



THE FORUM

SERVING OVERSEAS AMERICANS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SINCE 1931

Summer 2013

CONTENTS

U.S. Issues	2-3
UN/NGO	4
Final Target Report	5
Global Issues	6
Conference Report	7
News from Our Clubs	8-9
FAWCO Awards	10
FAWCO Foundation	11-12



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2013 FAWCO 41st Biennial Conference

In a Timely Fashion: women • tradition • innovation



Conference participants gathered for *Join me on the Bridge*, a worldwide initiative by Women for Women International to raise awareness about violence against women in war-torn countries.



Ambassador Betty E. King addressed conference attendees on International Women's Day which was celebrated globally on Friday, March 8.

FAWCO held its 41st Biennial Conference in Bern, Switzerland (March 6-9) with over 130 participants from 39 clubs representing every region except Region 10 (South American and the Caribbean).

It was a special honor to have Betty King, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, speak to FAWCO on International Women's Day. Ambassador King gave an inspiring speech about the role of Women in Diplomacy and mentioned her own efforts to advocate for women at the Geneva-based global health organizations and in their development initiatives. She also emphasized how important it has been that Hilary Clinton, as head of the State Dept., made empowering women and girls the cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy.

Continued on page 7

by Anne van Oorschot (AWC The Hague), Water Target Program Chair



FAWCO Target Program Raised \$168,000 for Water



One of over 650 FAWCO wells funded by the Target Program in partnership with Tabitha Cambodia - Wells for Clean Water.

In 2009, the FAWCO Target Program was announced as a four-year program to bring a critical global issue to the attention of FAWCO Clubs. It was a focused strategy of education and project fundraising with the goal of highlighting one issue and looking for ways to solve the problem; and in so doing, assist in attaining the UN Millennium Development Goals. Clubs voted to decide on water as the Target issue and Tabitha Foundation's Wells for Clean Water in Cambodia as the Target Project.

Continued on page 3

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.

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By Lucy Laederich (AAWE Paris), FAWCO U.S. Liaison

Overseas Americans Week 2013

FAWCO was represented by U.S. Liaison Lucy Stensland Laederich and U.S. Tax & Banking Chair Margaret Nelson Spethmann at Overseas Americans Week 2013, March 11-14 in Washington D.C. Joining a smaller-than-usual team from partners AARO and ACA, the delegates as a whole participated in over 80 meetings. In a polarized political environment, they still found sympathetic ears to listen to a number of their concerns:

Access to financial services at home and abroad

OAW delegates explained the difficulties Americans are encountering with respect to bank accounts overseas (due in large part to onerous FATCA filing requirements imposed on foreign financial institutions) and in the United States (essentially because of Know Your Customer regulations that make foreign addresses a liability). Increasingly, Americans abroad are being closed out of U.S.-based investment accounts therefore finding investment and retirement savings options seriously limited.

ACA proposal on residence-based taxation

ACA's international tax advisory council has prepared an exhaustively researched proposal for major tax reform, changing the current U.S. system of citizenship-based taxation to one based on residence, eliminating the need for great numbers of overseas Americans to report other than in their host country abroad. Many of the week's meetings dealt with this proposal, which appeared to meet with considerable interest on both sides of the aisle.

Election reform

As found in the Overseas Vote Foundation 2013 post-election survey, many military and overseas voters continue to face obstacles to voting from overseas (technological glitches in downloading ballots, continuing problems of ballots not received in time to be returned on time, etc.). While more than half of these voters received their ballots electronically, close to 22% received no ballot at all or received it too late. Civil rights activist John Lewis of Georgia has introduced a sweeping election reform bill that addresses some of these obstacles. (HR 12, the Voter Empowerment Act) is now accompanied by a sister bill in the Senate (S 123, introduced by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand of New York).

One problem brought to the attention of legislators was the fact that the U.S. Postal System is scaling back service on Saturdays. For overseas voters, this could mean that ballots will not be sent out or delivered on time, meaning that the MOVE-mandated 45-day period between the sending out of ballots and the deadline for their receipt by election officials may be seriously compromised.

News from the State Department

State Department officials described several legislative priorities, one of which should interest a number of FAWCO members: currently, a U.S. citizen married to a non-U.S. citizen and having a child born abroad can transmit U.S. nationality to the child if he/she has spent a total of five years in the United States including two after the age of 14. An unwed mother of a non-U.S. citizen child born abroad, however, must prove one year's continuous residence in the United States. As we have pointed out, this can



FAWCO was represented at Overseas Americans Week by U.S. Liaison Lucy Stensland Laederich and U.S. Tax & Banking Chair Margaret Nelson Spethmann.

be difficult for a student, for example, returning abroad for the holidays. State now advocates allowing the unwed mother to choose either five years including two after the age of 14 or one year continuous, a position we can but applaud.

Americans Abroad Caucus and "Talking to Congress"

Many of the FAWCO meetings were with offices of members of the Americans Abroad Caucus who, we feel, have a special interest in the issues important to overseas Americans. Because some members in the 112th Congress are no longer in Congress, the Caucus has declined in membership and we urge FAWCO members to contact their Representatives in the House (there is no equivalent in the Senate), encouraging them to join. There is no doubt that Representatives and Senators need to be reminded regularly of their overseas constituency.

A personal story: I met a couple of years ago with the Chief of Staff of Donna Christensen, (non-voting) Delegate from the Virgin Islands and an early member of the Americans Abroad Caucus. I mentioned that many people continue to bemoan the fact that overseas Americans have no Representative in Congress. He agreed, saying that while Representative Christensen cannot vote, she can sit on and even chair committees and can speak on the Floor like anyone else. He said, "It would give you someone to see when you come to Washington."

I replied that I did have someone: I regularly visited my Congressman Chris Murphy, of Connecticut (now my new Senator, whom I visited again in February). The Chief of Staff leaned back and said, "You know, you're right! If you could get all the members of your federation to write to and visit their Representatives, it would be much more effective than having a Delegate in Congress... because they vote!"

Take a minute to go to www.house.gov and www.senate.gov and find your Representative and Senators. Don't just write to them when you are mad about some legislation. Write to them now to say you live overseas and represent a population of 6.32 million (latest State Department estimate) and that X and Y and Z are major concerns for you and many others in that population. If they don't hear from you, they can't possibly know what you're thinking!

Continued on page 3



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

Continued from page 2

The Commission on Americans Living Abroad Act (HR 597)

In early February, Representative Carolyn Maloney, longstanding champion of overseas Americans, introduced HR 597, a bill to create a bipartisan federal commission to look at the issues facing Americans overseas, including the military, and make concrete recommendations to Congress for solutions. Members of the Commission are to include members of organizations that represent United States citizens living in foreign countries.

Among the issues to be studied are 1) federal financial reporting requirements for U.S. citizens living abroad; 2) federal policies and requirements that affect the ability of a U.S. citizen living in a foreign country to access foreign and domestic financial institutions; 3) federal requirements for the spouse, child or other family member of a U.S. citizen living abroad to become a U.S. citizen; 4) the ability of a U.S. citizen living overseas to vote in federal, state and local elections in the United States, as well as Social Security, Medicare and student loan policies regarding U.S. citizens abroad.

FAWCO supports and applauds this important piece of legislation that, for the first time, takes a comprehensive look at how the federal government interacts with its citizens abroad. We also thank the Representatives who have signed on as co-sponsors and urge our members to encourage their own legislators to do the same thing!

Thank you to **Representative Carolyn Maloney (NY-14)** and current co-sponsors of HR597 as of April 4, 2013:

- Michael E. Capuano (MA-7)
- Andre Carson (IN-7)
- Donna M. Christensen (VI)
- Steve Cohen (TN-9)
- Susan A. Davis (CA-53)
- Michael M. Honda (CA-17)
- Carolyn McCarthy (NY-4)
- James P. McGovern (MA-2)
- James P. Moran (VA-8)
- Grace F. Napolitano (CA-32)
- Janice D. Schakowsky (IL-9)

Continued from page 1

FAWCO Target Program Raised \$168,000 for Water

So how many FAWCO clubs actually participated in the Target Program? According to a short club-wide survey:

- 78% of clubs participated in some way, that's 57 of 73.
- 10 clubs supported an alternative water project.
- 38 clubs planned a specific Target Program fundraiser.
- 20 clubs planned more than one Target Program event!
- Some clubs added a Target Program surcharge onto the cost of a regularly held event.
- 19 clubs planned specific water awareness events.
- 46 clubs put water awareness in their club's newsletter.

These are great results for any program, but even more so for a new program!

While our original donation goal was set at \$80,000 in honor of FAWCO's 80th birthday, our final amount raised was \$168,000. Total donation for Tabitha was \$140,000 while a number of clubs gave financial support to other water projects, which totaled to \$28,335. We have achieved over double our original goal!

By Pam Perraud (AAWE Paris), FAWCO UN NGO Director

FAWCO and the United Nations

The UN, the U.S. Mission to the UN in Geneva, and FAWCO's work with the UN were all key topics at FAWCO's recent biennial conference in Bern, Switzerland.

Trip to U.S. Mission in Geneva and UN HQ

The day before the FAWCO conference started, participants had the opportunity to visit the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva and tour the U.N. Headquarters at the Palais de Nations.

At the U.S. Mission, FAWCO members were introduced to women involved in various sections of the U.S. Mission who were working to increase the role of women and to enhance women's empowerment. Kim D'Auria-Vazira from the political section explained how under the leadership of Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, the role of women was emphasized more than ever at all policy levels.

Karen Glocer of the Economic and Scientific Affairs section described how important the role of technology was to women in developing countries. U.S. AID's Kris Easter focused on the fact U.S. economic assistance is now being viewed and judged through "a gender lens." Melissa Albuja of the Refugee and Migration Affairs section explained the importance of not only providing food and shelter in refugee camps, but also addressing unique problems women and children have there, particularly security issues associated with gathering of firewood.

Eleanor Roosevelt Plaque at the UN

After the session at the U.S. Mission, participants had lunch at the headquarters of the International Red Cross followed by a visit to see the plaque honoring Eleanor Roosevelt's crucial role in the passage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). FAWCO UN Rep Paula Daeppen and FAWCO U.N. NGO Director Pam Perraud described how FAWCO, along with other NGOs, fought to have the plaque erected in 2008, the 60th anniversary of the passage of the UDHR.



Karen Glocer addresses FAWCO members at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva.

by Erica Higbie (FAUSA), FAWCO Representative to the U.N. - New York

UN's 57th Commission on the Status of Women

The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls

The 57th Commission on the Status of Women in New York City was attended by a record number of participants. Expectations for this commission on the "elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls" were high. The last attempt by a U.N. commission to agree to a declaration on violence against women (VAW) in 2003 ended in failure, as did last year's commission on rights for rural women, development and poverty reduction.

During the commission, 6,000 global leaders, high-profile advocates, civil society and private sector representatives, government officials and 193 U.N. member states debated this fundamental human rights issue. Topics discussed included: "Analyzing the Economics of Violence against Women," "Promoting Sex and Human Rights Education," "Working with Men and Boys," "Ending Child Marriage," and "Addressing the Distinct Challenges of Violence against Girls." Delegates evaluated the progress that has been made on VAW since the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action for Gender Equality.

The end of two weeks of negotiation resulted in a document focusing on the prevention of violence and the need for: multi-sectoral support for survivors; rights for sexual and reproductive health; ending impunity for perpetrators; and building a database to inform an effective global response to VAW.

Sexual and reproductive rights were rallying points for conservative forces so the inclusion of emergency contraception for women who have been raped was a significant achievement. Contentious as they were, comprehensive sex education and stopping "child, early and forced marriage" were also included. Unfortunately, protection for sex workers and recognition of sexual orientation issues were not. Neither was language about "intimate partner violence," which may or may not be recognized by the state. However, the language stating that violence against women could not be justified by "any custom, tradition or religious consideration," which was under threat from Iran, Libya, Sudan and others, finally won the day.

Unfortunately, achievement was followed by disappointment when it was announced that Michelle Bachelet, currently the head of U.N. Women, would be leaving her post to return to Chile. Also, Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood publicly denounced the U.N. Document and called it un-Islamic, warning that it would "lead to the complete degradation of society." Fortunately, the chief Egyptian official at the meeting backed the accord seeing it as especially counter to "a global wave of conservatism, of repression against women."

Overall, the Commission was considered to be an outstanding success. Now it is time for implementation, action and accountability that will build on international agreements on women's rights before it, such as CEDAW.

By Sara von Moos (AWC Bern), FAWCO Representative to the U.N. - Geneva

Obstetric Fistula

Education is the Key to Achieving MDG 5

As the 1000-day countdown to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) gets underway, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has asked to step up efforts, particularly where MDG 5 is concerned, saying: “Too many women die in childbirth when we have the means to save them.”

Further stating that, “sexual and reproductive health problems remain the leading cause of ill health and death for women of childbearing age worldwide,” the Secretary-General has pointed to the eradication of Obstetric Fistula as a key step towards achieving MDG 5.

Obstetric fistula is a devastating childbirth injury caused by prolonged obstructed labor in which a hole develops between the bladder and vagina and /or rectum and vagina, leading to permanent incontinence. Obstetric fistula is, in essence, the consequence of neglected childbirth and is therefore, fully preventable. Luckily, it is also treatable, with a 90% success rate.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that there are three million women living with obstetric fistula, with an additional 100,000 new incidences every year. This type of childbirth injury accounts for 8% of maternal mortality cases and leaves the affected women suffering from pain and trauma due to incontinence, bladder infections, neurological disorders, orthopedic injury, kidney failure, infertility, stigmatization and social isolation. While obstetric fistula has been eradicated in the industrialized world, it is not uncommon in developing countries where women and girls often lack sexual and reproductive health rights and have limited access to education, finances or medical care.



FAWCO's Women's Health Issues Workshop featured the work of women's hope international (whi), a Swiss charity dedicated to fistula prevention, treatment plus midwife training (<http://www.womenshope.ch>) which was chosen as this year's conference charity.

In his most recent report to the U.N. General Assembly, the Secretary-General stated that the solution to eliminating obstetric fistula lies in addressing its root causes: poverty, gender inequality, barriers to education, child marriage and adolescent pregnancy. Moreover, the global health community has identified three basic interventions that can effectively eliminate fistula: 1) universal access to family planning, 2) trained health professionals with midwifery skills at every childbirth, and 3) timely access to high quality emergency obstetric and newborn care.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) put obstetric fistula on the world stage 10 years ago when it launched its global Campaign to End Fistula. This campaign spurred the collaborative efforts of governments, medical professionals and



Left: Dr. Lisa Thomas, guest speaker and WHO expert on women's sexual and reproductive health, drew attention to some of the most critical health concerns during childbirth.



Above: Dr. Lisa Thomas also focused on lifesaving interventions, such as the innovative “Lifewraps” which stabilize postpartum hemorrhaging, the leading cause of death attributed to childbirth (<http://www.lifewraps.org>).

civil society to restore the health and dignity of women living with this devastating affliction. Notable progress has been made as the campaign celebrates its ten-year anniversary, yet it is agreed that the eradication of obstetric fistula requires intensified efforts, including greater awareness, financing and human resources.

Most appropriately, this year's FAWCO Foundation Critical Health Concerns Development Grant was awarded to The Fistula Foundation(TFF) (<http://www.fistulafoundation.org>), which was submitted by American women of the Easter Province AWEF. TFF is a US non-profit organization that supports the work of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia, the foremost medical center in the world devoted exclusively to fistula repair, founded in 1974 by Drs. Reginald and Catherine Hamlin.

Passionate about eradicating fistula, AWEF has been supporting TFF since 2007 and will be giving an additional \$3000 donation to the DG amount of \$4500. The total amount will make it possible for 16 women to receive a fistula operation plus... post operative care, a new dress, a bus trip home and their dignity!



FAWCO Foundation VP Programs Nan de Laubadère, presents AWEF's FAWCO Rep, Louise Greeley-Copely, with a Development Grant in support of The Fistula Foundation.

By My-Linh Kunst (AWC Berlin), FAWCO President 2011-15

41st Biennial Conference Report

Continued from page 1

Another keynote speaker was Megan Beyer, wife of US Ambassador to Switzerland Don Beyer. Mrs. Beyer, a journalist and regular contributor to *Le Matin* in Geneva, spoke passionately about gender equality and women in corporate leadership.



My-Linh Kunst, FAWCO President with Ambassador and Mrs. Don and Megan Beyer who received the conference attendees at their residence for an Apero.

The speakers and UN Issues were the highlight of the conference: guest speaker Dr. Lisa Thomas of the World Health Organization introduced delegates to innovations in maternal health; Dr. Dorothea Hefti of Women's Hope International shared a moving presentation on their work in the field of obstetrics fistula; and Rosa Keller, a 16-year-old film maker, premiered her impressive work *Solutions*, a film on climate change. Global Aging Task Force chair, Kelly Fitzgerald (AWC Zurich), gave a workshop on Active Aging and FAUSA members, Ellen Mahoney and Judy Treanor, shared insights into repatriation challenges for teens, women and older persons. Lastly, author Preethi Burkholder gave a fascinating history lesson based on her book *17 Women that Shook the World* and examined the traits that made them extraordinary.

FAWCO delegates were treated to a lively panel Moving Mountains - Women and Politics in Switzerland. Switzerland's women only received their right to vote in 1972, yet by 2011, women formed the majority in the Federal Council, the seven member governing council of the country. Swiss political journalist Fritz Reimann moderated a panel of four women national council members: Claudine Esseiva, Margret Kiener Nellen, Christa Markwalder and Barbara Schmid-Federer, who talked about the long road of suffrage for women in Switzerland, the pros and cons of direct democracy giving anecdotal comparisons between Swiss and American politics.

Other introductions to Swiss culture included: conversations with Diccon Bewes, who gave delegates fascinating and amusing insights into the Swiss way of life based on his book *Swiss Watching*; a personalized tour of the Kunstmuseum's



FAWCO President My-Linh Kunst (left) and Susan Elbow (center), Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy with Swiss National Council members and panel moderator, journalist Fritz Reimann.

collection of Swiss artists and special exhibit featuring Johannes Itten and Paul Klee; and a casual evening of Swiss Raclette and entertainment by the Swiss Alpenhorn trio and a quintet playing Swiss folk songs.

While Task Force and Committee chairs got familiar with the recently published Handbooks, the FAWCO Club Presidents had a working session with FAWCO experts on Tune Up your By-Laws and both Club Presidents and FAWCO Reps worked with Jeannine Brutschin on Engaging Your Club with Collaborative Story Telling. During the Best Practices Round Table, delegates shared stories about Bridging the Digital Divide with ideas about how clubs have successfully made the change to new ways of communication (electronic, social media, e-vites, etc.). All delegates got a chance to learn more about both FAWCO (at the Face 2 Face and U.S. Issues sessions), as well as The FAWCO Foundation programs during the four-day conference.

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 Bern Conference logo for presentations, videos and pictures.

On behalf of the FAWCO Board, I would like to thank host club AWC Bern, Conference Co-Chairs Angela Aebersold and Anne Riz and their team of more than 20 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.



FAWCO delegates enjoying a Swiss evening of Raclette and Swiss folk music, sponsored by Emmi.

FAWCO 2013-2015 Board Announcement



New FAWCO Board: (L-R) Sallie Chaballier, Patti Meek, Laurie Richardson, Diane Letner, Monica Jubayli, and My-Linh Kunst.

At the 41st Biennial Conference in Bern, the FAWCO Board of Representatives elected FAWCO's new Board of Directors for 2013-2015. The incoming Board brings experience to the new term as President My-Linh Kunst has accepted a second term while 1st VP Communications, Monica Jubayli, joined the Board in 2011 as 3rd VP. The 2nd VP Member Clubs, Sallie Chaballier has come back to the Board after a short break as she was 3rd VP in 2010. Laurie Richardson, the new 3rd VP Committees and Task Forces, was FAWCO's Resolutions & Recommendations chair, and Secretary Patti Meek was the 2012 Conference Co-Chair. Diane Letner is brand new to FAWCO in her position as Treasurer.

New! FAWCO Youth Program



A new program was launched in Bern - the FAWCO Youth Program - with the mission to promote cultural understanding and raise awareness of global issues to our youth and develop them into responsible and caring global citizens. Barbara Bühling (AWC

Düsseldorf) has accepted the appointment to chair this important and exciting new program under the leadership of 3rd VP Laurie Richardson. The FAWCO Youth Program will most likely include several modules...current ideas are a cultural volunteer module, a UN youth module, a language exchange module and promotion for partner programs. Barbara is working closely with the Board and our UN team to design the Program for the coming year.

Pilot Project Announcement

A week-long pilot project for the Cultural Volunteer module, hosted by AWA Dubai, is open to FAWCO teens 15-17 years old (July 16-23, 2013). The teens will be hosted in AWA Dubai members' homes and will have the opportunity to volunteer in different local charities. Participants will receive a certificate and should receive community service credits (check with your school). The program will include cultural learning about the UAE and Ramadan, as well as the chance to experience the sights and sounds of a new country. Costs will be travel to Dubai and spending money. Lodging and most meals will be provided by the host families. Go to the FAWCO website under Global Issues/FAWCO Youth for more information or contact Barbara at fawcoyouth@fawco.org. **Registration deadline - June 15.**

Target Program 2013-2016: Human Rights for Women



At the Bern Conference, FAWCO President My-Linh Kunst announced the launch of Target Program 2013-2016, *Human Rights for Women*. **Johanna Dishongh (AWC The Hague)** has been appointed Target Program Chair. Task forces, clubs and individuals have until the end of September 2013 to nominate a project for consideration. The selected Target Project will be announced at FAWCO's Interim Meeting in Brussels and will be the recipient of fundraising efforts for two years starting in March 2014.

The Target Evaluation Task Force recommended that the Target Program support FAWCO's over-arching goal of improving the lives of women and girls. It also suggested shortening the Target Program timeline and cycle by launching new Target Programs rotating through FAWCO's four areas of focus on women and girls: Education, Environment, Health and Human Rights (refer to Resolution 1 of FAWCO's 2013-2015 Resolutions and Recommendations). Since the Malaria Project addressed Health and the Water Project was an Environmental effort, the two Boards (FAWCO and The Foundation) have voted that the next Target Program will be Human Rights for Women.

Please see more information on the FAWCO website or contact target@fawco.org.

Interim Conference 2014



The FAWCO Interim Conference 2014 will be held in Brussels, Belgium (March 13-15) hosted by AWC Brussels with the theme *A World of Possibilities*. Brussels is easy to reach and given the difference in hotel costs between a weeknight and a weekend night, the FAWCO Board has decided to shorten the conference to two and a half days starting on Thursday after lunch and going through Saturday evening. The conference will be compact, efficient but no less informational and inspiring. Mark your calendar for online registration opens October 1.

By Therese Hartwell (AWEP), FAWCO's Ending Violence Against Women and Children Task Force

Join Me on The Bridge Goes Global

While FAWCO conference participants were observing the *Join Me on the Bridge* movement in honor of International Women's Day en masse on the Kornhausbrücke in Bern, members of several FAWCO clubs organized their own observances in their own communities:



AWEP created a virtual bridge at their March meeting and observed a few moments of silence in solidarity with women suffering as a result of war.

AWEP also launched a bra collection to benefit Free the Girls, a small non-profit organization in the U.S. Free the Girls collects gently used bras and ships them to a partner organization in Mozambique, which distributes the bras to women who have escaped from a life of sex trafficking. Bras are very difficult to obtain in Mozambique, and by selling the bras, the trafficking survivors are able to earn a decent living. So far AWEP has collected over 500 bras in connection with this effort.

By the AWC Lebanon Charity Committee

AWC Lebanon's Aid for Syrian Refugees

Last year the American Women's Club of Lebanon (AWC Lebanon) donated \$2,000 worth of food boxes to Compassion Services which then supervised their delivery to the Syrian refugees in the North of Lebanon. This year the Syrian refugees' need for help is even greater, so the AWC Lebanon Charity Committee decided to donate another \$2,000 worth of food boxes to the Syrian refugees who have settled in Jbeil (Byblos). This donation was distributed to a small Muslim community lead by the Grand Mufti of Jbeil (Byblos) Ghassan Lakiss.

In March, Charity Chairperson Rihab Al Ouri along with AWC Lebanon members Sharron Labban and Betsy Mugharbil loaded two car trunks full of used clothes which had been donated by AWC Lebanon members and headed for the outskirts of Jbeil. They received a warm welcome from the Grand Mufti. Although the refugees were registered, little help had reached them in a long time.

The Grand Mufti Sheik Ghassan Lakkiss explained to the charity committee representatives that he also runs a clinic, Jamaeh el Nahda Al Khaireieh Al Islamieh. The clinic has physicians who administer general services for a discount as well as a dentist. The committee representatives visited the five-room clinic and were impressed by its immaculate condition. They were delighted to learn that the Grand Mufti had been approached by a Christian priest, who has offered to give English and Arabic lessons to the Syrian refugee children. Many of them have been without any schooling since they left their homeland.



AILO Florence calls for a "Stop to the Violence" on the Ponte Santa Trinita.



AWG Languedoc-Roussillon honor International Women's Day on the Passerelle Baron de Caravettes over the Lez River.

FAWCO REGIONAL MEETINGS – AUTUMN 2013

Region 2 – September 20-22, Gothenburg, Sweden

(American Women's Club of Gothenburg)

Region 3 – September 20-22, Paris, France

(AAWE Paris)

Region 4 – October 4-6, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

(ANCOR Rotterdam)

Region 1 – October 11-13, The Chilterns, England

(Chilterns American Women's Club)

Region 8 – October 11-13, Genoa, Italy

(American International Women's Club of Genoa)

Region 5 – November 8-10, Cologne, Germany

(American International Women's Club of Cologne)

2013 Club Anniversaries

American Women's Association of Angola
2003 - 10 years

American Women's Organization of Greece
1948 - 65 years

The American Women's Club of Bombay
1983 - 30 years

American Women's Association of Kenya
1958 - 55 years

The American Women's Club of Lebanon
1953 - 60 years

American Women's Organization of Moscow
1993 - 20 years

American Women of the Eastern Province
1993 - 20 years

Barcelona Women's Network
1998 - 15 years

American Women's Club of Gothenburg
1948 - 65 years

By Barbara Tengio and Elizabeth Lopez-Rigaudeau (AWC Zurich)

AWC Zurich’s PHASE Philosophy

The American Women’s Club of Zurich’s (AWCZ) philanthropic work focuses on international efforts (FAWCO) as well as local efforts (PHASE-Philanthropy and Social Engagement).

Throughout the year, PHASE highlights different philanthropic opportunities for member involvement. For example, in the fall PHASE promotes the Pink Ribbon Run/Walk for breast cancer. Twice a year, they organize and promote fundraisers for Terre des hommes, a children’s aid charity. On an ongoing basis, they bring attention to the Flying Croissant, an organization which collects leftover baked goods and delivers them to charities. Just recently they have held meetings to support the establishment in Zurich of ASK (All Special Kids), an organization that helps children with learning disabilities and their families. These opportunities are advertised in the AWC Zurich bi-monthly magazine, on their Facebook page, on their website, and through e-mail communications.

AWC Zurich’s volunteer efforts focus on women and women’s issues. They are actively researching a new club sponsored charity and have recently met with FIZ, an organization which provides advocacy and support for migrant women and victims of trafficking. At the FAWCO conference, AWCZ members got the idea to contact other clubs to see what they are doing on a local philanthropic level. Once the feedback is received, they will be sharing highlights back to all the clubs.

The Bern Conference inspired AWC Zurich to organize its own International Women’s Day event for 2014. They are currently in the process of obtaining permission from the City of Zurich. Once this is received they will invite all their local

charities, as well as some city employees, to join them to further build relationships.

PHASE operates under the guidance of Margaret Mead’s wise words: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

By Louise Greeley-Copely (AWEP Saudi Arabia)

Region 9 Meeting

The American Women of Doha and their spouses warmly welcomed attendees from Bahrain, Dubai, Germany, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Switzerland for a Region 9 meeting in Doha this past January. Regional attendees had social and club networking opportunities; information on the FAWCO network including the FAWCO Foundation and FAUSA; the Qatar Foundation’s building of a global education city with ten of the world’s best universities and medical education facilities; a presentation on current U.S. Banking and Tax issues by FAWCO sponsor, US Tax and Financial Services; plus an entertaining talk by the famous “Pearl Man.” In between learning, sharing best practices and expanding their network of friends, participants found time to see the stunning Islamic Art Museum, Katara Cultural Village and the Souk. Qatar has seen rapid growth in the last 15 years and has thoughtfully accomplished this growth upholding a respect for tradition, culture and philanthropy.

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By Monica Jubayli (AWA Dubai), FAWCO 1st VP Communications

Curtis Brown Spirit Award

Anne van Oorschot (AWC The Hague)

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 2013 recipient is Anne van Oorschot (AWC The Hague). From the beginning, Anne embraced the FAWCO Target Program and took up the cause, inspiring us all to rally behind her call. She persevered until the very end to elicit the support of all FAWCO clubs. She never gave up! Her Target Bulletins were always something to look forward to: full of pertinent information with a twist of personal anecdotes that made the Target Program a reality for her readers. Anne's dedicated efforts resulted in a resounding fundraising success for FAWCO's Target Program "Wells for Clean Water!"



Anne van Oorschot promoting "Water Sustainability."

By Elizabeth Abbot (AIO Florence), FAWCO 2nd VP Member Clubs 2011-13

FAWCO Salutes Three Outstanding Reps



Amy Patrick receiving Rep Award from 2nd VP Elizabeth Abbot.

Amy Patrick (North American Connection)

Just do it is her motto and Amy has done it all - from fundraising, to organizing, to editing, to PR. After reading *Half the Sky*, she convinced her club members to contribute to a FAWCO Foundation NEEDED Scholarship in Burkina Faso. With only a FAWCO scarf in hand, she raised enough funds in one hour to build a well for three families in Cambodia. Passionate about everything, Amy then organized a presentation by US Tax and Financial Services.

Amy didn't stop at the club level and stepped forward to help with the Summer 2012 FORUM as layout editor, staying on for the Winter 2012 and Summer 2013 issues – a beautiful job we all have admired. Amy then put FAWCO back on the media map as our PR manager with articles in The New York Times, The Chicago Tribune and soon a broadcast on a National Sri Lankan Network. If that were not enough, Amy then agreed to serve as interim advertising manager and was instrumental in the recent return of Clements as a platinum advertiser.



Tricia Saur receiving Rep Award from 2nd VP, Elizabeth Abbot.

Tricia Saur (AIOC Cologne)

Tricia's first experience with FAWCO was when she went to the 2009 conference in Vilnius as her club's president. This year, new to the role as FAWCO Rep, she jumped in and took off by creating a petition for her club to support the passing of bill HR 597, a bill to create a bi-partisan commission to study the impact of government policies upon the millions of Americans living overseas.

Tricia then took this petition to the FAWCO network with a call to action to leverage its impact. She regularly contributes five pages of FAWCO news to her club's 40-page newsletter so that the members of her club remain engaged. In addition, she was recruited to add an important voice to the Target Program Evaluation Task Force. When Tricia speaks, her club members have learned to listen.



Jocelyn Fitzgerald receiving Rep Award from 2nd VP, Elizabeth Abbot.

Jocelyn Fitzgerald (AIO Florence)

Jocelyn has been recognized for the work she has done over the past five years to bring FAWCO to her club and region. Under Jocelyn's leadership, AIO Florence has held one fundraising event after another for the Target Water Project (30 by club members and another 38 by outside donors). In addition, she introduced her club to the issue of Ending Violence Against Women and Children and the AODVC poster is now the standard back cover of AIO's monthly newsletter. Jocelyn also convinced her club to co-sponsor the Skills for Life Development Grant.

To spread FAWCO to her region, she organized the only regional meeting to have taken place in her region in the past five years. When her club was not able to contribute to a regional project, Jocelyn went to outside sources to make sure that a regional fundraising project was a success. Jocelyn makes you smile as you say "yes." She embodies the spirit of FAWCO. Unfortunately, Jocelyn was not present in Bern to receive her award in person.

By Michele Hendrikse DuBois (Munich IWC), The FAWCO Foundation President 2012-15



Knights in White Satin The FAWCO Foundation Gala raises over \$42,000!

The FAWCO Foundation would like to thank everyone who contributed in making this year's gala at the Bern conference a rousing success. Your generosity helped raise over \$42,000 for The Foundation's 2014 core programs. Additionally, individual donations and participation in the *Wishing Well Fun-raiser* contributed over \$2,700 for the Eleanor Roosevelt Girls Leadership Worldwide program.

We continued last year's very successful high-end item raffle fun-raiser by offering a pair of beautiful diamond earrings with Mary Adams of ANCOR being the lucky winner. The always popular Friendship Quilt raffle was won by Clydette de Groot of AWG Paris. Clydette will not take immediate possession of the quilt as Ambassador Betty King invited us to display the quilt at the next US Mission quilt show in Geneva. As always, we thank all the individuals and clubs who created squares for the quilt and Roberta Zöllner for creating another beautiful piece of art.

FAWCO Foundation Board Elected for 2013-2015 Term



The FAWCO Foundation Board wraps up their first board term.

After serving a special one-year term created to align the elections of The FAWCO Foundation and FAWCO Boards, the 2012-2013 FAWCO Foundation Board was re-elected for the 2013-2015 term on Saturday, March 9th. All board members will continue in the same position as last year. They are looking forward to working with FAWCO member clubs and FAUSA to continue providing the programs they want The FAWCO Foundation to support. The FAWCO Foundation Board is also looking forward to creating and implementing a new fundraising strategy that will enrich and support all of the Foundation's core programs - Education Awards, Development Grants, NEEDED Scholarships and the new Target Program.



FAWCO, FAUSA and The FAWCO Foundation Counselors at the gala.



The finalists for best dressed "knight in white satin."

Celebrate a Birthday, Graduation or Recognize Someone Special with a Donation to one of our Programs

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 one of The FAWCO Foundation's programs? Upon request, 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. Simply go to our website and under "Donations" and "How Can I Donate," select the program you wish to support. You can pay by Paypal, check drawn on US banks or bank transfer. This is truly a gift which keeps on giving!



2013 Development Grant and Education Awards Recipients Announced

DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

The 2013 Development Grant ballot contained 19 submissions in seven categories, each grant receiving \$4,500. Each category targets an area of global concern in keeping with the UN Millennium Development Goals. The recipients were announced at the biennial conference in Bern, Switzerland.

THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND WATER

Sponsored in part by FAUSA and the Copley Family

Amis des Ecoles (Friends of Schools)

Casablanca, Morocco, www.amisdesecoles.org

CRITICAL HEALTH CONCERNS

Sponsored in part by AWC Zurich

The Fistula Foundation

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, www.fistulafoundation.org

AW OF SURREY HOPE THROUGH EDUCATION

SPOSA CHILD

Negros, Philippines, www.abscbnfoundation.org

PAM DAHLGREN'S EDUCATING AFRICA'S CHILDREN

Mama Anakuja-Home for the Needy

Malindi, Kenya, mamaanakuja@yahoo.com

THE AMERICAN WOMEN OF THE EASTERN PROVINCE SKILLS FOR LIFE

Sponsored in part by AILO Florence

Women's Vocational College at Vision People's in Mission Korogocho Slums

Nairobi, Kenya, www.visionpeoples.co.ke

AROUND THE CORNER, A WORLD AWAY

Sponsored in part by AWC Genoa, in memory of Carol Bordoni

Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Dublin, Ireland www.ispcc.ie

THE COUGHLAN FOUNDATION, PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND TUBERCULOSIS

Mothers Averting Aids

Khayelitsha, South Africa, www.artaidsart.org

EDUCATION AWARDS

The FAWCO Foundation has been supporting education since it offered its first education awards in 1972. Created by and for FAWCO club members and their children, the program recognizes and honors their academic excellence and all-around achievement. The recipients were announced at the biennial conference in Bern, Switzerland.

SCIENCES AWARD \$3,500

Sponsored in part by AWC Genoa in memory of Frieda Baciagalupo Natali and AWC Zurich.

Wilson Brace (His mother is a member of AW Berkshire & Surrey.)

HUMANITIES AWARD \$3,500

Sponsored in part by AAWE Paris in memory of Gertrude de Gallaix.

Laura Brace (Her mother is a member of AW Berkshire & Surrey.)

2nd HUMANITIES AWARD \$3,500

Sponsored in part by Donna Erismann in memory of Suzanne Erismann and AWC Bern.

Thaddeus Jahn (His mother is a member of AWC Dusseldorf.)

AWC BASEL MEMBER AWARD FOR UNIVERSITY DEGREE STUDY PROGRAMS \$5,000

Sponsored by Shirley Kearney.

Tamara Chant (She is a member of AWG Paris.)

FAUSA MEMBER SKILLS ENHANCEMENT AWARD \$3,000

Therese Hartwell (She is a member of AW of the Eastern Province.)

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