



# The Forum

Newsletter of the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas Inc.

## Summer 2007

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## Unprecedented Americans Abroad Caucus Gives Overseas Americans a New Voice in Washington

Lucy Stensland Laederich  
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On February 22, 2007, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Congressman Joe Wilson (R-SC) sent a letter to their colleagues in the House of Representatives inviting them to join the "Americans Abroad Caucus, dedicated to the estimated four to six million American citizens living and working overseas."

According to Representatives Maloney and Wilson, "...although they live overseas, many of these Americans continue to vote and pay taxes in the United States. Whether or not they work for American businesses overseas, they help increase exports of American goods and services because they traditionally buy American goods, sell American goods, and create business opportunities for U.S. companies and workers. Their role in strengthening the U.S. economy, creating jobs in

the United States, and extending American influence around the globe is vital to the well-being of our nation. Moreover, they are unofficial ambassadors, often the first contact many people around the world have with 'America' and our very informed 'antennae' on the world."

The two Members of Congress declared that the time has come for a "forum for discussion (of issues like citizenship, voting and taxation) and a means for utilizing the on-the-ground experience of overseas Americans so that we can better work with and for this important and growing constituency."



Lucy Stensland Laederich

(Continued on p. 2)

## FAWCO Conference in Lyon

Kathleen Simon  
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The American Club of Lyon used the magical charm of this Roman city to "Light the Way" for 180 visiting delegates of the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO). The club's Co-Presidents, Mary Boulicaut and Jerry Cave, along with 2007 Conference Co-Chairs, Becky Reynaud and Eric Way, and their team of volunteers hosted the 38<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference at the Chateau Perrache Hotel in early March. Delegates who were new to the experience were paired with "FAWCO friends" to help them maneuver their way through the conference.

The General Sessions were a platform for Officers' Reports, including 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Melissa Mash's photographic presentation of FAWCO's member clubs' annual activities.

Delegates approved FAWCO's 2007-2009 Resolutions and Recommendations which in particular promote the dissemination of information on current global situations where basic human rights are being infringed upon, including refugees seeking safety or those living in life-threatening conditions.

The NGO Director, Pam Perraud, encouraged all delegates to sign a petition on March 8, International Women's Day, to be sent to Senator Joseph Biden Jr. (D-Delaware) and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on The Convention on the



Attendees, organizers and volunteers at the 38th Biennial Conference in Lyon

Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and to request U.S. ratification. Since the UN adopted the treaty in 1979, 185 countries have signed the ratification - but not the United States. FAWCO's UN Representative, Paula Daeppen, stressed that full empowerment of women is still a major priority to be addressed in societies today, as one in three women experiences abuse in her lifetime. As the Coordinator of NetWorks, FAWCO's malaria eradication

(Continued on page 2)

FAWCO is the largest international network of independent associations representing private American citizens overseas. Founded in 1931, FAWCO is a non-partisan, not-for-profit U.S. corporation that has 78 member clubs representing more than 15,000 members in 38 countries worldwide. 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.

*(Continued from p. 1 - Americans Abroad Caucus)* From the start, the aim was to make the caucus bipartisan and, as quickly as possible, bicameral, expanding to Senators equally open to dialogue with the overseas community. A caucus has no legislative power per se, cannot have separate office space or its own staff, and cannot accept outside funds. It is nonetheless a group unified around a common interest, with the power to speak in Congress from that perspective with a unified voice.

The new caucus is the first real forum for a constructive two-way exchange between Congresspersons and their global constituency. As Maloney told the International Herald Tribune, "there is no committee that really focuses on Americans abroad. But I now have a list of (...) people who I know will put time and effort into expatriate issues."



*Carolyn Maloney (New York, 14th District), is a long-time ally of overseas Americans and co-chair of the new Americans Abroad Caucus.*



*Joe Wilson, co-chair of the Americans Abroad Caucus represents a South Carolina district with considerable overseas business interests.*

Rep Maloney speaks from experience. Her congressional district includes part of lower Manhattan, directly impacted by cleanup efforts at the World Trade Center site after September 11, 2001. With no congressional committee in place to deal with such issues, a 9/11 caucus was formed "and did an incredible job of passing the 9/11 reforms."

The two co-chairs have been joined by Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX), Frank Wolf (R-VA), DCCC Chair Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and John Boozman (R-AK). More recently, the caucus has been enlarged to nine members, with the arrival of Donna Christensen (D-VI), representing the Virgin Islands and Stephen Cohen (D-TN). In joining the caucus, these legislators take the position that they are familiar with and sympathetic to the challenges faced by Americans living and working abroad.



**NEW FAWCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS — 2007-2009** (from left to right)  
**President:** Celeste Brown, **First Vice President:** Kathleen Simon, **Second Vice President:** Terri Knudsen, **Third Vice President:** Marlene Holmes, **Secretary:** Linda Rishel, **Treasurer:** Elizabeth "Betsy" Greene

### FAWCO President Goes "Carbon Neutral"!

FAWCO President Celeste Brown has pledged that all travel during her two year term will be "carbon neutral" and promises that wherever she travels, whether personal or FAWCO travel, she will consult [www.greenseat.com](http://www.greenseat.com) to determine her level of carbon emissions. The costs of counterbalancing these as calculated on this website will be donated to FAWCO's "Plant for the Planet" project.

Why not join our President and make your own personal travel "carbon neutral" for the next two years?

*(Continued from p. 1 - Lyon)*

initiative, Ms. Daeppen introduced representatives from the Swiss Foundation BioVision and presented them with a \$50,000 donation. FAWCO is partnering with BioVision in two pilot projects in Malindi and Nyabondo, Kenya, which are the only large-scale malaria field control projects in the world. The project director, Dr Peter Luethy, spoke about the projects and the significant reduction in malaria and child and adult mortality that has resulted from this partnership.

U.S. Liaison Lucy Laederich announced the recent formation of the Americans Abroad Caucus in the House of Representatives in Washington. The Caucus is co-sponsored by Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-New York) and Congressman Joe Wilson (R-South Carolina). FAWCO, the oldest and largest organization of American citizens abroad, worked with the Association of Americans Resident Overseas (AARO), American Citizens Abroad (ACA) and Alliance of American Organizations-Iberia (ALLAMO). A letter of greetings to the delegates from U.S. First Lady Laura Bush noted, "this year's conference theme, 'Lighting the Way,' exemplifies FAWCO's commitment to education as a path to a better life for women and children throughout the world."

FAWCO Foundation President Arline Coward led the celebration of 40 years of philanthropic efforts in the global community by FAWCO member clubs and individuals through The Foundation. Nine Educational Awards and seven Development Grants were funded this year. A 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner was the start of festivities and guests 'painted the town rouge.' The American Club of Lyon held a Gala Evening at the Lyon City Hall highlighting Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis during their annual Presidents' Day celebration attended by dignitaries from Lyon.

Workshops offered diversity: "Estate Planning for Overseas Americans;" "Oral Strategies in Learning a Foreign Language;" "Acting against Another's Addiction: Intervention with a Loved One;" and "Global Warming." Another inspiring workshop, "FAWCO in a Flat World" was held by Ray Cheng, CEO of Jian Global Services, a major FAWCO sponsor, demonstrating how modern technology can help FAWCO and its member clubs develop their websites and internet image.

The work sessions were balanced with a walking tour of the Lyon Silk District, a tour of Lyon's landmarks and charming in-home dinners where delegates were hosted by members of The American Club of Lyon and local Lyonnais.

### FAWCO IS PROUD TO HIGHLIGHT OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

AARO (Association of Americans Resident Overseas)  
 ACA (American Citizens Abroad)  
 ALLAMO (Alliance of American Organizations - Iberia)

Our allies in the business community:

ABCGC (American Business Council of the Gulf Countries)  
 ECACC (European Council of American Chambers of Commerce)

Resources for overseas voters:

FVAP (Federal Voting Assistance Program)  
 OVF (Overseas Vote Foundation)

[www.aaro.org](http://www.aaro.org)  
[www.aca.ch](http://www.aca.ch)  
<http://allamo.planetaclix.pt/>

[www.abcgc.org](http://www.abcgc.org)  
[www.amchamseurope.org](http://www.amchamseurope.org)

[www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)  
[www.overseasvotefoundation.org](http://www.overseasvotefoundation.org)

**FAWCO is  
blogging!!**

[http://www.fawco.org/  
appiesnet/wordpress/](http://www.fawco.org/appiesnet/wordpress/)



## UN Denounces Violence Against Girls

Pam Perraud  
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*The theme of this year's 51<sup>st</sup> annual conference of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held in New York City from Feb 26 – March 9 was "Eliminating All Forms of Discrimination and Violence Against the Girl Child." This topic was chosen to highlight the plight of the often-forgotten, much abused girl child in today's world.*

### Special Problems Girls Face

Experts from around the world discussed the daunting problems the girl child faces, particularly in the Third World.

First, the problem of discrimination and abuse of the girl child often starts in the home. In many countries, females are at the mercy of entrenched, usually culture-bound power relationships that perpetuate the

subordination of the women beginning in childhood. Girls are at the mercy of their fathers, brothers and other male relatives. Violence in the form of "discipline" is considered a private affair where local law enforcement is reluctant to get involved. As one CSW report pointed out, "Often the home is one of the most dangerous places for a girl."

Second, there is a problem of sexual exploitation where in some countries vulnerable young girls are subjected to female genital mutilation, marriage at a young age or sale into sex trafficking. There is no government protection for children. Enforcement of existing laws is lax or totally ignored.

Third, there is a huge problem of young girls being exploited in the normal labor market as domestic servants, rug makers, seamstresses, etc. Girls as young as five years old work in sub-human conditions for hours

at a time for minimal wages. In many cases, laws against child labor are on the books, but many governments turn a blind eye.

In many of the poorer countries, children are seen as vital economic resources for the family and their labor is necessary to survive. Enforcing child labor laws is seen by many people as a threat to the economy.

Fourth, there is a problem of education and literacy for the girl child.

As the new UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon pointed out in his International Women's Day message, "Out of the 100 million children not in school, the majority of them are girls and of the 800 million adults who cannot read the majority are women." Many of these illiterate women were victims themselves of forced labor and/or an arranged marriage at a young age. In many countries, girls must stay at home to do housework, while the boys in the family are educated. Too often only the boys will attend school because sending a girl would be considered "wasting money." Uneducated girls become even more vulnerable and more dependent on others perpetuating the cycle of ignorance, abuse and dependency.

### Calling for Solutions

The final conference report made many recommendations, primarily:

1. Reaffirming the outcome of the 2002 World Summit on Children and its commitment to gender equality and elimination of all forms of discrimination against the girl child. In addition, reaffirming the tenants of CEDAW (Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women) and the CRC (Convention on the Rights of the Child.)

2. Advocating governments to break the cycle of discrimination by empowering young girls to have more say in conducting their own lives with the support of parents, guardians, families and the greater community.

3. Calling for more stringent law enforcement of existing labor, trafficking and human rights laws to better protect the girl child at home, in the work place and within the justice system itself.

4. Asking governments to do more to help girls by instituting new fundamental laws such as minimum wages for children and minimum ages for marriage.

5. Calling for governments to provide wider access for girls to all forms of education and to general information regarding their rights, as well as their own health and well-being.

For more information about the CSW and the conclusions of the conference

Check out – [www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw51/pdfs](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw51/pdfs)



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## Saving Lives — FAWCO's Global Concerns Fund

Paula Daeppen  
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*"...to take up the global challenge for reducing poverty and improving lives by promoting and supporting the Millennium Development Goals....to address the tragedy of malaria by encouraging FAWCO's members to make a significant commitment to worldwide malaria prevention."*

This mandate was unanimously adopted by FAWCO in 2005. Since then, with our malaria eradication initiative "NetWorks and the 2006-2007 Global Concerns Fund," FAWCO has been partnering with the Swiss foundation BioVision in two pilot projects in Malindi and Nyabondo, Kenya. At the moment, these two projects are the **only** large scale malaria field control projects in the world and FAWCO is very proud to be a part of them.

At the FAWCO conference in Lyon, the delegates were pleased to hear Dr. Peter Luethy and Stephan Gisi of BioVision detail the exciting progress being made with FAWCO support. Besides bed nets, the elimination of mosquito breeding sites, ecologically friendly pest control methods, the use of the natural pesticides, education, local empowerment and the involvement of

women are key to the success of the projects.

The progress has been remarkable and the number of lives saved is great. With 35,000 people living in the Nyabondo area and 80,000 in Malindi it is not easy to put an exact number to the lives saved, but by extrapolation it is not difficult to imagine the impact of these projects.

Children are most vulnerable to malaria because of their undeveloped immune system. It is estimated that in the Nyabondo project area alone, there are 10,160 children under age 5. At the start of the project in 2004, 92% of the children was infected with malaria and 59% of these children died. In 2006 the number of children infected with malaria was down to 51% and child mortality was down to 35%. Of the adult population, 80% were infected at the start and in 2006 only 40% of adults were infected. Adult mortality from malaria dropped from 22% to 9%.

And there is more good news. Once again, FAWCO's members have rallied in their fundraising efforts, so that next year these statistics will be even better. The representatives of BioVision at the Lyon conference were presented with an ever-

increasing symbolic check for \$50,000 from FAWCO's Global Concerns Fund to support these projects further.

Malaria is still the greatest killer of children, but now, at least in Nyabondo and Malindi, where FAWCO and BioVision are working together; there is hope for a life without malaria. There is hope that here, the children will enjoy their childhood, play games, go to school, get an education and that these children will have a chance for a healthy and productive future.



Arline Coward, President of the FAWCO Foundation Board presents the symbolic check for \$50,000 to BioVision's representatives, with Paula Daeppen, Networks Coordinator and Sunny Eades, 2005-07 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

## Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life 2007

Paula Daeppen  
un.rep@fawco.org

### Innovative Techniques in Peace Building

It is with great pleasure that FAWCO has nominated Mercy Kipyapap of West Pokot, Kenya for the 2007 Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life. This is a prize sponsored by the Women's World Summit Foundation to honor creative and courageous women working in rural communities around the world.

Mercy is a trained social worker and eco-trainer and assistant project director for BioVision's "Cabesi project" [Camels-Bees-Silk] in the west Pokot district of Kenya. West Pokot is one of the driest and the poorest areas of Kenya. This is an area where 90% of the population is illiterate; where women have few rights; where FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) is common; and where girls are often forced into marriage at 11 or 12 years (the younger the girl, the higher the bride price); where polygamy is the norm and a leader is a man who has many wives – because to manage lots of women is proof of leadership.

The Cabesi self-help project area covers 9000 km<sup>2</sup> and benefits 3000 people. Currently Mercy is responsible for training 1000 farmers, mostly women, in bee-keeping. Besides an emphasis on raising bees and wild silk worms, through the Cabesi project, Mercy encourages the keeping and use of camels in place of less drought-tolerant cattle. She is also establishing women's cooperatives, promoting the education of girls and women and advocating for women's rights in general and the elimination of the practice of female genital mutilation and the forced marriages of girls.



Mercy Kipyapap of West Pokot, Kenya, nominee for the 2007 Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life

Mercy has broken with the traditional women's role for her area and is considered a leader of both men and women. She has earned the respect of the people with her hard work. She arranged to have the primary school renovated, and today the children of the previously rival Pokot and Marakwet tribes now attend this school together.

Mercy is actively involved in innovative methods of peace building between the rival tribes in the area. As co-initiator of the west Pokot Peace Festival, she found a way to combine camels and beauty queens as a means to empower women and encourage peace. Using this festival to bring together the neighboring and often warring tribes of the Turkana, Samburu, Pokot and Marakwet, a pageant was organized that included 40 competitors from the various tribes in a friendly celebration of their women. The winning peace queen's prize was a female camel with her foal. For the winner, a 17-year-old young woman, this was the first time that she had ever had the opportunity to own anything. The mare will produce more than enough milk for the family and will be the basis for further breeding, but more importantly Mercy

says, "This is an unmistakable sign of the empowerment of the oppressed women of West Pokot."

This nomination is an acknowledgement of Mercy's exceptional, courage, dedication and creativity in promoting the rights of women and a validation of her efforts in trying to bring the people of West Pokot out of poverty.



## AIWC Casablanca and Tree Development Projects in Morocco

**Cynthia Smith-Ayed**  
FAWCO Rep, AIWC Casablanca

AIWC Casablanca started contributing to development projects in 1996. These include tree planting and other projects such as women's co-ops both agricultural and crafts oriented, literacy programs, equipment and repairs to rural schools, safe childbirth kits, women's centers in rural areas, and artisan fairs to display and sell craft items.

All of these development projects have been in cooperation with the U.S. Peace Corps and through U.S. Volunteers living and working at these remote sites for their two year tour. These volunteers identify the projects and provide the implementation and evaluation of the projects. In addition, each tree planting project includes the creation of a local co-op to assist the villagers with the training and care needed for the trees.

It is important to remember:

1. Funds have been raised over and above our regular fund-raising activities for charity.
2. The contributions are all one-time start-up funds for a specific purpose.
3. In the year 2000 we were inspired to re-name our tree planting activity The Millennium Forest, co-sponsored by FAWCO, and recognized by the United Nations as a bona fide development project.

In 1996 - 6000 trees planted in Imilchil

In 2000 - 540 trees planted in Oumoumim

In 2001 - 3,000 olive trees in Gueldamane, Taza

In 2002 - Fruit trees in Toubkal Park area

In 2003 - 2,400 olive trees in Taroudant area

In 2004 - Fruit trees in Toubkal villages

In 2006 - 1,500 fruit trees in Beni-Sohane

\*\*\*

**Stella Fizazi,**  
Development Chair  
AIWC Casablanca

Ten ladies from AIWC Casablanca traveled to Ribat el Kheir and the Beni Sohane village, in the province of Sefrou, where we planted some of the 1,500 olive trees. This is the Beni Sohane Peace Corps project which asked for 5,000 fruit trees to be planted. AIWC Casablanca was able to provide funding for the 1,500 that were planted.

Special thanks are due to Mr. Mohssine Tadlaoui, Peace Corps Office, Rabat, and to Mr. Mostafa Mouslih, Regional Director of the Water and Forestry Department, for their organization of this event and to Peace Corps volunteer Anne Gasper who proposed the project.

## AWC Lebanon Working in Cooperation with Handicap International

**Monica Jumbayli**  
AWC Lebanon  
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*Dr. Jean-Baptiste Richardier's presentation about Handicap International at the Lyon Conference inspired me to do something about the horror of landmines and cluster bombs. I am especially interested since I live in Lebanon, a country where civilians are suffering the consequences of these weapons of war. When I returned home I contacted the Handicap International (HI) office in Beirut and met with Mr. Steffen Schwarz. The following is what I learned about HI projects in Lebanon.*

Handicap International has been working in Lebanon for many years through its association with *Ar en Ciel*, a local NGO. With the assistance of HI Lyon, *Ar en Ciel* has been helping the handicapped in Lebanon with wheelchairs, home adaptations and accessibility.

They have a small four-person office that conducts psycho-social intervention for children in the Palestinian refugee camps.

Since the end of the Summer War of 2006, HI has increased its presence in Lebanon as its new head of mission has just arrived in Beirut. It currently runs four different projects throughout the country. There is a Lebanon support coordination platform and psycho-social intervention group that has expanded its project to include the children of Dahyeh (the Southern Suburbs hardest hit by the Israeli bombardment) operating out of Beirut. HI staff are also working in the Palestinian camps and Dia Abou Mosleh in Dahyeh coupled with an active HI demining operation in Tyre. Except for the ongoing project in the Palestinian camps, these projects are scheduled to run until the end of the year.

The fourth project is run by Steffen Schwarz. The Disability Focal Point (DFP) deals directly with the handicapped. "A DFP is space created to provide direct assistance, referrals to services and information to injured/disabled people and their families. These centres exist in all war-affected areas and all services are free of charge." They are established in Beirut, Dahyeh, Nabatieh, Saida, Tyre, and a newly opened one in Bint Jbeil. They not only work with those in need but also facilitate the contact between the injured/disabled and the local NGOs that provide care and services for people with disabilities.

Mr. Schwarz reports that there have been two major successes: 1) the participants said it was the first time that anyone had come to them directly asking them how they could be helped and what their needs are; and, 2) since DFP brings together all the handicapped in one center, the participants found a 'support group' for both themselves and their families. Usually the injured/disabled and their families have to sort through the bureaucracy to find the help they need on their own. It is often daunting and the lack of financial resources makes it even more difficult.

Due to a lack of funding, the DFP project is set to end in May unless funds are found to keep it running until the end of the year.

The American Women's Club of Lebanon has plans to work with a local NGO that works in cooperation with HI. They produce artificial limbs and provide patients both social and physical rehabilitation with the aim to give them back their life through occupational therapy. Right now they have a waiting list of over 100 people who need artificial limbs but cannot afford them. The HI occupational therapist reported that the average cost for an artificial limb is \$800.

AWC Lebanon is planning a visit to both the DFP center and demining operation in Tyre at the end of June.

Please log on to the Handicap International website to sign the petition to ban the use and manufacture of landmines and cluster bombs.

(<http://www.handicap-international.org>)

## FAWCO at Buckingham Palace

**Jo Brandt,**  
AW of Surrey

On March 27, 2007, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip invited 400 Americans to a reception at Buckingham Palace. We were there to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, a place the Queen was to visit with Prince Philip during her visit to the United States in May. Former 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Sunny Eades and I represented FAWCO while several presidents of the FAWCO member clubs in Great Britain were also in attendance.

We entered the main gates by car and then walked to an entrance with a red carpet rolled out for the occasion. We ascended the main staircase into a picture-filled gallery where we waited for the Queen and Prince Philip to appear. We arrived at about 5:30 p.m. and the Queen walked into the room at 6 p.m. We were then all officially presented. We were asked to give a card with our name and our organization that was read as we shook hands with the Queen and Prince Philip. I had no idea if I was to curtsy or not, so I reverted to

(Continued on p. 6)

## Grandma-2-Grandma — The House That Love Built

Jann "Bibi Jann" Mitchell  
AWC in Stockholm

### Bibi Jann Children's Care Trust Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, East Africa

Most of us treasure fond memories of going home to grandmas. And many of us are now the grandma 'round whom the family gathers.'

But what if you're an African AIDS widow (perhaps infected yourself) and you have no home? What if you've lost most or even all your adult children to this epidemic and now must raise your orphaned grandchildren?

Some 26 such grandmothers, or "bibis," near Dar es Salaam, Tanzania are helped by the Bibi Jann Children's Care Trust GRANDMA-2-GRANDMA project. We find sponsors world-wide, and help the grandmas make crafts to assist in supporting

their families. We also assist with food, school fees, clothing, medical care and AIDS drugs.

On March 1, 2007, four families moved into a new house for which a generous American couple paid the \$50 monthly rental through June 2008. But we want to build a bigger one for more families on a larger plot where the grandmothers can raise crops.

FAWCO built a house for tsunami widows and their children in Sri Lanka last year. Now we would like to have a second FAWCO House in East Africa. Each bibi's family will have its own bedroom, with a communal sitting room, kitchen and bathroom — a goal we can accomplish this year for just \$50,000. This will be done through the FAWCO Foundation with oversight by

the national audit firm KPMG, one of our trust sponsors.

Find articles, photos for your club and fundraising ideas at [www.bibijann.org](http://www.bibijann.org).



*Donor club names to be added on border*



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*(Continued from p. 5 - Buckingham Palace)*

my memories of middle school protocol: when greeting the headmistress, shake hands and curtsy.

After introductions, we were ushered into another beautiful room to look at an exhibition of Jamestown treasures and to meet other invitees. I did look out the window onto the beautiful palace grounds and saw the Queen's corgis being walked. There were eight or nine of them playing and enjoying the gorgeous day. The Queen and Prince Philip joined us in the second room and spent an hour and a half speaking to various groups. I was in one of the groups that had women from the FAWCO Scottish clubs. The Queen seemed to take an interest in everyone and asked many questions.

I have admired the Queen for her constancy and diligence, but after being at the Palace, I admire her even more. One of the ladies in waiting who accompanied her turned to me and said, "Isn't she amazing? She is 80 and her energy is boundless." And so it seemed. After three hours of standing in dress shoes, I sank to one of the couches (after the Queen had left the room) and tried to relieve the cramps in my toes. But the Queen was on her feet equally long and looked like she was ready to meet another 400 of us!

We were treated with dignity and respect and we were royally entertained. We can be proud that the U.S. Embassy in England considers FAWCO and its member clubs valuable assets to include on the list of attendees for this auspicious occasion.

It was a memorable evening and one that we will never forget.

**Have you filled out your  
Individual Input Survey for the  
Vision of the Future Taskforce ?  
[www.fawco.org/cms](http://www.fawco.org/cms)**



## Working for Dillard! — Dillard University – New Orleans

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On August 30, 2005, FAWCO members throughout the world watched in horror as a category 5 hurricane, Katrina, devastated the southeastern coast of the United States. Through the miracle of satellite technology, we were able to see and report on an unprecedented level of destruction caused by nature.

Our members responded immediately. AC Lyon and AAWE Paris called for activation of FAWCO's Emergency Relief Fund (ERF) for the Hurricane Katrina victims. Consequently, the 2005-2007 FAWCO Board asked for nominations for worthy recipients for financial assistance. AW of Surrey proposed the successful ERF nominee with a FAUSA contact to monitor on-site accountability. Dillard University in New Orleans, the acclaimed, not-for-profit college was identified as a suitable 'stand alone' project for our ERF donations.

Marc A. Barnes, Assistant Vice President for Development & Alumni Relations at Dillard University, made the following comments about The FAWCO – Kearney Hall Reading & Study Room:

*...capital funds received from FAWCO would be used to furnish, equip and provide the technological infrastructure for a dedicated reading/study room in Kearney Hall.*



Kearney Hall

*Kearney Hall, completed in 1935, is one of the first five buildings constructed on the Dillard University campus.... A reading/study room in Kearney Hall is not only a University priority, but is also an item on the students' wish list.*

*The reading/study room would have carrels and ports for internet connections, computers and a network printer and would provide additional study areas outside of the University library.... Such a dedicated study space is particularly important for commuter students who have no dorm room to retire to when they need a quiet place to study. Thus, the proposed reading/study room, located at the center of campus activities, would certainly be an enhancement to the overall learning environment at Dillard University.*

A plaque will be prominently placed on the wall of the Kearney Hall-Reading Study Room acknowledging FAWCO as the donor and will read:

**The Study Room**  
is dedicated by the  
Federation of American Women's  
Clubs Overseas

We have been very fortunate to have Nancy Thornley (FAUSA) monitor the project's progression. We have read her eyewitness reports of the Dillard Campus, the environs of Gentilly Boulevard and have seen her Dillard University presentation at the 38<sup>th</sup> Biennial FAWCO Conference in Lyon on March 9, 2007. It is fitting that the final presentation for Dillard should come full circle in Lyon.

We were moved by the valiant and unwavering determination that will see Dillard achieve full recovery. We have exceeded our goal for Dillard University and are very pleased that our donation of over \$20,000 will comfortably meet our commitment to this noteworthy and proud American establishment. We look to the future and see the 'avenue of Oaks' proudly guard the campus for many generations to come!

## The FAWCO Foundation

### The 2007 FAWCO Foundation Award Recipients

Dolores Cuellar  
awards@fawcofoundation.org

The FAWCO Foundation was pleased to announce the recipients of the 2007 Awards Program at the recent FAWCO Conference in Lyon. This year's recipients are:

**ARTS AWARD** sponsored in part by AWG Paris. Katarina Albertucci, whose mother is a member of AWA Rome, will begin Architecture studies in September.

**SCIENCES AWARD** sponsored in part by AIWC Genoa. Kelly Coleman, whose mother is a member of AWC London, will use her award to continue her studies in Community Health at Texas A & M University.

**HUMANITIES AWARD** (in memory of Gertrude de Gallaix) sponsored in part by AAWE Paris. Christian Kaas, whose mother is a member of AAWE Paris, is currently majoring in Asian Languages and Economics at Carleton College in Minnesota. The award will enable Christian to pursue an intensive Chinese language course in China.

**THE STEVE MILLER MEMORIAL COMMUNICATIONS AWARD** was a special award given out in 2007 and sponsored by Eve Miller and the friends and colleagues

of her late husband, Steve Miller, a journalist with the Associated Press. Allison Foster, whose mother is a member of AWC The Hague, will use this award to continue her studies in Writing, Literature, and Publishing at Emerson College in Boston.

**SPECIAL CHALLENGES AWARD** sponsored in part by Chilterns AWC. Steffanie Moss Werman, whose mother is a member of Auckland AWC, was diagnosed with dyslexia at age 13. She is currently studying at the University of Auckland where she hopes to receive her BA degree in Theatre and Lighting Design in December, 2008.

**DUAL CULTURAL AWARD** (in memory of Suzanne Erismann) sponsored in part by AWC Bern. Charlotte Stuart Jacob, whose mother is a member of AWC Zurich, will use the award to attend a college preparatory school in the United States. She will use her studies there as a building block towards her goal of studying law.

**AWC BASEL FAWCO MEMBERS AWARD** sponsored by Shirley Kearney \$5,000. Yuzana Khin, is a member of AWC Thailand. After fleeing her native Burma,

Yuzana became a political refugee in the U.S. where she finished her university studies and earned a master's degree in Public Health at Emory University in Atlanta. She will use this award to pursue a PhD in public health at the internationally renowned Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok with an emphasis on the special public health issues faced by women and children refugees and migrants from Burma.

**The RICHARD R. HALLOCK FOUNDATION** sponsored two summer study awards for bi-cultural children of members of AAWE Paris, each in the amount of \$3,500. One is for academic studies in a U.S. educational institution and a second award is for a structured non-academic program in the U.S.

Christopher Roth, is the recipient of the academic studies award and plans to participate in the Summer and Continuing Studies Program at Brown University.

Benjamin Chaballier is the recipient of the non-academic program award and will attend the Kingsley Pines Camp in Raymond, Maine in July.

## The 2007 FAWCO Foundation Development Grants Recipients

Elsie Bose  
grants@fawcofoundation.org

This year, The FAWCO Foundation was proud to receive a record 31 nominations for the 2007 Development Grants. We were amazed by the innovative and wonderful projects that were nominated for these grants. FAWCO was excited to see that the program is important to member clubs as a record 51 voted for the recipient of each category. Every project was worthy of a grant and it was a difficult decision for the clubs to make. We commend all of the nominated projects. Listed below are the recipients of The 2007 FAWCO Foundation Development Grants:

### A PLACE TO LEARN sponsored in part by AWC Antwerp \$3500

The Lambs Project supports development in a poor district of Burkina Faso by starting a sustainable process through which families can send their daughters to school and keep them there.

**The Lambs Project**  
in Ouahigouya, Burkina Faso  
nominated by AWC Denmark



*Girls receiving goats to fund their school expenses*

### AROUND THE CORNER, A WORLD AWAY, sponsored in part by AWC Auckland \$3500

The Korogocho HIV/AIDS Home Based Care Program is a multi-faceted program that includes counseling and HIV testing, a food program, a children's program, and a crisis center.

**Korogocho HIV/AIDS Home Care Center**  
in Kasarani Nairobi, Kenya  
nominated by AWA Kenya

### CRITICAL HEALTH CONCERNS sponsored in part by AWC of Basel \$3500

Women's Hope International will use the Grant to cover the costs of 10 to 15 obstetric fistula operations in Ethiopia and Chad.

**Women's Hope International**  
in Chad and Ethiopia  
nominated by AWC Bern

### EFFECTS OF VIOLENCE sponsored in part by the AWC of Düsseldorf \$3500

The Grant will be used to establish 13 agencies around the city, one in each commune, to provide counseling and intervention for the psychological and emotional needs of street children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

**Arche de Noe in Bujumbura, Burundi**  
nominated by AWC Luxembourg

### AW OF SURREY FEED THE WORLD \$3500

The project will train 100 blind, partially blind and otherwise handicapped individuals, in bio-farming technologies, in the compound of the "Sebeta Special School for the Blind," Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

**Integrated Biofarming Technologies**  
for the Blind and Handicapped  
in Sebeta, Ethiopia  
nominated by AWC Zurich

### THE FAWCO FOUNDATION 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY HOPE THROUGH EDUCATION \$3500

The project will use the Grant to establish at least seven small income-generating projects at local primary, middle and secondary schools in a rural area in north-western Zambia to improve educational opportunities of AIDS orphans.

**A Jumpstart for Orphans**  
in Kashikishi, Zambia  
nominated by AWC Basel

### SKILLS FOR LIFE sponsored in part by AILO of Florence \$3500

#### Co-Winners:

The Silk of Hope Project will use the Grant to improve the local economies by: training villagers in weaving techniques, design and coloration, buying high quality weaving looms and silk yarns and environmentally friendly dyes called Dystar.

**Silk of Hope Project -Women Bearer of Traditions in Siam Reap, Bantey Meanchey, Oddar Meanchey provinces in Cambodia**  
nominated by AWC Lausanne



*Cambodian woman weaving silk*

Batsiranai Craft Project is a self-help group of 27 mothers of disabled children living in Zimbabwe in acute poverty. The mothers have developed a successful international handicrafts project. A major obstacle for success of the project is the their lack of knowledge about international markets and product design. If these skills are not acquired, it is certain that the project will fail with the departure of volunteer expatriates. The Grant will be used to send 1-2 members from Harare to attend the Aid to Artisan Workshop in South Africa that specializes in training marketing to handicraft projects.

**Batsiranai Craft Project in Zimbabwe**  
nominated by AWA Rome



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The FAWCO Foundation is the philanthropic arm of FAWCO. It was created in 1967 as a not-for-profit corporation registered in the State of Missouri to administer all awards and grants on behalf of FAWCO. For more information, please contact

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