

CONTENTS

UN Issues	2 & 3
US Issues	4 & 5
Biennial Conference	6
FAWCO Awards	7
News from Our Clubs	8 & 9
The FAWCO Foundation	
Education Awards	10
Development Grants	11
The Target Program	12

FAWCO Board 2017-2019

PRESIDENT

Sallie Chaballier, AAWE Paris
president@fawco.org

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Laurie K. Brooks, AWC The Hague
vp-communications@fawco.org

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Hope Moore,
Munich International Women's Club
vp-memberclubs@fawco.org

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

Martha Canning, AWC Amsterdam
vp-globalissues@fawco.org

TREASURER

Alisa Cook-Roehs, AWC Düsseldorf
treasurer@fawco.org

SECRETARY

Mary Stewart Burgher, AWC Denmark
secretary@fawco.org

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Judy Furukawa, AWC Brussels
parliamentarian@fawco.org

My Avasara Journey

By Roopa Purushothaman

(adapted from keynote address at FAWCO Biennial Conference, Mumbai, March 30, 2017)

I have lived and worked in India over the past ten years. India is a fascinating place to live, especially during this period of rapid growth and development, as well as stark inequality and demographic challenges. Avasara, which means "opportunity" in Sanskrit, is an organization a group of us built over the last decade. Avasara addresses the issue of gender inequality by accelerating academic and leadership outcomes for adolescent girls. Why is this important? Half of all girls in India never make it to higher secondary education. The mirror statistic to this is that nearly half of all girls are married before the age of 18. The scale of this issue is massive: adolescent girls in India number 112 million people—if this group were a country, they would be the twelfth largest country after Mexico.



Roopa Purushothaman (l) and FAWCO President 2015-2017 Monica Jubayli (r). Roopa Purushothaman is Managing Director and Head of Research at Everstone Capital Advisors in Mumbai and Founder of Avasara Academy

(Continued on page 6)

First FAWCO Biennial Conference in Asia: Memorable Mumbai

By Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris), FAWCO President 2017-2019

Magical, memorable, multi-faceted.... Mumbai was the site of FAWCO's 43rd Biennial Conference from March 30 to April 2, 2017 (the first-ever to be held in Asia, and the first FAWCO meeting of any kind in India). Hosted by the American Women's Club of Mumbai, the



conference was attended by over 100 delegates from 28 clubs representing all of FAWCO's 11 Regions, along with numerous guests who enjoyed the pre- and post-Conference tours. Assisted by a warm and welcoming team of volunteers, Biennial Conference Chair and AWC Mumbai President, Meenakshi Advani, and AWC Mumbai Conference Planning Chair, Dottie Wagle, organized a superb Biennial with the theme *The Butterfly Warrior: Learn - Reach - Shine*, a word choice echoing throughout the Conference program.

(Continued on page 6)

By Laurie Richardson (AWA Vienna), FAWCO UN Liaison

Mumbai Resolutions

FAWCO delegates at the Biennial Conference in Mumbai took stands on significant issues affecting the UN in light of worldwide concerns over US funding for the UN, participation in the Human Rights Council, and commitment to the Paris Agreement on climate change. US citizens signed a petition that was presented to congressional representatives during Overseas Americans Week in Washington, DC. All delegates adopted a conference resolution opposing proposed US cuts to the UN budget and possible withdrawal from the UN Human Rights Council:

“We members of FAWCO, an international women's non-governmental organization with special consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, oppose reductions in US funding for the United Nations, and call upon Congress to ensure active US engagement on the United Nations Human Rights Council.”

Delegates also passed a resolution supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals and measures to combat climate change: *“Having actively supported efforts to protect the environment for over thirty years, and encouraging its members to be environmentally responsible citizens, FAWCO reconfirms its commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and to all individual and collective measures to curb climate change.”*

FAWCO at the UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn



Recent data indicate that 2016 was the hottest year on record. Stephen Hawking predicts that the planet will only survive for 100 years. And the US is considering withdrawing from the Paris Agreement on climate change action.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the primary multilateral forum for global negotiations on climate change with an objective to stabilize greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, thus preventing dangerous interference with the climate system. Parties to the Convention (national governments) have annual Conferences of the Parties (COP) to assess progress and commit to future action on climate change. Civil society and NGOs, representing the people of the world, play active roles at these conferences.

In December 2015 at COP21, the Paris Agreement was adopted governing emission reductions starting in 2020. FAWCO's



At the UN Climate Conference in Bonn, May 2017

Environment Team and UN Reps Team covered the proceedings virtually and posted blogs reporting on the process leading up to the historic agreement.

Members of AIWC Cologne, interested in climate change, contacted FAWCO's UN Liaison Laurie Richardson concerned as to how they could get involved (since the UNFCCC Secretariat is located in nearby Bonn). FAWCO applied for and was granted Observer Status to the UNFCCC in 2016. In May 2017, three FAWCO representatives attended the UN Climate Conference (2017 FAWCO UN Liaison Laurie Richardson plus AIWC's Stacey Kimmig and Ayuska Motha).

Coalitions of NGOs at the UN organize around common issues and interests to assist and support one another, share knowledge and experience and collaborate to amplify their opinions. Civil society constituencies help newcomers navigate the complex world of the UNFCCC. The Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) at the UNFCCC, which works to ensure women's rights and gender justice within the UN climate change process, was a natural fit for FAWCO. The Women and Gender Constituency speaks out at every opportunity to remind the parties that women have been disproportionately impacted by climate change, insisting that climate solutions be “gender-just” and climate finance “gender-responsive”. WGC also advocates increased inclusion, openness and transparency in all of its statements.

The commitment, organization and effectiveness of the NGO constituencies was inspiring. From early morning into the evening, diverse energetic groups met around their laptops: young activists and older advocates from the developed North and emerging South, women and men working towards the common goal of a healthier planet for future generations. Civil society leaders were invited to make brief statements at official sessions and during informal dialogues. Their interventions were well-prepared and relevant.

Many official and informal discussions were affected by “the elephant in the room”. Although members of the current US administration were not mentioned by name, in many statements by Parties the clear message was that “we should not

renegotiate what was agreed in Paris” and that it is in the best interests of the US to honor multilateral commitments. Backing away from climate action would damage US credibility, reducing the country's ability to negotiate and thus disadvantaging US companies.

Environmental NGOs and other constituencies are already planning for COP23 to be held in November 2017 in Bonn. NGO coalitions will mobilize, demonstrate and express the demands of the people in marches, a People's Summit and other alternative actions. COP23 must ensure that the Paris Agreement will be implemented in a way which leaves no one behind.

FAWCO UN Liaison Laurie Richardson with Stacey Kimmig, AIWC Cologne (L) and Ayuska Motha, AIWC Cologne (R) at the Climate meeting



FAWCO at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61)

FAWCO's delegation at the 61st Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) in March 2017 included UN Liaison Laurie Richardson and UN Reps Erica Higbie, Pam Perraud, Jane Politi and Anne Riz, and UN Youth Rep Valia Mitsakis, as well as Susan Alexander (AWC Bern) and Alison Witton (FAUSA). Erica is Treasurer of NGO CSW New York, and worked for months with the team organizing the NGO Forum at CSW61. On NGO Consultation Day, Laurie contributed to a working group on Ending All Forms of Modern Day Slavery with information on being an Everyday Hero based on the October 2016 STAND UP Against Human Trafficking Symposium. FAWCO co-sponsored an event organized by the NGO Committee on Migration (co-chaired by Jane) entitled “Empowerment of Women in Migration: Impact on Their Children's Educational Outcomes and Resilience.”

Two highlights of CSW61 were the NGO Town Hall meeting with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, and the launch of the Equal Pay Platform of Champions in the General Assembly Hall with VIPs including actress Patricia Arquette and Olympic gold medalist Abby Wambach. Secretary-General Guterres committed to meeting with women's groups in all of his travels, and said that in his experience, gender parity means better decision-making and better management. Ms. Arquette's message was, “We need to appreciate the work women do on the job and at home, and understand that they're vital parts of society and are contributing all the time.” The gender pay gap and unpaid care work were recurring themes in this CSW dedicated to women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work.

UN Women announced the dates for CSW62: March 12 – 23, 2018. FAWCO may register up to 20 delegates to CSW, which is open to all FAWCO members. Registration will begin in late 2017.

The UN Global Compact for Migration

The Global Compact for Migration will be the first intergovernmentally negotiated agreement under the auspices of the UN to cover all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. In the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted in September 2016, the General Assembly decided to develop a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. The process started in April 2017, and there will be thematic sessions in New York, Geneva, Vienna and other locations through the end of the year. The General Assembly will host an intergovernmental conference in 2018 to adopt a global compact. FAWCO UN Reps have applied to attend, contribute to and report on many of these sessions.

FAWCO representatives Madaline Keros, Jane Politi and Tara Scott attended NGO briefings at the UN High Commission for Refugees in Geneva in June

FAWCO's New Target Project

As a UN-accredited NGO, FAWCO is committed to supporting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). FAWCO's current Target Program, Empowering Women and Girls through Knowledge and Skills, makes a significant contribution towards SDG#4 Quality Education. FAWCO's UN Reps Team wholeheartedly supports the new Target Project: *Hope Beyond Displacement*, working with the Collateral Repair Project (CRP) in Amman, Jordan. We look forward to working with the Target Program and Education and Human Rights Teams to showcase CRP at the UN as a model for building better futures through education, vocational and leadership training for refugee women and girls.

Please join us for the next Interim Meeting
The Hague (Den Haag), the Netherlands



2018

INTERIM
MEETING

Where (and why) does the money go?

By Lucy Stensland Laederich (AAWE Paris),
FAWCO US Liaison

A new FAWCO term has begun with a (fine) new board already well into the process of moving FAWCO forward and a new budget to help them. But for the FAWCO club member, whether present or not when the actual vote is taken to approve the budget, it may seem that a lot of money is dedicated to some things without the results being as evident as they are for “printing of *The FORUM*”, for example.

Case in point: since early in this century, FAWCO has been allocating money for “Overseas Americans Week” - does anything concrete actually come out of it?

When FAWCO and its longstanding partners AARO and ACA organized the first “OAW” in spring 2002, the objective was, above all, to join forces in taking the concerns of our members to Washington policymakers. We wanted to speak for the interests of overseas Americans, then estimated at something over 4 million and now at 8.7 million (excluding diplomatic and military personnel), the equivalent in numbers to the 12th state. Then, like now, the three organizations were the only non-business-oriented, non-partisan, non-political, non-single issue organizations representing that population. And then, like now, laws were drafted with very little thought for their impact on Americans abroad.

A few years ago, ACA established its head office in Washington and now carries out its advocacy from that local office. FAWCO and AARO believe it continues to be important for people actually living and working outside the US to speak for the overseas population, and have maintained the 15-year tradition of an annual “OAW”. The aim, every year, is both to raise awareness in Washington of how laws are affecting that population and to gather information that might be important to Americans outside the US.

In April 2017, FAWCO US Liaison Lucy Laederich and Tax & Banking Chair Cora Lee Findley joined three AARO members for one week in Washington (following a “first wave” in March involving four other AARO members). Our prime focus related,



L to R
Cora Lee
Findley
and Lucy
Laederich

as in recent years, to the negative impact of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) on overseas Americans and to the potential for double taxation of Americans abroad. While both are “financial” concerns, we have all learned in recent

years that they do not affect only the wealthy and privileged. Great numbers of Americans of relatively modest means find themselves shut out of banking services, unable to take advantage of tax-deferred savings plans, billed by expensive tax attorneys for returns that show a zero tax debt to the IRS, or subject to daunting fines for misreporting financial accounts that are not “foreign” to them because they are needed for day-to-day transactions in their country of residence.

What did we learn this year?

We were discouraged to learn that policymakers really do not seem to be talking to each other anymore – it’s not just a myth. But we were encouraged to see that this is not the case everywhere and that we, as a group, have significantly gained in visibility over the years; we have renewed old relationships and developed new ones and more people seem aware that laws impact Americans far beyond US borders.

Some bad news

- **IRS:** The National Taxpayer Advocate has asked for “virtual service delivery” in the absence of IRS offices abroad, but the IRS has refused “for security reasons”. (She has now suggested a possible video chat help forum instead...)
- **State Department:** It will not be possible to have information on tax obligations and filing from abroad distributed, as we have long requested, by the State Department (with passport information, for example), because it has no official mandate (or budget) to do so, unlike voting information for which there is a statutory requirement under UOCAVA¹.
- **Social Security Administration:** The guidelines under which the SSA is administering online “my Social Security accounts” preclude any possibility of opening an online SS account if you do not have a US address (the SSA is working to get those guidelines changed).

Some good news

- **IRS:** If your passport is revoked because of a tax debt, the National Taxpayer Advocate will review (and probably help with) your case which is automatically considered a “hardship” case.
- **State Department:** Online passport renewal will soon be possible.
- **Social Security Administration:** It is now possible to manage an existing online SS account with authentication using either a US-based cell or an email address.
- **Americans Abroad Caucus²:** The Caucus has been registered in the 115th Congress with some new members and a new Republican Co-Chair, North Carolina Congressman Mark Meadows.
- **FATCA:** Three bills have been introduced to repeal or amend FATCA, reducing its impact on overseas Americans. Information on HR2054 (repeal), HR2136 (exempting accounts in the filer’s country of residence), S869 (repeal) can be found on the FAWCO website.

Some general news

- **IRS:** If your passport is revoked because of a tax debt, you can set up a temporary installment agreement that will enable you to leave the US and return to your country of residence to gather the needed tax papers.

- **State Department:** State recommends a “durable power of attorney” for yourself or your children as a safeguard against a sudden stroke or loss of mental capacity, so that the person responsible for care will have the necessary legal and financial authorizations.
- **Social Security Administration:** FAWCO has posted online the Federal Benefits Unit (FBU) contact information for the entire world; citizens without a US address can have an account opened or managed by an FBU agent.
- **FATCA:** 6,000 Americans have renounced their citizenship since 2016. One hundred countries (not including the US) have adopted the OECD Common Reporting Standard (CRS). 80% of FATCA-related revenue comes from fees and penalties and not from taxes due.

What did we do this year?

We were extremely lucky to be in Washington the week of a hearing held by the House Oversight Committee on the unintended consequences of FATCA. It came as no surprise to us that FATCA compliance costs far exceed FATCA revenues (though no real cost-benefit analysis has been done). It was encouraging to see that the Committee members were displeased at the evident disparity in treatment of US residents vs. overseas citizens and of US vs. foreign financial institutions.

Most importantly, Chairman Mark Meadows seemed to feel that some compromise should be possible allowing for fighting tax evasion while not unduly “punishing” ordinary citizens abroad. He concluded the hearing with a request for recommended changes to improve FATCA.

With unanimous approval from the FAWCO and AARO boards, the OAW team submitted five recommendations (see box).

Overall, having learned a great deal and educated some new Members of Congress about their overseas constituents, and

having been able to contribute to the important discussion on FATCA, we felt the week was a success – and that the OAW budget had been wisely spent (but not depleted, perhaps leaving room for further advocacy in Washington!).

¹ Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act

² A direct result of FAWCO’s presence at Overseas Americans Week 2007

- Exempt from FATCA reporting all financial accounts held in the country in which the filer is a bona fide resident (as recommended by the National Taxpayer Advocate and the recently introduced H.R. 2136).
- Adopt, as an alternative to FATCA, the Common Reporting Standard (CRS) developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and now adopted in 100 jurisdictions.
- Eliminate duplicative reporting as recommended by the National Taxpayer Advocate by developing a single reporting form which satisfies the needs of all the relevant compliance organizations.
- Rethink the penalties related to FATCA reporting requirements, including both the 30% withholding imposed on Foreign Financial Institutions and the punitive fees imposed on individuals.
- Meet financial reporting obligations on Foreign Financial Institutions with the submission of 1099s that comply with US tax reporting standards

London & Capital

LET OUR FAMILY
TAKE CARE OF YOURS.

Being an American overseas comes with many benefits, but also challenges. Not least is how to ensure your financial affairs are working at their optimum.

For over 25 years, London & Capital’s US Family Office has been specialising in managing wealth for Americans living abroad.



To discuss any of your wealth management needs, please get in touch.

London & Capital Asset Management
T +44 (0)20 7396 3200

(Continued from page 1)

My Avasara Journey

Avasara aims to change mindsets about the value of girls. We want to create home-grown success stories that upset the narrative told about women. This way, we believe we can change gender mindsets within one generation. It just takes role models of success from varied communities.



Dancers from the Sharanam Centre for Girls with members of AWC Mumbai at the "Mumbai Masti" evening.

Avasara has worked with 2,000 girls in scholarship, after-school, STEM and academy programs. We started our full-fledged academy in 2015 and will have 205 girls enrolled starting this June. It is a big project, building a campus for a top-of-the-line residential school. But we feel that we are not only a school—we are a movement. We are setting the bar, and setting it high, for girls' education in the country. We find talent that will stretch their resources to the max, provide them with an intense program based on academic rigor, leadership and decision-making, and finally surround them with a rich set of opportunities through our extended network.

Gender inequality in India is ultimately addressable. I know this in my head from my career as a researcher covering India for the past fifteen years. I know this in my bones from my experience working with families over the past decade in India. It takes a significant amount of execution focus, but it's very doable. Nothing fills me with as much hope and optimism as the girls we are lucky to work with every day at Avasara. These are girls growing up in the harshest of circumstances—for example, a young girl who sold toys on train platforms, or a girl who was the strongest performer in her class (but engaged to be married at the age of twelve). Thanks to Avasara, now they are able to focus all of their efforts on making themselves and their communities stronger.

(Continued from page 1)

First FAWCO Biennial Conference in Asia: Memorable Mumbai

Learning: A distinguished slate of speakers and presenters ensured that the 43rd Biennial's participants learned about progress made and challenges faced by women in India, as well as about FAWCO's achievements over the past year. Keynote Speaker Roopa Purushothaman set the tone with her inspiring

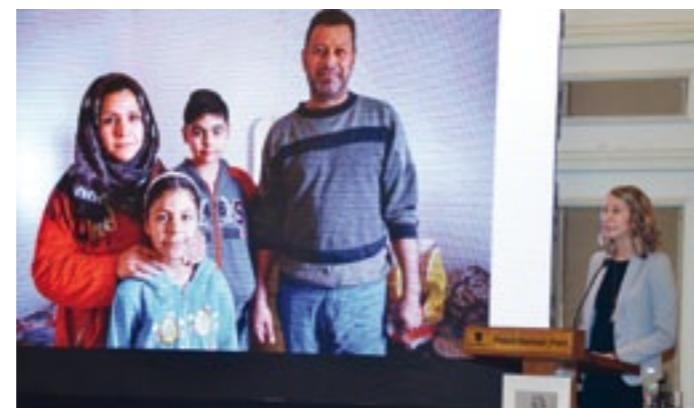
talk on the untapped economic potential that women present for India and her own experience in founding a school for



Left to Right: Conference organizers Meenakshi Advani and Dottie Wagle

disadvantaged girls. Tina Trikha moderated a fascinating discussion on "Women and the India Growth Story", with panelists Ipsita Dasgupta and Neera Nundy, focusing on issues of girls' and women's empowerment. To sum up at the end of the Conference, AWC Mumbai Speakers' Coordinator Jodie Sovak challenged conference participants to formulate their main lessons learned and to take action upon their return home.

Highlights of the Conference included the announcement of FAWCO's new Target Project, Hope Beyond Displacement (an initiative of the Collateral Repair Project in Amman, Jordan, building better futures through education, vocational and leadership training for refugee women and girls); the elections of new FAWCO and FAWCO Foundation Boards; and the launch of FAWCO's new quarterly online magazine, *Inspiring Women*. During the Annual General Meeting sessions, delegates discussed and approved the proposed budget and determined the next two-year term's working framework in the form of



CRP Executive Director Amanda Lane describes FAWCO's new Target Project

Resolutions and Recommendations. FAWCO Board officers and other key volunteers reported on their work over the past year informing delegates on all that FAWCO has accomplished since the 2016 Interim Meeting.

In a well-received innovation, the four Global Issues Teams (Education, Environment, Health and Human Rights) presented their work together in a session immediately before the open forum of Face2Face, thus enabling delegates to understand clearly how FAWCO's areas of focus are linked. Another

innovation was the use of video to enable US Liaison Lucy Laederich to make her report to the Conference. Lucy and Mary Stewart Burgher used Skype to join Cora Lee Findley and Judy Furukawa in presenting their ever-popular sessions on US Issues. UN Liaison Laurie Richardson reported on the impressive work of FAWCO's UN team, demonstrating how their priorities dovetail with the work of FAWCO's Global Issues Teams in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Reaching: Workshops ranged from the practical to the inspirational, covering areas of concern to FAWCO members (as well as Indian culture), all designed to help participants in their quest for greater knowledge. Special sessions for Club Presidents and FAWCO Representatives offered a useful venue for Presidents and Reps to exchange ideas and share experiences. FAWCO Foundation Board officers presented innovative ideas for Target fundraising (Mary Adams) and "Hints for Successful Grant and Award Applications" (Tracy Moede). Louise Greeley-Copley and Tosin Arowolaju shared practical advice for expats in emergency situations in "When Displacement Becomes Personal, Having a Plan". In "Surviving and Thriving", Paula Lucas and Dianne Reed inspired listeners with their accounts of surviving life-threatening ordeals and building on these experiences. FAUSA members Janet Darrow, Rick Chizmadia, Kathy Coughlan, Liz Hemminger, Lee Sorenson and Judy Treanor provided advice for people considering moving to North America in "Reversing the Culture Shock". FAWCO Counselor My-Linh Kunst encouraged participants to find their inner leader in "Women in Leadership: Leading from Within". Tara Ramaseshan gave a fascinating account of "Women through Indian History: A Kaleidoscope of Stories", and attendees found Natasha Sharma's presentation on "Gender Representation and Diversity in Children's Literature" thought-provoking.

Shining: Three distinguished FAWCO volunteers, Elsie Bose, Mary Adams and Johanna Dishongh, were honored with the Caroline Curtis Brown Spirit Award, and FAWCO Representatives from three member clubs were recognized with Rep Appreciation Awards.



Butterflies (Left to Right) Janet Darrow and Laurie Brooks at The FAWCO Foundation fundraising night.

Special evenings allowed participants to shine both physically (by sharing in a Bollywood dance at the Mumbai Masti opening dinner) and sartorially (at The FAWCO Foundation's fundraising night, "A Heart of Gold", celebrating TFF's 50th anniversary). Optional evenings out enabled delegates to explore Mumbai and experience the fabled Indian street food.

Biennial Conferences provide an opportunity for newcomers to learn about all facets of FAWCO and to connect with longtime FAWCO volunteers, who, in turn, value the opportunity Conferences afford to renew their commitment to the organization. This ground-breaking Biennial in India was an exceptional opportunity for members of the FAWCO community, old and new, to "learn, reach and shine". AWC Mumbai as well as past FAWCO President Monica Jubayli and the 2015-2017 FAWCO Board, are to be congratulated for taking the leap in organizing a pioneering Biennial Conference in FAWCO's Asia/Pacific Region, thereby demonstrating that FAWCO is truly global.

2017 FAWCO Awards



FAWCO Rep Appreciation Awards recipients. Left, recipient Cynthia Smith-Ayed of AWC Casablanca and 2015-2017 2nd Vice President Rebecca DeFraités, AWC Paris. Below Rebecca and recipient Carol Strametz of AWC Hamburg. Also receiving the FAWCO Rep Award, but not present in Mumbai, was Kathi Savoury of IWC Antigua & Barbuda.



Below, recipients of the Caroline Curtis Brown Spirit Award. Left to Right. Recipients Mary Adams of AWC The Hague and Johanna Dishongh of AW Eastern Province, Elsie Bose, of AWC Paris and 2015-2017 FAWCO President Monica Jubayli (AWC Lebanon).



AWCT Centenary Celebration

By Mary Lou Laramée (AWC Toronto), President

On May 7, the American Women's Club of Toronto opened its 100th celebration with this greeting from Master of Ceremonies, Bruce Bell, Toronto. "Attention, Ladies and Gentlemen! On behalf of the American Women's Club of Toronto, I welcome you to the celebration of the club's 100th birthday. The doors to the dining room will open momentarily, and I invite you to enter, view the silent auction filled with a variety of exciting offerings awaiting your bids, and find your table. Also you may enjoy the photo loop which shows our members, both past and present, reflecting our club's commitment to friendship, service, and learning. Often friends and family join us as we celebrate traditions, explore our surroundings, and have fun while fundraising, all the while fulfilling the vision that our founders had for us in 1917. So now, please enter and let the celebration begin!!!"

We had a wonderful day! The US Consul General Juan Alsace and his wife Nancy joined as honored guests, as well as representatives from our affiliate organizations, the University of Toronto Speech and Language Department, and the grandsons of Emma Hall, one of our Founders. Life-time members Nim (101 years young) and Dorothy joined our present, past, and former members, as well as family and friends.

Mary Lou Laramée, AWC Toronto President, was joined by nine past presidents (including FAWCO Foundation Counselor, Elsie Bose, who attended on behalf of FAWCO), in the ceremonial cutting of the birthday cake continuing a long-standing tradition. Following our luncheon, Jonathan Walford, curator of the Fashion and History Museum, offered a program highlighting some of the fashion trends of the past. It was a reunion and a celebration of the rich history of the American Women's Club of Toronto.



AWC Toronto past presidents.

Genoa Celebrates 60 Years!

by Ann De Simoni (AIWC of Genoa), FAWCO Rep

AIWC of Genoa is celebrating 60 years since the club was founded in 1957 at the initiative of 12 inspiring ladies who originally met for tea and talk. Although the group was already active in the community raising money for a local orphanage, buying toys and providing Christmas dinner, they decided to become an official club drawing up their first constitution and

electing a president. In 1975, they joined FAWCO, and in 1983 a FAWCO Foundation Science Award was created in memory of Frieda Bacigalupo Natali, an initiative which the club and her family continue to support today. The club has had an exciting six decades and currently has 70 members representing 14 different countries.

On April 8th, AIWC of Genoa celebrated with a gala dinner at the prestigious Yacht Club Italiano overlooking the port and its beautiful skyline. The evening was attended by 128 guests including members, eight past club presidents, Honorary President, US Consular Agent Anna Maria Saiano, members from sister clubs, club sponsors and honorary guests. The club was honored to host officials from the city and region of Genoa, as well as to present the extraordinary team of doctors from the two main hospitals in Genoa that the club supports - the Gaslini Children's Hospital and the San Martino Hospital. The evening started with a very successful fundraising balloon lottery accompanied by beautiful music, cocktails, a three course Italian meal, wonderful local Italian wines, and an anniversary cake presented by all of the past presidents.



AIWC Genoa members with anniversary cake.

Region 1 Meeting, February 4, 2017

by Yvonne Veger (AWC London), Regional Coordinator

This regional meeting, hosted by AWC London, had a great turnout: eight of the nine clubs in Region 1 were represented with one to three members, many of them FAWCO Reps or Club Presidents, but also some "general" members. We had a total of 28 attendees, including Sallie Chaballier as incoming FAWCO President, Rebecca DeFraités, FAWCO VP of Member Clubs and Patti Meek, President of The FAWCO Foundation. We were also very glad to welcome Ann De Simoni (AIWC Genoa), Terri Knudsen (AWC Denmark) and Kathleen Simon (AWC Bern)!

Also, we have a new member Club: AWA Bristol recently came back into the FAWCO fold and was represented at the Regional by no less than three members!

We started with icebreakers, followed by some general information on FAWCO, the upcoming Conference in Mumbai of course, and the new Target Program. However, given the travel time everyone put into coming out and the not very frequent personal interactions in this Region due to distance, the lion's share of the agenda was set aside for a round table. Four different areas were covered in changing settings of participants. Topics were: involvement and commitment to



Left to Right: Angie Donelson, Christine Humphreys, Tina Foulkes, and Sallie Chaballier

FAWCO; membership/club management; a Regional project; and miscellaneous. Everyone had an enormous contribution and everyone was a giver and taker at the same time.

London & Capital, sponsor of both AWC London and FAWCO, joined us for an hour and impressed everyone with their knowledge on an international level. They stayed for lunch to answer individual questions.

In the last hour of brainstorming was about a Regional project for fundraising for the new Target project and Melissa Mash came forward with a wonderful idea: a regional coffee morning at the same date and time with real time links, so we can wave to each other. Many clubs already organized their individual coffee mornings – kudos to them! and hopefully we can indeed pull off a Regional event soon!

"Celebrating FAWCO, Finland and Earth Day" Region 2 Meeting

by Ann Marie Morrow (AWC Finland), FAWCO Rep and Tracy Dolan (AWC Finland), President

Swimming in the icy sea, taking a sauna in the snow, sipping Nordic berry wine and eating creamy vegan nettle soup, Bollywood dancing, learning about peace negotiations in the jungles of Honduras or deserts of Darfur from Europe's first Green party minister - anything was possible at Region 2's meeting, April 21-23. AWC Finland was proud to host 50 participants from seven countries in a conference program celebrating not only Finland's 100th anniversary (2017), but Earth Day (April 22). The weekend kicked off with a potluck dinner in a lovely downtown Helsinki apartment. Several icebreaker games (acrostic poems, crossword and trivia quiz) encouraged teamwork and challenged our brains on the themes of Finland and the environment.

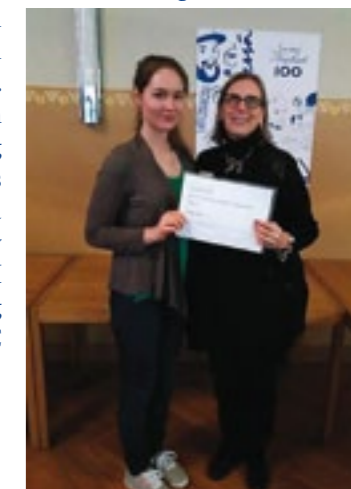
On Saturday, 49 people attended the main meeting to hear a series of fascinating speakers. Our keynote speaker, Pekka Haavisto, Green MP and Special Envoy of the Foreign Minister on Peacebuilding, shared his experiences negotiating peace in conflict areas around the world. Donna Welton, Chargé d'Affaires at the US Embassy, discussed the Arctic Council (Finland will assume the chair in May 2017). Attendees learned about FAWCO's impressive advocacy and charity work from Sallie Chaballier, President of FAWCO; Suzanne Wheeler,

President of The FAWCO Foundation; and Hope Moore, FAWCO 2nd VP for Member Clubs. Finnish social and cultural innovation was highlighted in presentations by: Suvi Rasimus, Head of the Centre of Expertise in International Affairs at Finland's Social Insurance Institution, KELA, on the Finnish Baby Box; and Paola Guerrera de Cohen and David Cohen, co-founders of Finnviini Oy, a company making wine from arctic berries.

There was a raffle and silent auction with funds raised supporting local charities and the FAWCO Target Project. Thanks to sponsors, Marimekko, Lumene and Finnviini, all conference attendees took home a gift bag of Finnish products. The Foreign Ministry of Finland donated "Finland 100" pins for everyone, as well as decorations.

On Saturday afternoon, smaller groups headed out on optional excursions to an art museum, sky wheel, or sauna. Saturday evening, we enjoyed a delicious meal at a trendy vegetarian restaurant in the spirit of Earth Day. Sunday rounded out the conference activities with a 2.5 km walking tour of central Helsinki led by a local member, which focused on statues by or of women. The weekend was filled with laughter, fun, socializing and learning. "Thanks for everything! It was a wonderful weekend and now I'm a big fan of Helsinki. I really look forward to coming back!" Jonelle Lemcke (AWC Denmark).

FAWCO Foundation President, Suzanne Wheeler (R) presenting the Caroline Newton Humanities award to Katya Tavi (L).



Casablanca Hosts Region 7 Meeting

by Cynthia Smith-Ayed (AIWC Casablanca), FAWCO Rep

FAWCO Region 7 covers all of Africa, so for the last four years the meeting has been organized between the three clubs in Morocco: Casablanca, Rabat and Marrakech. The meeting is held in January and the clubs take turns hosting the conference. This year it was AIWC Casablanca's turn to host again. We were joined by FAWCO 1st VP Sallie Chaballier, 2nd VP Rebecca DeFraités and FAWCO Foundation President Patti Meek.

The morning program was music and dance by the children from the Sidi Moumen Cultural Center (www.idmaj.org) which AIWC Casablanca has supported for many years. Performances included dance, drumming and a mixed chorale. The director, Mr. Boukhar Mazouz, gave a talk about the Center and the various programs that they have initiated for "at-risk" children in the community. We also had a talk from a young woman who met Michelle Obama during the "Let Girls Learn" trip and then went to the White House with other representatives of that program. After lunch at the Churchill Club, the afternoon included presentations by the FAWCO and Foundation board members explaining the various programs within the organizations.

**PRESIDENT**

Suzanne Wheeler, AAWE Paris
president@fawcofoundation.org

VP COMMUNICATIONS

Janet Davis, AIWC Cologne
vpcommunications@fawcofoundation.org

VP FUNDRAISING

Barbara Bühling, AWC Düsseldorf
vpfundraising@fawcofoundation.org

VP PROGRAMS

Tracy Moede, AWC Hamburg
vpprograms@fawcofoundation.org

SECRETARY

Louise Greeley-Copley, FAUSA
secretary@fawcofoundation.org

TREASURER

Jodi Gentilozzi, Individual Member,
Qatar, FAUSA
treasurer@fawcofoundation.org

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Patti Meek, AWC Dublin
parliamentarian@fawcofoundation.org

The FAWCO Foundation is the philanthropic arm of FAWCO. It is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization registered in the State of Missouri. Direct donations to The Foundation are tax exempt to the fullest extent allowed by law. For more information please contact: info@fawcofoundation.org.

Did you know that by making a donation to The FAWCO Foundation, you automatically become a "Friend of The FAWCO Foundation"? As a Friend, you have the opportunity to:

- establish a memorial fund to honor a loved one
- designate your donation to the general fund, Educational Awards, Development Grants or other special funds
- contribute to the endowment fund
- include The Foundation in a bequest

Please think about becoming a "Friend of The FAWCO Foundation" and help us to maintain a strong and healthy philanthropic program.

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

2017 Development Grant and Education Awards Recipients Announced

By Suzanne Wheeler (AAWE Paris), The FAWCO Foundation President

The FAWCO Foundation celebrated a significant birthday this year – 50 years of supporting FAWCO's philanthropic goals of improving the lives of women and children worldwide. More than \$1,416,500 has been disbursed over the past 50 years through certain programs administered by The Foundation. (This figure only includes the Education Awards and Development Grants - not the Target Backing Women Campaign or various other administered programs.) Since 1972, FAWCO and FAUSA members have received \$944,000 in Education Awards. Additionally \$472,500 in Development Grants have been awarded since that program's onset in 1997. We could not have achieved this without the gracious donations from the Member Clubs and individuals who, through their generosity, have made our success possible. No matter how you donated - via direct donation, during regional meetings, or through participation in Foundation Night during the annual FAWCO conferences - The Foundation extends its heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you. Your continued contributions will enable The FAWCO Foundation to sustain its very worthwhile programs.

Education Awards

The recipients of the 2017 Education Awards and Development Grants were announced at the FAWCO Biennial Conference in Mumbai in March. The Foundation congratulates all the recipients on their fantastic applications and wishes them well in their future endeavors. Any applicant who did not receive an award or grant this year is encouraged to apply again next year...and the year after. A recipient project this year persevered and discovered that three times is the charm! For more information on the Education Awards, contact the Education Awards Administrator, Jen Todd, at awards@fawcofoundation.org.

VIOLA WHEELER ARTS AWARD \$4,000

Recipient: **Hayley Margolis**. Her mother is a member of AWBS International Women's Club. This recipient believes in combining art with social activism. She looks forward to double majoring in graphic design and social activism.

SCIENCES AWARD \$4,000, sponsored in part by AIWC Genoa, in memory of Frieda Bacigalupo Natali.

Recipient: **Mackenzie Winton**. Her mother is member of AWBS International Women's Club. This young woman is an aspiring global engineer. She hopes to be a role model, inspiring younger girls to pursue careers in math and science.

HUMANITIES AWARD \$4,000, sponsored in part by AAWE Paris, in memory of Gertrude de Gallaix.

Recipient: **Lucy Grinnan**. Her mother is a member of the American Women's Group in Paris. This recipient is pursuing a degree in Classical Studies and Religious Studies with a focus in Medieval Latin. With this achievement, she hopes to be a high school Latin and Greek teacher.

CAROLINE NEWTON HUMANITIES AWARD \$4,000

Recipient: **Katya Tavi**. Her mother is a member of the American Women's Club in Finland. She is currently majoring in Developmental Psychology. She will be attending the National University of Singapore in the upcoming year where she hopes to gain an Eastern perspective on her predominately Western-based field of study.

DUAL CULTURAL AWARD \$4,000, sponsored in part by Lee Sorenson, in memory of Dudley Sorenson, Donna Erismann and AWC of Bern, in memory of Suzanne Erismann.

Recipient: **Joshua Bloemperk**. His mother is a member of the American Women's Club of Brussels. He will explore his American heritage by attending a university science program in the States, while being immersed in the English language through his classes and the community. He is interested in both the sciences and Latin.

FAWCO and FAUSA Member Awards

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

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

sponsored by Shirley Kearney.
Recipient: **Caroline Loftin**. She is a member of the American Women's Association of Vienna. She has decided to further her education by completing her Master's Degree in Human Resources. Her capstone project is focused on studying and developing how to optimize women's career development in international and goodwill organizations

FAUSA SKILLS ENHANCEMENT AWARD \$4,000

Recipient: **Susanne Ollmann**. She is a member of the American Women's Club of Berlin. She will be attending online courses in Travel Writing, Photography and Visual Marketing. She hopes to use this training to explore global issues with an emphasis on human rights issues for women and girls.

THE FAWCO FOUNDATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY MEMBERS' AWARD \$5,000

sponsored by Counselors of The FAWCO Foundation, FAWCO and FAUSA.
Recipient: **Margaret Jenkins**. She is a member of the Association of American Women in Europe (Paris.) It is her desire to achieve her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership so that she can expand her leadership opportunities in this inspirational vocation.

Development Grants

For more information on the Development Grants contact the Development Grants Administrator, Nan de Laubadère at grants@fawcofoundation.org. Each recipient receives \$4,500.

AW OF SURREY HOPE THROUGH EDUCATION

Recipient: Rural Development in Anupshahr, India Through Education and Empowerment of the Girl Child

Location: Anupshahr, India

Nominating Club: Munich International Women's Club

Purpose of the Grant: The recipient of this award is one of the finest schools serving girls from the poorest segment and lowest caste in rural India. The grant will cover a full one-year scholarship for ten girls, providing everything the students will need including tuition, meals, uniforms, books and school supplies.

AWG Paris member Marybeth Grinnan (l) accepting an Education Award given to her daughter. On right, 2015-2017 FAWCO Foundation President Patti Meek (AWC Dublin).



PAM DAHLGREN EDUCATING AFRICA'S CHILDREN

Recipient: Kenyan Children Help - The New White House Academy

Location: Voi, Kenya

Nominating Club: American Women's Club of Bern

Purpose of the Grant: This organization is a primary and secondary boarding school that provides education and a family environment for 300 children, many of whom are orphans. The school will expand its school and use the funds to build a secondary school; to date, there is no such facility on the campus.

THE COUGHLAN FAMILY FOUNDATION'S SUPPORT IN SICKNESS & HEALTH

Recipient: Floga. Organization of Parents of Children with Cancer

Location: Athens, Greece

Nominating Club: American Women's Organization of Greece
Purpose of the Grant: This association runs a house for cancer patients and their mothers where they sit in furnished rooms, share a communal living room and kitchen, and are afforded psychological and physical therapists, surrounded by a volunteer staff.

AWG LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON FEEDING THE WORLD

Recipient: Community-Based First 1000 Days Project

Location: Mumbai, India

Nominating Club: American Women's Club Mumbai



Dottie Wagle of AWC Mumbai receiving a Development Grant from Maggie Palu of AWG Languedoc-Roussillon.

Purpose of the Grant: The funds from this grant will enable the organization to continue an initiative which has been designed specifically to tackle issues of malnutrition during the critical period of a mother and her newborn child's life. It will work directly with 100 pregnant or lactating women and children under the age of two.

BREAKING THE CYCLE,

sponsored in part by AILO of Florence

Recipient: Yes, Akademia - Youth Transforming Galtare-Dharavi-Paris

Location: Galtare, India

Nominating Club: American Women's Group in Paris

Purpose of the Grant: This program brings urban and rural youth from marginalized backgrounds together to exchange knowledge and attempt to solve issues related to social entrepreneurship, development, human rights, financial education and other key matters.



FAWCO New Target Project: *Hope Beyond Displacement*

By Tricia R. Saur, (AIWC Cologne), Target Chair

FAWCO Target Project - Hope Beyond Displacement



L to R: Janet Darrow - FAUSA President, Therese Hartwell - Project Submitter, Amanda Lane - Executive Director of Collateral Repair Project, Tricia R. Saur - Target Chair, Sahar Elhallak - Target Fundraising Coordinator.

With the announcement of Hope Beyond Displacement as the 2017-2019 Target Project on April 1, 2017, the second phase of the Target Program for Education was launched at the FAWCO Biennial Conference in Mumbai, India.

Hope Beyond Displacement is an initiative of the Collateral Repair Project, to build better futures through education, vocational and leadership training for refugee women and girls in Jordan.

Located in Amman, Jordan, Collateral Repair Project (CRP) was founded by two American women in 2006 to aid refugees of the second Gulf War. Displacement, loss of status and control over life choices, and the fact that most refugees are forbidden from working, all contribute to a sense of hopelessness and lack of empowerment, particularly for women. Hope Beyond Displacement addresses four pressing issues identified in close consultation with the women CRP serves:

- ensuring better educational support for their children
- accessing sources of income
- better managing the threat of violence in their families
- learning and developing leadership and advocacy skills



Backing Women Fundraising Campaign



The FAWCO Foundation supports the Target Project through the Backing Women Fundraising Campaign. The campaign 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.

The Backing Women Boutique carries an assortment of products many featuring the Backing Women logo. Several new items in the boutique will be sourced from NGOs that economically empower women providing a twofold benefit with each sale by supporting both the Target Project and women in the global market.

The FAWCO Foundation supports Member Clubs by sharing creative FUN-raising ideas. Learn more at bit.ly/BWFundraisingCampaign.

Donations Will Fund

Girls' Education - enrollment of 100 girls in school each year and 120 girls in the SuperGirls after-school enrichment program.

Women's Vocational Training - 120 women will complete the International Computer Driving License



Women help each other out during an English lesson.

(ICDL) computer skills training, and 45 women and girls who have their ICDL will be taught computer coding. In addition, 60 women will complete an economic empowerment program which provides training in cosmetology and self-employment skills. That means providing 180 women skills to generate income!



At CRP's weekly arts workshop, women and children have the opportunity to express their creativity through different artistic mediums.

Women's Leadership - participation of 160 women in the Women's Empowerment 101 Program and 160 men and youth in gender-based violence training; 20 will continue on in Training the Trainer workshops; 90 women, men and youths will participate in the Leadership in Action program.