in 1983, and volunteered to found and chair the Women and Home Committee. At present, Susan is Education Co-chair of Students Who Learn Differently. These various volunteer roles have helped her to develop her expertise in this field of education. “When my daughter was diagnosed with dyslexia at the beginning of her 7th grade, I began my continuing investigation into this and other LD phenomenon.” Her research has been extensive and has led to the development of several workshops, one of which was presented at the 2000 FAWCO Conference in Washington, D.C. as well as *Students Who Learn Differently Overseas*, published on the FAWCO website and the recent publication of *Learning Without Boundaries* (see box).

These two amazing FAWCO women have transferred the skills they gained

Learning Without Boundaries Launches at Conference



Based on information first available on the FAWCO web site at <http://studentswholearn.fawco.org>, *Learning Without Boundaries* expands the scope of that initial work to include all students, not just those living abroad, and not just those dealing with the challenges of learning differences (LD). It is a guide for parents, educational professionals, and students themselves as they attempt to navigate the understanding of LD problems.

through volunteering into a successful career in their chosen fields. This is one of the additional benefits of becoming more involved with FAWCO, discovering your hidden talents and making them work for you!

- Monica Jubayli, 3rd VP-Committees

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2012 FAWCO Foundation Development Grant Recipients

The FAWCO Foundation received many worthy nominations for the 2012 Development Grants. The nominated projects were placed on a ballot and all FAWCO clubs were eligible to vote for the recipients. This year each development grant was worth \$4,500. The eight recipients were announced at the FAWCO interim conference in Dublin, Ireland.

CRITICAL HEALTH CONCERNS

In memory of Charlton Eric Burns
Sponsored in part by Arline and Charles Coward
Blindness Prevention Cataract Surgery Program,
Ethiopia, www.bioeconomyafrica.org

THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND WATER

Sponsored in part by FAUSA
Feeding Education, Kenya
www.eastafricancenter.org

AW SURREY

HOPE THROUGH EDUCATION
Associazione Fabio Jonathan Onlus, Sri Lanka
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PAM DAHLGREN EDUCATING AFRICA'S CHILDREN

Thanda Children's Library, South Africa
www.orphansagainstaidis.org

AMERICAN WOMEN OF THE EASTERN PROVINCE SKILLS FOR LIFE

Ruhama, Ireland, www.ruhama.ie

AROUND THE CORNER, A WORLD AWAY

**Center for Abandoned & Disabled Children
(KAAPAA)**, Greece, www.yyka.gov.gr

MARION OLSON 100TH BIRTHDAY PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND TUBERCULOSIS

Sponsored by the Coughlan Family
**Women for Girls-Comprehensive and Integrated
Causerie Project**, West Africa
www.womenforgirls.org

2012 FAWCO Foundation Education Awards Recipients

The FAWCO Foundation has been supporting education since it offered its first education awards almost 40 years ago, in 1972. Created by and for FAWCO clubs, the Awards Program recognizes and honors the academic excellence and all-around achievement of the children of FAWCO members as well as FAWCO members themselves. The five recipients were announced at the FAWCO interim conference in Dublin, Ireland.

ARTS AWARD \$3,000

Matthew Jossing
His mother is a member of AWC Oslo.

SCIENCES AWARD \$3,000

Sponsored in part by AIWC of Genoa in memory of Frieda Bacigalupo Natali
Stephen Kirchner
His mother is a member of AW Surrey.

HUMANITIES AWARD \$3,000

Sponsored in part by AWC Zurich and AAWE in memory of Gertrude de Gallaix.
Rosalind Willi
Her mother is a member of AWC Dusseldorf.

DUAL CULTURAL AWARD \$1,500

In memory of Suzanne Erismann
Sponsored in part by Donna Erismann and AWC Bern
Rebecca Moede
Her mother is a member of AWC Hamburg.

AWC BASEL FAWCO MEMBERS AWARD for UNIVERSITY DEGREE STUDY PROGRAMS \$5,000

Sponsored by Shirley Kearney
Nancy Peiffer
Nancy is member of American Netherlands Club of Rotterdam (ANCOR).

Over the Rainbow

The FAWCO Foundation Silent & Live Auction



Nancy Ward (AWC Dublin), Melissa Mash (2011-12 FAWCO Foundation President) and Patti Meeks (AWC Dublin) pose under the rainbow during the gala in Dublin on March 23.

The March 23 gala in Dublin led to a big pot of gold for The Foundation, as the *Over the Rainbow* event raised **\$30,000** for The Foundation's grants, awards, projects and programs!

The Foundation is extremely grateful for the donation of vacation homes, B&Bs, the Ferragamo bag, Ferrari Jacket and the many silent auction items. We are equally grateful for to all those that bid on items!!

Over 100 balloons were popped in the "Rainbow Lucky Dip"

where everyone walked away with a special something. The four leaf clover charms brought luck to those that wore them. The Irish dancers livened up the room and the choir gave sound to the rainbow theme. The luck of the Irish was rife as **Patti Meek** won the emerald ring raffle, **Sue Elliott** won the Friendship Quilt raffle and **Nancy Ward** won best dressed - all three are from **AWC Dublin**.

The Board sends everyone a heartfelt thank you for a colorful and brilliant evening!



Celebrate a Birthday, Graduation or Recognize Someone Special with a Donation to The NEEDED Scholarship Program

What better way to honor a friend or family member on that special occasion than by making a donation in his or her name to the NEEDED Scholarship Program? With your donation you will receive a certificate which you can personalize with the name of the honoree(s) and send to that special person. This is truly a gift which keeps on giving!

The FAWCO Foundation is partnering with The Friends of Burkina Faso and NEEDED (Nimbus, Enfance, Environnement, Education et Developpement, a local non-profit organization in Northern Burkina Faso) to provide post-secondary school scholarships to young village women in this African country. Once graduating from secondary school, they will be able to continue their studies in midwifery, nursing, primary school teaching or continue on to university. Costs include school fees, living expenses, books, supplies and NEEDED's fee.

- Cost for a 2 year Primary School Teacher: \$3,124.
- Cost for a 2 year Nursing Training: \$2,563.
- Cost for a 3 year Midwifery Training: \$5,126.

If you would like to make a donation in someone's name, please complete the donation process by clicking on the NEEDED donate button on the FAWCO Foundation's "How can I Donate" page. Once you have completed the process on PayPal, click on "Return to The FAWCO Foundation Website," here you can download the NEEDED Scholarship Donation Certificate. Thank you for your generosity!



PRESIDENT

Michele Hendrikse DuBois, Munich IWC
president@fawcofoundation.org

VP COMMUNICATIONS

Cynthia Smith-Ayed, AWC Casablanca
vpcommunications@fawcofoundation.org

VP FUNDRAISING

Suzanne Wheeler, AWC Brussels
vpfundraising@fawcofoundation.org

VP PROGRAMS

Nan de Laubadère, AAWE Paris
vpprograms@fawcofoundation.org

SECRETARY

Margaret Hilditch, Munich IWC
secretary@fawcofoundation.org

TREASURER

Kathy Coughlan, AW Surrey
treasurer@fawcofoundation.org

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Elsie Bose, AWG Paris
parliamentarian@fawcofoundation.org

The FAWCO Foundation is the philanthropic arm of FAWCO. It is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization registered in the State of Missouri. Direct donations to The Foundation are tax exempt to the fullest extent allowed by law.

For more information please contact:
info@fawcofoundation.org



Michele Hendrikse DuBois, FAWCO Foundation President 2012-13.

On Saturday, March 24, 2012, the 2012 FAWCO Foundation Board for the year 2012-2013 was elected at the FAWCO Conference in Dublin. Because of the vote to align the election years of the boards of both FAWCO and The Foundation, until now held on alternate years, the newly-elected board will serve for only one year.

Looking for an easy way to support The FAWCO Foundation?

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