Winter 2013

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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 68 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: Kristin Haanes

FAWCO UN Reps to Chair United Nations Committees

FAWCO is proud to recognize the efforts of two of its UN Reps, Sara von Moos, UN Rep – Geneva and Erica Higbie, UN Rep – New York, who have been asked to chair committees that they have been involved with as part of their UN duties.

FAWCO UN Representative, Erica Higbie, member of FAUSA, became active with the Working Group on Girls (WGG) last year helping to organize the “Girls Tribunal on Violence” (http://girlsrights.org/girls-tribunal-on-violence/) at the 57th Commission on the Status of Women.

In August 2013, Erica became Chair of the WGG Advocacy Committee which works with permanent missions to the UN to influence government policy on issues unique to girls such as child marriage, trafficking, FGM and equal access to education.

FAWCO UN Rep Sara von Moos, AWC Bern, (pictured here in the Human Rights Council Chambers) has been appointed Co-Chair of the UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) Beijing +20 Regional Review Task Force responsible for overseeing the coordination of the conference. Sara’s appointment was made by NGO CSW Geneva President and General Secretary of the World YWCA Ms. Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda.

UNECE, which has 53 member states, will hold its Regional Review in Geneva in November 2014 in the form of a two-day conference attended by an expected 200 representatives of UN agencies, NGO’s and women’s groups.

by Barbara Bühling (AWC Düsseldorf), FAWCO Youth Program Chair

FAWCO YOUTH: The First Cultural Volunteers Program a Success

The FAWCO Youth Cultural Volunteers Program got off to a great start when seven of our FAWCO youth volunteers traveled to the United Arab Emirates for a week hosted by AWA Dubai members.

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FAWCO Youth, Al Ihsan
President’s Message

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. Register online now!

Interim Conference 2014

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**FAWCO Friendship Quilt goes on display at United Nations in Geneva**

At the invitation of Ambassador Betty King, keynote speaker at the FAWCO Biennial Conference held in Bern last March, the 2013 FAWCO Friendship Quilt “Time” went on display this summer at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.


United Nations Director-General, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, opened the exhibition stressing the importance of women’s empowerment for social and economic development. The US Mission and “Quilt for Change” have teamed up twice before to promote women’s empowerment through quilt exhibitions in 2011, together with UNFPA on Women, Peace & Security and, in 2009, with The Global Fund on AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria. Plans for a future quilt exhibition are underway and an invitation has already been extended to FAWCO!

FAWCO quilters who might be interested in using their quilting skills to become even greater agents of social change, or who wish to expand their quilting network, should contact “Quilt for Change” at quiltforchange@me.com.

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**Update from UN HQ in New York**

Committee on the Status of Women (CSW)

In March 2013, the United Nation’s 57th annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) made significant progress on the issues of violence against women and girls. More than 6,000 global leaders came together to debate this fundamental human rights issue.

Declaration of Women Rights

A strongly worded declaration, which condemns all forms of violence and the invocation of custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid obligations with respect to their elimination, was ultimately passed by the General Assembly. Emergency contraception for women who have been raped, comprehensive sex education and stopping child, early and forced marriages were among the specific inclusions.

Post 2015 Development Goals

The upcoming 58th Commission on the Status of Women in March 2014 will focus on women’s human rights and their place in the Post 2015 Development Agenda: successor to the 15 year Millennium Development Goals. Many agree that human rights should be the overarching theme for new, sustainable development goals.

New Themes for post 2015 goals

The dominant themes within the human rights recommendations include environmental sustainability, peace and security, violence and gender equality. UN Women is pushing hard for gender considerations across all aspects of the Post 215 Framework.

The main goal is to get gender equality at the top of the global political agenda.

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By Sara von Moos (AWC Bern), FAWCO UN Rep, Geneva

**FAWCO FORUM WINTER 2013***
The Theme for FAWCO Target Program 2013-16 is Human Rights for Women

In March 2013, Human Rights for Women – Protecting the Rights and Improving the Lives of Women and Girls Worldwide was announced as the overarching theme for the three year FAWCO Target Program. The Target Program offers opportunities for local FAWCO Clubs to make a global difference by contributing toward the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

The FAWCO Target Program has two aspects:

The Target Education/Awareness Program will focus on women’s rights as human rights, specifically political empowerment and participation, economic empowerment, peace and security and defense of violence against women.

The Target Fundraising is our opportunity to select and support a project that meets the target goal. Applications for the Target Project were accepted through September 2013. The winner will be announced at the Brussels Conference in March 2014, which will also mark the beginning of a two-year fundraising campaign.

Women’s equality is undermined by historical imbalances in decision-making power and access to resources, rights, and entitlements for women. Women in many countries still lack the right to own land and to inherit property, obtain access to credit, attend school, earn income and move up in their work, free from job discrimination. Moreover, women are still widely under-represented in decision-making at all levels, in the household and in the public sphere.

In every country and socio-economic level, women face gender-specific persecution including rape, genital mutilation, sexual slavery, forced prostitution and domestic violence. We have the obligation to prevent, protect against, and punish violence against women whether perpetrated by private or public actors. By participating collectively in the Target Program, we are able to demonstrate the power of FAWCO Clubs working together toward a common goal.

Congratulations to the following projects which were nominated by FAWCO member clubs for the Target Project:
- Kathmandu Rehabilitation Center
  Maiti Nepal
  AWC Perth - Kath Balfour
- Empowering Children
  Nepal Orphan’s Home
  AWG Paris – Tamara Chant
- International Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Safety Net
  Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center
  FAUSA - Paula Lucas
- Abolish Kamalari Tradition (Nepal)
  Maria Kramer Stiftung
  Hamburg AIWC – Tracy Moede
- Bakery on Wheels (Sri Lanka)
  Rajarata Women’s Foundation (Rajarata Praja Kendraya)
  AILO Florence – Tina Carrari
- Empowering Women = Progress and Development (Nigeria)
  IROKO ONLUS
  AAEW Paris – Bernice Dubois
- Promoting Freedom from Sexual Violence For Women (Morocco)
  Mobilising for Rights Associates
  AIWC Casablanca – Cynthia Smith-Ayed
- Restoring Smiles through Dance
  KOLKATA SANVED
  AAEW – Corinne Marquart-Ott
- Assilassime’ Solidarite’: Hand in Hand (Togo)
  Entrepreneurs du Monde
  ANC Rotterdam – Mary Adams

FAST FACTS:

Women work two-thirds of the world’s working hours and produce half of the world’s food. Yet, they earn only 10 percent of the world’s income, own less than 1 percent of the world’s property, and represent 70% of the world’s poor.

“A woman is human. She is not better, wiser, stronger, more intelligent, more creative, or more responsible than a man. Likewise, she is never less. Equality is a given. A woman is human.”

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

**Where do we stand?**

... an end-of-year update on some of the things that have been in the FAWCO news

**FATCA**

For most of us in FAWCO today, Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) has come to symbolize invasive reporting on private financial information related to our legitimate accounts in the countries where we live and work (and often, those of our non-American spouses).

However, there has been some good news: the original $50,000-aggregate threshold above which individuals are required to submit IRS Form 8938 with their tax declaration has been raised to $200,000; the deadline for FATCA reporting has been pushed back, several times; Treasury has created an extremely complete and helpful “topic index” for overseas filers (http://taxmap.ntis.gov/taxmap/internationalindex.htm); foreign financial institutions are now obliged to report extensively only on “high-value” or “high-risk” accounts. We must also remember that FATCA is a fact: it has been signed into law and both EU and OECD countries are exploring ways to implement their own versions.

Following the first “joint statement” signed in late 2012 between the United States and France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK, seven countries (Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Mexico, Norway, Spain and the UK) have signed “Model 1” InterGovernmental Agreements, and two (Japan and Switzerland) have signed “Model 2” IGAs.

**Voting**

Four more states (Kentucky, Missouri, Montana and Pennsylvania) enacted the Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act (UMOVA) in 2013, bringing the current total to 13 in addition to DC. States are free not to adopt the Act in its entirety, so that some states have decided, like Utah, not to extend voting eligibility to U.S. citizens who reach voting age without ever having lived in the United States. UMOVA’s most important benefits are to extend UOCAVA protections to state and local elections, as well as special and run-off federal elections.

And one more state (California) has joined the growing list of those that allow young Americans who have not yet established residency in the U.S. to vote at the address of their eligible parent(s).

**... and more good news**

FAWCO partner Overseas Vote Foundation will once again provide us with a dedicated FAWCO-OVF voter registration and ballot request website for truly “one-stop shopping” for visitors to the FAWCO website (including the election official directory for needed addresses and phone numbers, state-specific deadlines and other voting information).

January 2 is the time to start the new year off right on the FAWCO home page (you must request your ballot in every calendar year!), clicking on the FAWCO-OVF button.

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**US TAX & FINANCIAL SERVICES**

The US Tax & Financial Services specialist team of cross border advisors provides tax advice, guidance, planning and compliance services for individuals, partnerships, corporations, trusts and estates for anyone subjected to the US tax system, wherever they may be in the world. Established more than 25 years ago, US Tax & Financial has offices in London, Zurich, Geneva and Jerusalem with clients in more than 32 countries.

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ustaxfs.com
By Eileen Green-Doyle (AWC Dublin), FAWCO Region 1 Coordinator

REGION 1: Sharing Information and Communication Skills

The purpose of the Region 1 Meeting was sharing information, learning easier and safer ways of communicating with each other, and providing the time to exchange ideas. Patti Meek and Margaret Hilditch provided us with a vivid look into FAWCO and the FAWCO Foundation. Johanna Dishongh’s presentation on Human Rights for Women affected every woman in the room. It was a great way to introduce the new FAWCO Target Program.

We found some truly inspiring women working on philanthropic projects and club Best Practices. Betsy Speer of Surrey shared her son’s experience with the FAWCO Youth Program. Cathy Marland spoke about Surrey’s idea to help women who are victims of sex trafficking. The club collects old bras which are sent to women who establish businesses selling these items, thereby attaining economic freedom. We concurred that this is a doable project for the entire Region.

Among the superb speakers was Tahirih Danesh, who was born in Iran and lived there during the Revolution. She has travelled the world working in the field of human rights for over twenty years. Her speech challenged us all to continue the discourse on the subject of human rights, and to begin teaching three values to our children before the age of five.

We devoted most of the afternoon session to computers and business, computer safety, and computer links. Patti Shield of AWC Dublin made a presentation on computers and business. Amy Patrick of NAC pointed out important links to FAWCO and the FAWCO Foundation to help members utilize information there and improve upon it. Yalda Zand spoke about security and computers.

Nancy Ward of AWC Dublin spoke about volunteerism, and presented everyone with a helpful list along with an organization chart. We ended the day with a preview of the 2014 Brussels Conference, presented by Leslie Collingridge. The venue at the Buckinghamshire Golf Club created a beautiful ambiance and enhanced the day.

By Kara Fairchild (AWC Gothenburg), FAWCO Region 2 Coordinator

REGION 2: Thinking in and out of the box in Gothenburg

When the American Women’s Club of Gothenburg discussed the planning of the Region 2 Regional Meeting, three recurring thoughts came up consistently: “show them who we are as a club”, “keep it relaxed”, and “feed the guests good food”!

Looking back on the Region 2 meeting held on September 20-22 in Gothenburg, Sweden, I think we accomplished all goals! The weekend kicked off with the “traditional” dinner hosted by AWCG’s members. The AWCG is a club with an embracing spirit. So, carrying on the Region 2 tradition of a pot luck-style dinner was never in question. We just spiced it up a little by making it all about PIE. (An idea borrowed from our friends and neighbors, the AWC of Malmö!) The dinner was held at the club’s regular meeting location, the Emigrant Museum in Gothenburg.

The next day, it was off to another museum, the World Culture Museum for the main conference day, “Thinking Outside the Box: which box would you choose?” Throughout the day, we heard speakers talk about daring to (re)define who we are, about when to embrace organizational thought (inside the box) in order to allow for creative problem solving (outside the box), and how to retrain ourselves to see something amazing in something seemingly mundane. And, of course, we ate: cupcakes, sandwiches, a big lunch, carrot cake and, a fabulous vegetarian Indian dinner at a local hot spot. Oh, how we ate!

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Turns out we needed the extra calories though because the unseasonably wonderful weather gave way to a nasty cold Gothenburg torrential downpour just in time for the Sunday walk. What are girls to do when the heavens are pouring down? Introduce the out-of-town guests to Swedish “fika” at the oldest building in the city, of course! (Fika = coffee + something sweet or a sandwich.)
By Deborah Lillian (AAWE Paris), FAWCO Rep

REGION 3: C’était tellement formidable in Paris!

The Region 3 conference, held in Paris over the weekend of September 21-22, drew over 50 participants, including over 30 AAWE members, as well as members of AWG Paris and AWG Languedoc-Roussillon, and representatives from the Bordeaux Women’s Club and FAWCO clubs from Brussels, Berlin, The Hague, and Zurich.

Sallie Chaballier, (FAWCO 2nd VP) organized an enriching program, ranging from My-Linh Kunst’s (FAWCO President) inspiring opening remarks to a rousing fund-raising speech (Suzanne Wheeler, VP Fundraising, FAWCO Foundation and FAUSA) to an oh-so-French perfume workshop.

Louise Greeley-Copeley, (FAUSA Counselor) who had come to the conference from Saudi Arabia, spoke empathetically about those of us who return to America, often finding that we “can’t (quite) go home again.” We learned how FAUSA can help members who are experiencing various levels of difficulty in re-acclimating to our own country.

Johanna Dishongh, (FAWCO Target Chair) encouraged our respective clubs to raise awareness about the Target Issue, Human Rights for Women, and funds for the Target Project, soon to be announced at the Interim Conference in Brussels, for which Wendy Warren-Schueremans (FAWCO Conference Co-Chair) gave a light-hearted and tempting presentation. Lucy Laederich (FAWCO US Liaison) spoke with her typical dynamism about the new FATCA policy, as well as various other Voter Reform and taxation issues.

Our guest speaker was Patti O’Neill (coordinator of the DAC Network on Gender Equality, Global Policies and Partnerships Division, OECD). Patti gave a galvanizing talk on all that still needs to happen with regard to the Millennium Development Goals, specifically those concerning Women’s Rights.

Louise Greeley-Copeley won the beautiful quilt whipped up by our own talented FAWCO Foundation VP for Programs, Nan de Laubadere (AAWE Paris, FAUSA). AAWE was thrilled to raise almost EU 1000 through this tombola for the new Target Project, Human Rights for Women!

By Mary Adams (ANCOR ), FAWCO Rep

REGION 4: Collaboration: Every Accomplishment starts with the Decision to Try

FAWCO’s Region 4 (BeNeLux) meeting, hosted by ANC Rotterdam, took place in Rotterdam October 4-6, 2013. Approximately 30 participants joined us from the region (AWC Amsterdam, AWC Antwerp, AWC Brussels, AWC The Hague, AWC Luxembourg, ANC Rotterdam).

When planning the Region 4 (BeNeLux) meeting, the ANC Rotterdam (ANCOR) observed that due to our small size we can’t sponsor events and activities – but we could join existing ongoing projects sponsored by other clubs. We wanted to design a meeting that would awaken the collaborative spirit of our meeting with the theme “Collaboration: Every Accomplishment Starts with the Decision to Try”.

The morning session was dedicated to FAWCO presentations. The afternoon session consisted of break out group discussions on club issues and a presentation from AWC The Hague member Kristine Racina on her role as Director of Expatriate Archives and how FAWCO clubs might contribute as expatriate information donors.

Dorien Briels, FAWCO Rep from AWC Amsterdam, asked attendees to bring a bra to support Free the Girls (www.freethegirls.org), an effort promoted by the EVAWAC Committee of FAWCO’s Human Rights Task Force. Thanks to Patricia Hengelmolen, ANCOR Hospitality, ANCOR offered a number of scarves made by native women in Southeast Asia for sale to generate our first (tiny) regional fundraising campaign for TARGET.

We were lucky to have such strong FAWCO representatives involved to help us define what is “possible” for Region 4 to accomplish. For the participants, I think that Anne Morrow Lindbergh expressed it best: “Good communication is as stimulating as black coffee, and just as hard to sleep after.”
REGION 8: Christopher Columbus Celebrations with FAWCO Fever

Fittingly, FAWCO’s Region 8 (Italy & Greece) regional meeting, hosted by AIWC of Genoa, took place during the Columbus Day holiday weekend in Genoa – Arenzano as Genoa is the birthplace of Christopher Columbus.

Nearly 30 participants joined us from the region (AIWC Torino, Benvenuto Club Milan, AITO Florence, AWAR Rome, AIWC Naples, AWOG Greece), as well as a participant from Region 2 (AWC Oslo). Our goal was to put the faces to the names of many of our region’s newest members. Region 8 has had a turnover in positions recently so there were introductions to be made and FAWCO Fever to be ignited.

The morning business session held at Galata Museum began with a bus ride into the old city Expo area of Genoa. After a warm welcome by Lesleigh Rizzi President of AIWC of Genoa, FAWCO President, My-Linh Kunst, gave several presentations covering FAWCO, the new Target Project and the 2014 conference to be held in Brussels.

Sarah Wallace, member of AIWC of Genoa, did a presentation on her project “Women for Girls”. A presentation on the Heart Pillow Project, demonstrating to what levels it has soared, was given by Grace Christovasilis of AWOG Greece. We were honored to be able to be part of the wreath laying ceremony held at the Columbus House presented by the mayor, Anna Maria Saiano.

Sunday morning was dedicated to our discussion group; including topics on the difficulties of club membership with today’s changing times and fundraising. After some brainstorming, Region 8 is almost set with a regional bundle donation package for the 2014 Foundation fundraising evening.

Thank you to the AIWC of Genoa team for a great weekend. The fever has been spread and we are anxious to see the temperatures rise!
By Maggie Palu (AWG Languedoc-Roussillon), FAWCO Rep

**Bras for “FREE THE GIRLS”**

“Free the Girls” (http://freethegirls.org) is a small, non-profit organization in the US which supports women and girls in Mozambique rescued from sex trafficking providing an opportunity for these women to earn a living selling second-hand clothing while going to school, improving their health, and helping to provide for their families. The organization was featured in a CNN Freedom Project documentary.

FAWCO’s EVAWAC committee of the Human Rights Task Force has launched an initiative to collect new or gently-used bras for these women to sell. AWG Languedoc-Roussillon is supporting “Free the Girls” and helped to fill a “Hope Chest” with a donation of 26 “new or slightly used” bras which will be sent to Mozambique.

Bras can be dropped off at a number of points listed on the “Free the Girls” website or sent directly to their domestic shipping address at 1552 Pioneer Trail, Chesterton, Indiana 46304, accompanied by the “Bra Donation Form” which is available on the “Free the Girls” website.

Melissa Swearingen Watson, National Director of “Free the Girls”, extended her heartfelt thanks to members of AWG-LR and other FAWCO clubs who participate in this truly unique philanthropic program.

By Karen Geraghty (AWC Dublin)

**“Coincidences mean you are on the right path.”**

When my husband and I moved to Dublin over five years ago it wasn’t for any other reason except for a dream come true. As a dual citizen (through my grandparents) I had always said that one day, some day, I’d live in Ireland.

We have never looked back and savour our life on this side of the pond. I never felt the need for American friends here in Ireland (or so I thought, see footnote below*), but what was lacking in my life here was community involvement.

Fate played its hand when at my first American Women’s Club of Dublin meeting it was announced that they needed a philanthropic chair. I whispered to someone on the nominating committee that I had extensive experience with fundraising, but since I was a “newbie” I didn’t expect to be the chair, just happy to offer my help. Apparently, no one seemed to mind that it was my inaugural meeting and before I could blink I was chosen as the chair!

It was serendipity that the chosen charity that year was the ISPCC (Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) since I myself was a survivor of child abuse and neglect. I said nothing to my committee or even the representative from the ISPCC, about my past. I spent that year dedicated to overcoming the people who said, “It’s a recession, you have to lower your expectations about how much you can raise.” With a fabulous committee and a supportive club president, we raised over 17,000 euros through various fundraising activities every month.

On the day prior to our last fundraising event, I decided it was time I shared my story with the club members so I presented my story in such as way as to thank them on behalf of the kids who couldn’t. I know in my life there had been “angels unaware” and I wished I could have said thanks.

I didn’t realize that my words had made such an impact to the club until Eileen Doyle approached me and offered to help with submitting a grant to FAWCO to benefit the ISPCC. And destiny is indeed sweet as the DG 2013 recipient of “Around the corner, a world away” 4,500 euro grant was the ISPCC. The check presentation to the ISPCC took place at the Cheeries for Childline (which is part of ISPCC) kick off breakfast. Funny how things happen for a reason. Cheerios was one of the products for television advertising I appeared in as a child actress. (I never actually saw any money from the Cheerios commercial, or any of the acting jobs I did in my youth, because my mother spent it all on her drug habit.) So in a strange twist of fate, I feel that the check presentation was a visible sign of something positive from something painful.

I want to acknowledge FAWCO, the American Women’s Club of Dublin and my appreciation for my American friends in Ireland! (*Footnote; I really do need you after all! There is a quote that says, “Coincidences mean you are on the right path.” I am delighted to get that confirmation and will continue to embrace those “meant to be” moments!)*

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*AWC Dublin check presentation: Nancy Ward (AWCD/Fawco), Eileen Doyle (AWCD/Fawco), Ashley Balbirnie (ISPCC CEO), Karen Geraghty (AWCD) flank Carmen Taheny (ISPCC Corporate Fundraising Executive)*
**NEWS FROM OUR CLUBS**

**AWA Rome Hold’s Its Annual Garden Party**

The AWAR club’s season was launched September 26 with a Garden Party held at Villa Taverna; a beautiful residence of the U.S. Ambassador to Italy, John Phillips and in Rome and his wife and our Honorary President, Linda Douglass. Since the mid-1960s, this event has permitted our members to enjoy a superb garden setting and celebrate the start of the new season.

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**FAWCO YOUTH: The First Cultural Volunteers Program a Success**

A highlight of the trip was the opportunity to interact with Emirati teens from the Sheikh Mohammed Center for Cultural Understanding. The teens first met to share Iftar together and to learn about the culture and customs of Dubai.

The teens were asked to jointly prepare a video presenting their project and to individually write an essay about the trip in their own words. In his essay, Anthony von Moos summed up exactly what FAWCO Youth hopes to achieve. “As a result of my trip to Dubai, I no longer think the way I used to. I now realize that Islam is a religion often misused in the name of honor and justice… in spite of appearances, deep down inside, people are really all the same, no matter what religion we practice, how we dress or where we live.”

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Theresa Dommett, Monica Jubayli and Tammy Kyle of AWA Dubai, the week was full of sightseeing, volunteering and fun.

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### 2014 Club Anniversaries

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<td>American Women’s Association of Vienna</td>
<td>1924-90 years</td>
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<td>American Women’s Club of Brussels</td>
<td>1949-65 years</td>
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<td>The American Women’s Club of Antwerp</td>
<td>1929-85 years</td>
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<td>American Women’s Club in Denmark</td>
<td>1934-80 years</td>
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<td>The American Women’s Club of London</td>
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<td>North American Connection</td>
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<td>American Women’s Group in Paris</td>
<td>1949-65 years</td>
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<td>American Women’s Club of Düsseldorf</td>
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<td>American Women’s Club in Liechtenstein</td>
<td>1994-20 years</td>
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<td>American Women’s Club of Luxembourg</td>
<td>1959-55 years</td>
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<td>American Women’s Club of Oslo</td>
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<td>American Women’s Club of Bern</td>
<td>1959-55 years</td>
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**AWC Shanghai will be hosting the FAWCO Youth Program 2014. Check the FAWCO website for details and applications.**
**FAUSA–FAWCO Alumnae USA** is a vibrant and growing association of individuals who share the common experience of having lived abroad and who have returned to North America.

**Why Join FAUSA?**
People who have lived outside their own country see the world through different eyes from those who haven’t had that opportunity. Our experiences are quite different, our friends more diverse, we (and our children) are likely to speak another language or two, and we are familiar with other cultures, through residency or travel. In short, our perspective has changed. As a FAUSA member, you can:

**Be understood.**
FAUSA is a network of global citizens who have returned to the US, Canada, and Puerto Rico who share your experience of having lived outside our borders. They have felt the feelings that you may be experiencing since you returned, and would like to provide the support and information you may need.

**Stay connected or reconnect**
Membership is the perfect way to stay connected or to reconnect to that important international side of your life and with the friends you made overseas. Members are eligible to participate in FAWCO activities, including the annual FAWCO Conference.

**Meet and greet and give back**
FAUSA holds its Annual Meeting every Fall, in a different part of the United States. It is both a business meeting and a social event, with a program geared for fun! There, you’re likely to see old friends from overseas and will make new ones who have shared similar experiences.

By Janet Darrow, FAUSA President

**FAUSA Annual meeting “Meet me in the Middle” meets in Cincinnati**

This year’s FAUSA Getaway and Annual Meeting took place at the end of September in the city of Cincinnati. Rick Chizmadia and his “Meet me in the Middle” team launched a successful and professional event. After collecting our goody bags, conference booklets and the glossy FAUSA magazine, *Highlights*, we had a relaxing start to the long weekend at Rick and his partner, Richard Hobson’s beautiful home. Entertainment included a photo booth and concert by singer/guitarist, Josh Rogan.

Friday was a whirlwind of tourist activities including a hike to the top of the Carew Tower for a commanding view of the city and surrounding areas, an ice cream tasting, a Duck Boat tour, and a tour of the Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Lunch was at the Hofbrauhaus across the river in Kentucky, where Francie Pepper gave a moving speech about her work with victims of domestic abuse and human trafficking.

The FAUSA Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday morning with the election of next year’s Board. That night we held a gala dinner, award ceremony and fundraising event for FAUSA Philanthropic programs with a Silent and Live Auction; quilt raffle and bra collection for Freethegirls.org. Our speaker for the evening was Clint Weber, who spoke about his grandmother, the forward-thinking, Weber Furlong, and her artistic contributions.

FAUSA is proud to report that almost $7,000 dollars was raised during the evening. That money, along with a generous donation from the Ripps Family, will ensure that we meet our goals to sponsor The FAWCO Foundation Skills Enhancement Award as well as the Right to Food and Water Development Grant. It will also fund the new Annual FAUSA Grant which was awarded this year to the Houston Rescue and Restores Girls Prevention Program which counsels at risk girls about the dangers of Human Trafficking. It will be our banner project for a year. The successful fundraising should also help us change our status from a 501c4 to a tax deductible 501c3 organization.
The FAWCO Foundation’s sole purpose is to put into action FAWCO’s stated interest in the global community by specifically aiding charitable, scientific and educational programs and supporting the rights of women and children throughout the world. For over 45 years, The Foundation has stayed true to this purpose.

2014 FAWCO FOUNDATION PROGRAMS
The FAWCO Foundation supports four core programs: Education Awards, Development Grants, NEEED Scholarships and the FAWCO Target Project, featuring $25,000 in Education Awards and $36,000 in Development Grants. The Development Grants (DGs) now align with FAWCO’s four areas of focus: Education, Environment, Health, and Human Rights. Guidelines, eligibility information, applications and nominating forms can be found on The Foundation’s website, www.fawcofoundation.org.

2014 DEVELOPMENT GRANTS:
The Development Grant program is open to all FAWCO clubs and to FAUSA, each of which can propose two of their charitable projects. These $4,500 grants can provide immediate financial relief in a difficult economic situation for organizations dedicated to helping underprivileged populations throughout the world.

THE 2014 DEVELOPMENT GRANTS ARE:
Environment:
FAUSA Water Runs Through It (NEW) – water-related projects.
AWC Shanghai A World of Possibilities (NEW) - non-water focused environmental sustainability
Health:
AWC The Hague Critical Health Concerns
The Coughlan Family Foundation Prevention of Infectious Disease
Education:
AW of Surrey Hope Through Education
Pam Dahlgren Educating Africa’s Children
Human Rights:
American Women of the Eastern Province Skills for Life - sponsored in part by AILO Florence
Around the Corner, A World Away, sponsored in part by AIWC Genoa in memory of Carol Bordoni

2014 EDUCATION AWARDS PROGRAM:
for children and grandchildren of FAWCO & FAUSA members:
VIOLA WHEELER ARTS AWARD $4,000
HUMANITIES AWARD $3,500 Sponsored in part by AAWE, in memory of Gertrude de Gallaix
IT AWARD FOR YOUNG WOMEN $3,500 (NEW) - recognizes a young woman majoring in Information Technology or related fields.
SCIENCES AWARD $3,500 Sponsored in part by AIWC Genoa, in memory of Frieda Bacigalupo Natali and AWC Zurich
DUAL CULTURAL AWARD $1,500 Sponsored in part by Donna Erismann and AWC Bern, in memory of Suzanne Erismann

For FAWCO and FAUSA Members
AWC BASEL AWARD FOR UNIVERSITY DEGREE STUDY PROGRAMS $5,000
Sponsored by Shirley Kearney
FAUSA SKILLS ENHANCEMENT AWARD $4,000

NEED Scholarship Program The FAWCO Foundation continues our partnership with The Friends of Burkina Faso and NEEED to provide post-secondary school scholarships to young village women in this African country. The scholarships offered are in midwifery, nursing, primary school teaching, or university studies. Our 2013 donation of $24,420 will provide two 3-year state nursing scholarships, three 2-year primary teacher scholarships, and four 3-year midwifery scholarships. Since 2010, The FAWCO Foundation has provided scholarships for 25 young women.

Looking for an easy way to support The FAWCO Foundation?
www.iGive.com
www.iGive.com is the first online shopping mall “committed to turning everyday online shopping into donations for worthy causes at no cost to shoppers or the causes they support”. So register on igive.com, put “The FAWCO Foundation” as your cause and for every dollar you shop, we get a donation. There are thousands of businesses on igive including Amazon, Expedia, Shutterly, etc., You can also go to www.fawcofoundation.org and click on the igive button to register.

Corporate Matching Programs
Please check to see if your company has a matching program. It is an easy way to double your support of The FAWCO Foundation’s programs!