2014 FAWCO 41st Interim Conference
A World of Possibilities!

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

With the theme of A World of Possibilities, FAWCO held its 41st Interim Conference in Brussels, Belgium (March 13-15, 2014) with over 110 full delegates from 43 clubs representing every region except Region 11 (Asia and Australia). Keynote speakers were Emmy Takahashi, head of the unit Global Issues for the EU United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Klaus van der Pas, former Director-General of the European Commission.

Continued on page 7

What do 10 year olds know about Human Rights?

By Pam Perraud (AAWE Paris), UN Representative- New York and Geneva

Continued on page 7

Target Project Announced

Target Program Chair, Johanna Dishongh (AWC The Hague), announced the selected Target Project: Free The Girls (FTG), then Founder Kimba Langas and National Director Melissa Watson made an impassioned presentation about their organization. Free The Girls is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that works to provide jobs to women rescued from sex trafficking in developing countries by helping them set up micro enterprises selling bras (www.freethegirls.org).

See the full story on page 6.
By Lucy Laederich (AAWE Paris), FAWCO U.S. Liaison

FAWCO-AARO “Overseas Americans Week 2014”

The team for this year’s advocacy trip to Washington was the smallest ever, with only US Liaison Lucy Laederich joining representatives of AARO for the week of meetings, and Washington Liaison Dale Koepeck attending the multi-issue meeting at the Department of State. In a crucial Congressional election year, it was felt that the concerns of overseas citizens would take a back seat.

In addition, our longstanding partner ACA has been able, due to the now year-round presence in Washington of their Executive Director, to maintain ongoing contact with offices on the Hill, whereas FAWCO and AARO generally have only one opportunity in the year to make their case. However, we continue to work closely together, just as, this year, we again found ourselves advocating in favor of a position strongly supported by the Asia Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce (APCACC).

We decided this year to spend less time visiting legislators’ offices and more in a few larger meetings, organized to discuss the issues that seem the highest priority for our members:

FATCA

The week opened with the presentation by AARO of its Distinguished Service Award to Nina Olson, United States Taxpayer Advocate, for defending “fair tax treatment for the global American population”. Ms. Olson had named overseas Americans one of the “most serious problems” for the IRS, citing the undue burden and confusing and/or daunting requirements imposed on them. Her office has made a number of welcome recommendations to the IRS, including funding for a local Taxpayer Advocate office in each IRS office overseas and eliminating duplication and confusion between the FBAR and FATCA form 8938: we heartily applaud her efforts!

In meetings with the Taxpayer Advocate, the American Bankers’ Association, the Joint Committee on Taxation, and Treasury, we continued to recommend a redefinition of the concept of “foreign” accounts to exclude those held by US citizens in the United States and those they held in countries where they are fiscally domiciled. With an admittedly difficult stroke of a pen, this would eliminate FATCA reporting on the accounts we must maintain abroad to pay our taxes, mortgages and utility bills and to save for retirement and our children’s education. It is clear that FATCA is here to stay, but easing the burden on law-abiding citizens must become a priority if Americans are to continue to live and work abroad.

Access to financial services

We were urged to survey the overseas population for specific statistics on banking problems at home and abroad, in order to identify the real causes for account closures which can, in many instances, be business decisions rather than reactions to legislation.

In meetings with the staff of the two co-chairs of the House Women’s Caucus, our stories about American women left vulnerable when removed from joint accounts fell on sympathetic ears. We were also encouraged by support from the new co-chair of the Americans Abroad Caucus, Mick Mulvaney of South Carolina, who clearly understands these problems facing overseas Americans.

Citizenship

The State Department has succeeded to enlarge the definition of who acquires US citizenship at birth: a gestational mother can now transmit her nationality, for example. State continues to

Continued on page 11
FAWCO Members Respond to the Syrian Refugee Crisis

By Therese Hartwell (AWEP), Women, Peace and Conflict Committee Chair of the Human Rights Task Force and Laurie Richardson (AWC Vienna), FAWCO 3rd Vice President of Committees

The Syrian refugee crisis is perhaps the worst humanitarian catastrophe in history, with an estimated nine million Syrians displaced from their homes. At FAWCO’s annual conference in Brussels, Emmy Takahashi of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), spoke about the UNHCR’s mission and the particular challenges faced by displaced women and girls.

Hearing Ms. Takahashi’s talk as a call to action, FAWCO members from Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Qatar and Dubai met to explore ways FAWCO Clubs and their members can help. This meeting led to the establishment of a sub-committee of the Peace and Conflict Committee of FAWCO’s Human Rights Task Force (HRTF), to be chaired by Theresa Dommett of Dubai.

Awareness-raising
The sub-committee plans to raise awareness within the FAWCO community of the seriousness of the refugee situation through Global Issues Task Force Bulletins, FAWCO’s website and blog posts. By sharing the dramatic stories of women and families displaced by conflict, we hope to inspire others to take action and do their part.

Collecting in kind donations
Led by FAWCO members, women’s clubs in Saudi Arabia have been collecting clothing, toys and small household items for the refugees. Although it is difficult to ship goods into Jordan and Lebanon, travelers can bring donations in their suitcases. Some airlines are flexible on extra baggage charges for items to be donated to refugees. Club members who are traveling in the region can collect small or light items and bring them to be distributed by organizations on the ground. (For example, one women’s group collected toothpaste and toothbrushes for a dental hygiene program for children.)

Volunteering
Generally, Arabic speakers and volunteers with special skills like medical knowledge or an ability to teach a skill like yoga are preferred. However, other opportunities do exist. Therese Hartwell, Committee Chair, Women, Peace and Conflict Committee of the HRTF and a member of FAWCO Member Club American Women of the Eastern Province (AWEP), worked in Amman, Jordan with Collateral Repair Project (CRP), helping with grant writing and non-profit management. Read her Refugee Reports blog on the FAWCO website (http://www.fawco.org/global-issues/human-rights/peace-and-security/refugee-reports-blog/).

Collateral Repair Project is a grassroots organization aiding refugees and other victims of war and conflict - those commonly referred to as “collateral damage”. CRP was started by two American women to support Iraqi refugees and has expanded to serve Syrians and others fleeing violence in their home countries. For more information visit their website at http://www.collateralrepairproject.org/.

The sub-committee is working to establish relationships with local organizations like CRP in Jordan and Lebanon to identify needed items for donation and volunteer opportunities for club members, including potentially a group volunteer project.

Advocating for Syrian women at the UN
Our UN Team is also engaged in identifying ways to contribute to the work of UNHCR and UN Women to help Syrian refugees. At UN Headquarters in New York earlier this year, FAWCO’s UN Youth Representative, Gavin Higbie, attended meetings where Syrian women peace activists and civil society leaders campaigned for a role in peacemaking as well as immediate measures to end gender based violence and sexually based exploitation. Gavin reports that a representative group of women was granted an unprecedented meeting with the UN Security Council. Unfortunately, their efforts have stalled along with the Geneva peace process.

By organizing to help Syrian refugees, FAWCO members demonstrate the power of women working together to support women in need around the world. This effort will bring together FAWCO’s UN Team and Human Rights Task Force, and we hope to mobilize other women’s organizations in Bahrain, Oman and Jordan as partners. Watch future FAWCO publications for ways you and your club can participate. For more information contact peaceandconflict@fawco.org.
FAWCO at the United Nations

FAWCO UN Representatives attend meetings on a variety of global issues that affect women and girls. Three very important topics are education, maternal health and early and forced marriage. In fact, the three are intertwined as the level of a girl’s education reflects on her quality of life. Herewith, three reports on recent activity by FAWCO as an NGO:

By Sara von Moos (AWC Bern), FAWCO UN Liaison

Mirriam, the rescued child bride who came to the UN and stole the show


Flanked by UN officials, government dignitaries and even royalty, Mirriam sat quietly in the center while the subject of early and forced marriage was discussed, dissected and condemned. The panel moderator then turned to Mirriam, gave her the microphone and asked her to tell her story. Mirriam, who, until now, had never left rural Zambia, looked around the crowded UN hall, lights and cameras, and then, in a quiet, yet surprisingly composed voice she began to recount her story:

At 12 years old, Mirriam was a normal Zambian girl who went to school, came home, did her homework and then went outside to play with her friends. One day, all of that changed. Her mother informed her that she wasn’t going to school anymore because she was getting married; and so, would no longer be a financial burden on the family.

Mirriam had no idea what getting married meant. Before she could ask, she was taken to a faraway village to be trained for the role. Her clothes were removed, she was locked up in a room, systematically beaten and deprived of basic necessities. Her keeper informed her that this was her training for marriage so she could learn obedience and servitude.

After a prolonged absence from school, her classmates wondered where Mirriam might be and went to ask her mother. Mirriam’s mother explained that she was getting married and would no longer be going to school. The girls were horrified and asked where they could find Mirriam. With vague instructions, the girls walked the distance to where Mirriam was being kept. Her keeper told them that they could see Mirriam but would have to pay. Not having any money, the girls went home, collected the necessary amount and returned. The keeper allowed them in and they were horrified even more when they saw Mirriam locked up and naked in this bare, cold room.

Mirriam explained that she knew little of what was happening but knew that what her parents had done was wrong. She asked the girls to take a written message to their teacher who immediately understood the situation and contacted the YWCA rescue center in Lusaka. The YWCA also reacted immediately and went to see Mirriam’s parents. They convinced them of their error in thinking that marrying her off would solve their financial problems, and then went to rescue Mirriam.

Mirriam returned home, returned to school, and life returned somewhat back to normal, only that her family was now shunned for having turned against tradition.

Mirriam continued her studies through secondary school. She had dreams to go further but tertiary school cost money that her parents did not have. Mirriam was now forced to discontinue her studies. She quickly became the subject of ridicule in her village, regularly taunted and told that her studies hadn’t helped her one bit because she was now worse off than if she had gotten married. Mirriam’s family eventually saw no choice but for Mirriam to go to live with her brother in Lusaka, where people did not know her or her story.

The UN high-level debate then continued, now focusing on solutions to child marriage, including the need for stronger legislation, more education, change of attitudes, plus best practices as shared by governments and specialized agencies. During closing remarks, the panel moderator turned back to Mirriam, who is now 21 years old, and asked her what was her dream for the future. Mirriam explained that she did not want what happened to her to happen to any other girls, so she was working as an activist against child marriage. As for her dream, there was only one - to go back to school and someday become a nurse. However, there was no money to pay for her studies.

Mirriam turned off the microphone and gave it back to the moderator. The room fell silent and a heavy unease permeated through the air, with everyone thinking the same thing - that the story of this courageous and stoic young woman who only
Join Us! FAWCO to Participate in Global Women’s Rights Meetings
By Erica Higbie (AW Perth and FAUSA), FAWCO UN-NYC Representative

If you were moved by Sara von Moos’ story of Mirriam the rescued child bride, note that FAWCO members have an unprecedented invitation to attend the NGO Committee on the Status of Women regional Forum on Beijing+20 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, November 3 – 5, 2014.

The Forum will bring together hundreds of civil society representatives from the 56 countries of ECE region to examine progress made on the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action, identify emerging issues impacting women and seek government accountability for commitments made to the advancement of gender equality, women’s rights and empowerment.

The outcome document of the Geneva NGO Forum will be delivered at the opening of the UN ECE Beijing+20 Review Meeting, thus contributing critical perspectives of civil society to the UN ECE regional review, the global review during 59th Commission on the Status of Women.

FAWCO is also planning a big presence at the 59th Commission on the Status of Women at United Nations Headquarters in New York City, March 9 – 20, 2015, with a full complement of 20 member delegates and youth representatives. Participants will select from hundreds of presentations, panel discussions, films, and debates; participate in the organization of a FAWCO event; and network with women’s rights leaders, private industry representative, and government decision-makers from around the world.

Beijing +20 is the theme for the 2015 Commission and a rallying cry for a generation of women’s rights activists. The Outcome Document from this historic meeting is likely to set the tone for women’s rights in the years to come and guide the Post 2015 Gender Equality Agenda at the United Nations. to http://pbenenson.blogspot.com/2012/02/wikipedia-beijing-declaration-and.html

Save Big on Expat Car Insurance!

• Worldwide Liability Protection
• Accident Forgiveness
• Fast Claim Processing
• Multi-policy Discounts

Get a FREE quote at clements.com/fawco or call +1.202.872.0060
Target Project Announced

At the 21014 FAWCO Interim Conference in Brussels, FAWCO announced Free The Girls as the chosen beneficiary organization of the FAWCO Target Program: Human Rights for Women.

Free The Girls provides economic empowerment through sustainable employment opportunities for women and girls rescued from sex trafficking in developing countries by helping trafficking survivors set up micro-enterprises in the second-hand clothing markets prevalent in developing countries. The women, some of whom were as young as 10 years old, were often lured or kidnapped into prostitution and have no marketable job experience when they are rescued in their late teens or early twenties, making it difficult for them to support themselves. By economically empowering women through this project, we can reduce the likelihood of them returning to the streets and impact the next generation by decreasing the possibility that their children, particularly daughters, will be sold, kidnapped or lured into a life of prostitution. (www.freethegirls.org)

As its commitment to assist Member Clubs with their fundraising efforts, The FAWCO Foundation has created a two-year fundraising campaign, Backing Women. The logo was inspired from artwork donated by the renowned French artist Christian de Laubadère, whose collection of works “The Necks” depict the nape of the neck as a powerful symbol of strength and femininity.

FAWCO Member Clubs have the ability to make a tangible impact on our Target Issue, Human Rights for Women, by fundraising for Free The Girls - a project that promotes gender equality and economic opportunity for human trafficking survivors.

The FAWCO Foundation has provided a “Basic Fundraising Tool Kit” to help FAWCO Member Clubs create and plan their fundraising projects. The following FAWCO-wide fundraising activities have been organized:

- Backing Women Online Boutique - Fulfill all of your gift needs with products made exclusively for us by women owned and run small businesses. Information on the artist behind the product is available with just a click on the item.
- Individual Donor Challenge - Between now and June 30, 2014, individual donations from $10 to $250 to the Target Project will be matched dollar for dollar (up to a maximum of $5,000).
- Club Donation Challenge – Between now and December 31, 2014, club donations from $500 will be matched dollar for dollar (up to a maximum of $10,000).
- The Backing Women Photography Competition – Let your camera lens paint your picture of how Backing Women inspires you. Winning photographs will be featured throughout the remainder of the Target Program. Deadline for submission is October 30, 2014.

Detailed information on all of these activities can be found on The FAWCO Foundation website (www.fawcofoundation.org) under Fundraising Tools, then the Backing Women tab.
Ms. Takashi raised FAWCO’s awareness of the plight of the 35 million refugees who comprise the populations of concern to UNHCR around the world. Her presentation inspired several FAWCO members living in the region impacted by the Syrian refugee crisis to get involved. In May 2014, Therese Hartwell (AWEP Saudi Arabia) went to Jordan to volunteer at a refugee camp (see report on page 3).

Mr. van der Pas gave an impassioned speech about gender equality in developed countries. He started with the good news that Equality is guaranteed by constitutions, laws and international conventions, recognized as a human right and as an indispensable tool to ensure economic and social development. He then talked about a need to change attitudes at home, at work and in society as a whole and concluded with his personal wish that “sooner rather than later, we will raise our eyebrows when someone wants to make a speech about equality, asking ‘Why, what’s the problem?’”.

Other speakers included Dr. Amada Klekowski von Koppenfels, who gave an informative and fascinating presentation entitled Migrants or Expatriates? Americans in Europe and Peta Chow, Marketing Manager for the Expatriate Archive Centre (EAC) based in The Hague. FAWCO has recently reached an agreement to transfer the FAWCO archives to the EAC on permanent loan. Our documents and photos will be meticulously digitized and indexed for researchers, as well as being preserved physically using state of the art archival methods. Peta did a great job with her animated presentation to promote the services of this organization dedicated to preserving the memoirs and artifacts of life abroad.

Delegates received updates on all aspects of FAWCO as well as interacting with one another in Club Presidents only sessions and FAWCO Reps sessions. The Club Presidents talked about conflict management and discussed other club management issues, while FAWCO Reps shared ideas on how to effectively bring FAWCO to their clubs.

Development workshops were given by FAWCO Counselor Celeste Brown (AWC The Hague) on How to Make a Presentation with Confidence and Impact and by Danielle Diamond (AWC Luxembourg) on Is Social Media “using” You?

FAWCO Parliamentarian Susanne Hirschberg (AWC Düsseldorf) moderated a session on Sharing Best Practices.

Conference attendees were introduced to interesting cultural aspects of Brussels, most notably an introduction to Brussels 1900 Art Nouveau by Chris Bourne and Ken Nesbitt’s fascinating presentation on The Battle of Waterloo.

The FAWCO Foundation raised over $40,000 at the conference including their traditionally fun FAWCO Foundation dinner and auction on Friday night, themed Around the World in 80 Bids. FAWCO members were dressed in traditional costumes of their host country or country of origin. A portion of the money raised, $1,650 was donated to the conference charity, Stop the Traffik.

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 Brussels Conference logo for presentations, videos and pictures.

On behalf of the FAWCO Board, I would like to thank host club AWC Brussels, Conference Co-Chairs Pam Showalter and Wendy Warren and their team of volunteers for this wonderful 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.

Announcing The FAWCO Biennial Conference 2015

The FAWCO Biennial Conference 2015 will be in Rome, Italy (March 25-28, 2015), co-chaired by Shannon McCarthy and Vera Weill-Halle (both of AWA Rome). In addition to interesting keynote speakers and club development and interactions, important FAWCO business will be conducted: elections of new FAWCO and Foundation Boards, and adoptions of new Resolutions and Recommendations and budget. Mark your calendar for online registration opens October 1.

What do 10 year olds know about Human Rights?

Armed with a video camera, the students had interviewed classmates to ask what they thought were “children’s rights” and why those rights were important. The students were quite quick to come up with answers, which ranged from “not being teased because of their skin color or accent” to “the right to go to school”. All of the answers were pretty close to the actual rights outlined in the CRC.

What impressed the FAWCO group was not only how articulate the four youngsters were, but the maturity with which all of the students approached the difficult topics and the degree in which they sought to identify with other children who were much less fortunate than they were.
Rep Appreciation Awards

It’s coincidental but worth noting that this year’s winners of the Rep Appreciation Awards all come from small clubs with significant numbers of international members. Their energy, enthusiasm and commitment to FAWCO are a testament to FAWCO’s growing relevance for ALL international women’s clubs.

Mary Adams, American Netherlands Club of Rotterdam

In nominating Mary Adams, ANCOR President Vivien Lelieveld noted, “Because of her enthusiasm, our club hosted a successful and inspirational Regional meeting last autumn and renewed contacts with the FAWCO organization. She continues to spread the fever by encouraging participation in the Brussels’ conference and she has also taken on a role in FAWCO as well. She has made a huge impression on our club in her short time as a member and this would be a worthy manner of showing her our appreciation.” Region 4 Regional Coordinator Celeste Brown concurs, adding that “Mary did an excellent job with the Regional Meeting, has absolutely revitalized and reenergized her club with some passion and spirit (and FAWCO Fever), and has indicated she thinks this is the reason for the recent 10% growth in their club membership. For a small club, that’s important and very valuable.”

Maggie Palu, American Women’s Group of Languedoc-Roussillon

In the words of AWG L-R President Jessica Wynne-Samarani, Maggie “works so hard on fundraising, spreading FAWCO fever to all members in the club, and truly tries her best to keep us all up-to-date on ‘hot off the press’ FAWCO news. This past year, she was responsible for organizing the Thanksgiving Raffle at our annual luncheon, which includes choosing items from the US, lugging them to and fro, creating games for adults/kids, etc. At each activity, she also carries piles and piles of books to sell to benefit FAWCO.” Region 3 Regional Coordinator Kim Mousseron is also a big fan: “Maggie caught FAWCO Fever long before becoming FAWCO Rep for our club. For several years she has been attending FAWCO conferences just to be a part of the FAWCO family, for her love of FAWCO and the wonderful things it does and the amazing women who make it up. She is always energetic and enthusiastic when it comes to helping organize a FAWCO related event, whether it be to create awareness or raise money. As FAWCO rep, Maggie’s levels of energy and enthusiasm continue to rise (something that no one thought possible!). She does a wonderful job of informing our club members of all things FAWCO related. Our monthly newsletter has never been so full of FAWCO information so thoroughly explained.”

Catarina Clemente Kersten, Augsburg International Women’s Association

Augsburg IWA President Emilie Langlois says: “Catarina has attended all the conferences and followed all the news very closely, inspiring us and sharing the FAWCO fever! Though she is not American, she involves herself in the FAWCO mission. Actually, we have very few American members in our club but we feel strongly about FAWCO being dedicated to all the international women living fascinating lives outside of their home country. By choosing Catarina for a FAWCO Rep award, you support the idea that FAWCO, despite its name, isn’t just about Americans.” Region 5 Regional Coordinator Angelika McLaren adds, “Catarina has been a strong supporter of FAWCO ever since her club joined our organization. She attended the Dublin and Bern Conferences. She helped to organize a Regional in her city and participated in our Regional last year. With her friendly smile, enthusiasm and commitment she can infect her fellow club members with the FAWCO fever.”
NEWS FROM OUR CLUBS

By June Bechara (AWC Lebanon), FAWCO Rep

**Paula Lucas Meets AWC Lebanon Board**

On April 7, 2014 a few AWC Lebanon members had the unique opportunity to meet Paula Lucas, founder of the American Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center (AODVC) and author of the book *Harvesting Stones*. In the very congenial atmosphere of a board member’s home, we learned about the terrifying experiences Paula and her children went through with her abusive husband. Her courageous escape with her three boys, and the consequent problems she faced in the US, made us sit up and listen.

Two ladies from local associations Beit Al-Hanan and YWCA, both offering crisis centers and shelter for abused women in Lebanon, were also invited. It was our wish to help Paula Lucas, by letting her know of local possibilities if her US crisis center is contacted by American women in Lebanon. The AWC has helped where it can, by giving much needed supplies and donations to the various organizations that help women, as well as other charities across Lebanon.

---

By Karrie Donovan (AWC Antwerp), FAWCO Rep

**AWC Antwerp Celebrates 85 years!**

Founded in 1929, the American Women’s Club of Antwerp (AWCA) brings together 110 women from all around the world. This year, the club turned 85 and celebrated, along with the local community, by organizing three days of special events. Historically, the AWCA has raised money at almost every club event in order to support Belgian philanthropic causes, most of which focus on women and children. Over the years, two events have often been the highlight of the club’s calendar, the annual Gala Dinner Dance and the Holiday Bazaar which raise substantial funds to support local charities. At the Founders’ Day Luncheon, five of the AWCA supported charitable organizations were in attendance as special guests.

---

By Mary Adams (ANC Rotterdam), FAWCO Rep and FAWCO Club Workshops Coordinator

**ANC Rotterdam holds FAWCO’s first Target Project Workshop**

On March 26, 2014, ANCOR held the first Target Project Workshop. This workshop was designed to raise member awareness about Free the Girls. Target Chair, Johanna Dishongh, traveled to Rotterdam to discuss the work of the FAWCO Foundation as well as Free the Girls.

Does YOUR club need help with a Target workshop? I am happy to organize it with your club representative and share ANCOR’s best practices, invitation, etc.

---

By Cynthia Ayed-Smith (AIWA Casablanca), FAWCO Rep and The FAWCO Foundation VP Communications

**Inter Morocco FAWCO meeting hosted by AIWA Casablanca**

On February 22, 2014, AIWA Casablanca hosted an Inter Morocco FAWCO club meeting for AIWA Rabat and AIWA Marrakech. Presidents, FAWCO Reps and members from all three clubs attended the one day conference. AIWA Rabat has already offered to host an event next year - a true sign of the success of the event!

---

On February 19, one hundred AWCA members, family, friends, and community leaders gathered at the Antwerp City Hall for a special Founders’ Day celebration.
2014 Development Grant and Education Awards Recipients Announced

DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

The 2014 Development Grant ballot contained 22 submissions in eight categories, each grant receiving $4,500. The grants were aligned with FAWCO’s four areas of focus: Environment, Education, Health and Human Rights. Each area targets an area of global concern in keeping with the UN Millennium Development Goals. The recipients were announced at the Interim Conference in Brussels, Belgium.

Environment:
FAUSA WATER RUNS THROUGH IT
Proposal Name: The Kenya Project Clean Water Initiative
Location: Wagwe, Kenya Website: www.kenyaprojektet.se
Nominating Club: AWC Stockholm

AWC SHANGHAI A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES
Proposal Name: Madagascar school run by Ursulines nuns
Location: Madagascar
Nominating Club: AILO Florence

Health:
THE COUGHLAN FAMILY FOUNDATION PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE
Proposal Name: Friedensdorf International
Location: Cambodia Website: www.friedensdorf.de
Nominating club: AWC Dusseldorf

AWC THE HAGUE CRITICAL HEALTH CONCERNS
Proposal Name: Jack & Jill Foundation
Location: Johnstown, Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland Website: www.jackandjill.ie
Nominating Club: AWC Dublin

Human Rights:
AMERICAN WOMEN OF THE EASTERN PROVINCE SKILLS FOR LIFE sponsored in part by AILO Florence
Proposal Name: Amal Women’s Training Center
Location: Marrakech, Morocco Website: www.drosos.org
Nominating Club: AIWA Marrakesh

AROUND THE CORNER, A WORLD AWAY sponsored in part by AIWC Genoa in memory of Carol Bordoni
Proposal Name: Assertiveness/Self-Defense Training for Victims of Domestic Abuse
Location: München, Germany Website: www.frauenhaus-muenchen.de
Nominating Club: Munich IWC

EDUCATION AWARDS

The FAWCO Foundation has been supporting education since it offered its first education awards in 1972. Created by and for FAUSA and FAWCO club members and their children, the program recognizes and honors their academic excellence and all-around achievement. The 2014 education award recipients were announced at the Interim Conference in Brussels, Belgium.

SCIENCES AWARD $3,500
Sponsored in part by AIWC Genoa, in memory of Frieda Bacigalupo Natalli, and AWC Zurich
Recipient: Austin Gahrs (Son of Nancy Gahrs, member of North American Connection UK)

HUMANITIES AWARD $3,500
Sponsored in part by AAWE Paris, in memory of Gertrude de Gallaix
Recipient: Martha Masoero (Daughter of Deborah Gutowitz, Member of the International Women’s Club of Turin)

VIOLA WHEELER ARTS AWARD $4,000
Recipient: Noah McGuire (Son of Gillian McGuire, a member of AWA Rome)

DUAL CULTURAL AWARD $1,500
Sponsored in part by Donna Erismann and AWC Bern, in memory of Suzanne Erismann
Recipient: Alexander Nielsen (Son of Holly Nielsen, member of American Women’s Club of Denmark)

FAWCO and FAUSA Member Awards

The following two awards recognize the diverse lives of our members, their achievements and their never-ending quest for knowledge and self-improvement.

AWC BASEL AWARD FOR UNIVERSITY DEGREE STUDY PROGRAMS $5,000
Sponsored by Shirley Kearney
Recipient: Madaline Keros, member of Munich International Women’s Club

FAUSA SKILLS ENHANCEMENT AWARD $4,000
Recipient: Elizabeth Sanders, member of AWA Rome 2002-2012, FAUSA 2012-2014
The FAWCO Foundation at Work

The FAWCO Foundation Board has been busy, not only preparing a two-year Target fundraising campaign (see report on page 6), but also fine tuning programs and procedures and creating and implementing new fundraising strategies that will enrich and support all our core programs - Education Awards, Development Grants, NEEED Scholarships and the FAWCO Target Program.

Celebrate a Birthday, Graduation or Recognize Someone Special with a Donation to One of The FAWCO Foundation’s 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 then select the program you wish to support. We will also gladly accept general donations to support The Foundation’s work. You can pay by PayPal, check drawn on US banks or bank transfer. This is truly a gift which keeps on giving!

U.S. Issues, Continued from page 2

recommend, as we have, that the current “1 continuous year” requirement for unwed citizen mothers giving birth abroad to transmit nationality be expanded to allow the option of the more general “5 years including 2 after the age of 14” requirement. They also want to expand the still unclear definition of “US residence” to facilitate acquisition of nationality by immigrant children.

Business and Trade Facilitation

We were happy to support APCACC’s efforts to promote implementation of the “APEC Business Travel Card”, to facilitate business travel among the 27 member economies of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation community. At the present time, citizens of the other 26 enjoy streamlined visa-free travel among all 27 member economies, whereas, despite the “APEC Business Travel Cards Act of 2011”, the United States has not implemented the card for its own citizens.

We found widespread backing in both House and Senate for letters written by Senators Schatz and Coats to the Department of Homeland Security urging rapid implementation of the card for US citizens to facilitate their travel in the APEC zone and support the US business and trade presence abroad.

Voting

Finally, we congratulated the new Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program on the increasingly user-friendly FVAP.gov website and learned of stepped-up efforts by the office to reach out to the often hard-to-identify civilian overseas voter population using Google ads and other online geographical and behavioral targeting.

Looking for an easy way to support The FAWCO Foundation?

Do your shopping at iGive.com or Amazonsmile.com and The FAWCO Foundation will benefit from every purchase you make. Or, sign up for a Vonage account and The Foundation will receive $50.

THERE IS NO CHARGE TO YOU for using these programs to support The Foundation. Follow the links on The FAWCO Foundation’s homepage to sign up today!

All the details about our programs and how to donate are on our website. Visit us today at www.fawcofoundation.org.
FAWCO Youth Programs Take Flight

FAWCO Youth is growing. We are currently concentrating on three different awareness-raising programs for FAWCO’s young adults: Cultural Volunteers, as well as our two new programs FAWCO’s UN Youth Representative and the FAWCO Youth Ambassador.

FAWCO Youth Cultural Volunteers

Following the success of the 2013 FAWCO Youth Cultural Volunteers program in Dubai, the second Cultural Volunteers Program has been scheduled for Summer 2014. In July, a very special group of fourteen FAWCO teens—ages 15-18—from Austria, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Qatar, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates will head to Shanghai, China where they will be hosted by members of the AWC Shanghai. The club in Shanghai has planned an exciting combination of cultural and volunteer activities for the group. Tentatively scheduled highlights of the trip include experiencing the sights and sounds of Shanghai and volunteering in 3 local organizations: the Renewal Center that supports disadvantaged people, Mifan Mama which is a facility for blind orphans, and Stepping Stones where the teens will teach English to migrant children. FAWCO Youth will be accepting applications for this program until May 15. Stay tuned for the announcement of this year’s participants, and keep up to date with events and news from China as our FAWCO Youth learn about the world around us.

The FAWCO Youth Ambassador

High school graduates often take a gap year — between high school and university — to explore the world, discovering themselves along the way. FAWCO, being a global family, is in an advantageous position to support our members’ children in this endeavor. With clubs around the world, FAWCO is designing a way for our young adults to experience new cultures, learn about the world and themselves, and do hands-on volunteer work while contributing to our member clubs.

We are happy to announce the launch of our FAWCO Youth Ambassador Program and we are even more delighted to introduce you to Julia Goldsby, our first FAWCO Youth Ambassador! For our pilot program, 2014-2015, we have selected Julia to represent FAWCO, help with your volunteer and charity programs, and encourage sons and daughters of your members to get more involved in the exciting opportunities available to FAWCO youth. Congratulations, Julia!

Julia will participate in the Cultural Volunteers Program in Shanghai and will travel from there to visit other FAWCO Clubs. She will be reporting back to us on her travels, so stay tuned for more news about her blog!

FAWCO Youth Attends the UN Winter Youth Assembly

FAWCO was very fortunate to have Gavin Higbie acting as our first FAWCO UN Youth Representative at the UN Winter Youth Assembly in New York in February 2014. Gavin wrote a highly entertaining blog about his experiences, which can be found on the FAWCO website. At the end of his blog, Gavin wrote “I would call on all the young people associated with the group to take opportunities like this… The future is going to be whatever we make it, and events such as this are helping to ensure that it will be as bright as possible” Thank you Gavin -- we hope that your voice is heard!